



S3 Food Symposium

“Where S3 Meets the Sea”

May 10, 11, 12, 2017

Westin Long Beach

333 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach CA 90802

www.westinlb.com

800-WESTIN1 or 562-436-3000

Group Block under “Food Symposium S3”

www.CaliforniaFood.org

Session Coordinator’s Minimum Submittal Requirements
for Continuing Education Approval
turn in by **March 31, 2017**

The information below is required so that CAEHA can make a complete application for Continuing Education Contact Hours. CAEHA is an approved Accrediting Agency with CDPH to approve and offer REHS Continuing education contact hours.

Please list in one word document:

1. Title of Session “Sustainability”

Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA

Jeanne Merrill, Policy Director, California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN)

2. Length of Session: 1 hour, 11:00am – Noon, Friday May 12, 2017

3. Educational Objective:

- Learn about what this California Administration is doing to promote sustainable agriculture. A representative of the State Department of Food and Agriculture

(CDFA) will highlight the departments work in healthy soils, water efficiency and other environmental farming practices.

- Hear why and how California can set an example in ‘climate-smart’ agriculture. The advocate for sustainable and organic agricultural practices will demonstrate the need for and a pathway to achieving “climate-smart” agriculture in California’s \$43Billion industry.
 - Witness what is being done in the field to meet California’s sustainable agriculture goals. A local farmer will explain what is being done locally and outline the real-world challenges farmers face in being sustainable.
4. **Description of Session:** An overview of advances being made in California to advance sustainable food production, including mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

5. Anticipated Educational Outcomes for Session:

Attendees will learn:

- What “climate-smart” and “sustainable” agriculture means in the California context;
- About policy and practical steps being taken to advance sustainable agriculture in California; and
- How food safety and access interface with principles of food sustainability.

6. Qualifications and Resumes of speakers/presenters

Jeanne Merrill:

Jeanne Merrill is the Policy Director of the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), a coalition of sustainable agriculture organizations that advances policy solutions at the nexus of climate change and agriculture. She has over 20 years of experience in agricultural, environmental and energy policy advocacy at the state and national levels. Prior to her time with CalCAN, Ms. Merrill was the Associate Policy Director with the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin. Ms. Merrill is a member of the Organizational Council of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. She holds a B.A. in political science from U.C. San Diego and a M.S. in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives with her husband and daughter in Alameda, CA.



Dr. Amrith Gunasekara:

Dr. Gunasekara is Science Advisor to Secretary Ross at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. He works on agricultural issues as they relate to the environment and seeks to find proactive, creative, flexible and practical solutions. His focus areas include plant nutrient management, climate change and environmental stewardship. He is the CDFA liaison to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel which is looking at highlighting the many benefits afforded by agriculture beyond food, fiber, and economic benefits. Dr. Gunasekara received his undergraduate and master degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and completed his PhD from the University of California, Davis, in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry. He has been in his CDFA position since August 2011.

