

"Food Justice is Racial Justice"

Resources & Information largely for non-Black people to unlearn and "do the work."

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Framing: Each piece or resource included here is written or led by a BIPOC farmer, scholar, and/or activist. Please note, this list is not exhaustive and was initially compiled as a tool for our internal learning. We share this document as a way of encouraging other predominantly white people to engage with and listen to the BIPOC voices who have been writing, speaking, and sharing the lived experiences of systemic racism for years. Even in attempting to compile a document, we recognize the inherent issue in presuming to "know" which voices to center or highlight. We hope you sit with this document, work your way through it, share with others, and most importantly, take informed and solidaristic action.

Key Term(s):

BIPOC= An abbreviation for **B**lack, **I**ndigenous, and **P**eople **O**f **C**olor. For more information on why this is important, check out <https://www.thebipocproject.org>.

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*“ If you’re a black child in America, you are twice as likely to go to bed hungry tonight as a white child. Diet-related illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity disproportionately afflict black and indigenous people. And land ownership is over 98 percent white. **So racism is embedded in the food system.”***

Leah Penniman; Founder of Soul Fire Farm

*“When we change the structure to ensure nutrient-rich food for everyone, **food won’t be the only thing that gets fixed.”***

Dr. Monica M. White; “The Black Farmers’ Historian”

Short Reads

Section A: Anti-Black Racism & the Food System

[Racial Inequality in the Food System](#)

Contributions from Sara Black, Tess Brown-Lavoie, Michelle Hughes, Mai Nguyen, and Holly Rippon-Butler for the National Young Farmers Coalition. 2019.

[Leaders of Color Discuss Structural Racism and White Privilege in the Food System](#)

By the Editorial Board of Civil Eats. 2016.

[Dismantling Racism in the Food System](#)

By Eric Holt-Giménez and Breeze Harper for Food First. 2016.

[Reckoning with Racial Justice in Farm Country](#)

By Gosia Wozniacka for Civil Eats. 2020.

Notable Quote: "But Goodwin says he'd like to have conversations with his fellow farmers, since discrimination by police and hate crimes are just as present in rural areas, though less visible than they are in cities. 'Not talking about it is not going to help,' he added."

[Black Migrants: Photographs of California's Forgotten Agricultural Past](#)

By Katie Brimm for Civil Eats. Pub. 2018.

Section B: "The Great Land Robbery"

[There were nearly a million black farmers in 1920. Why have they disappeared?](#)

By Summer Sewll for *The Guardian*. Pub. April 2019.

Notable Quote: "The number of black farmers in America peaked in 1920, when there were 949,889. Today, of the country's 3.4 million total farmers, only 1.3%, or 45,508, are black, according to new figures from the US Department of Agriculture released this month. They own a mere 0.52% of America's farmland. By comparison, 95% of US farmers are white."

[The Great Land Robbery: The shameful story of how 1 million black families have been ripped from their farms](#)

By Vann R. Newkirk II for *The Atlantic*. Pub. September 2019.

[African Americans have lost untold acres of farmland over the last century](#)

By Leah Douglas for *Food & Environmental Reporting Network*. 2017.

Section C: "Farming as Resistance" & Just Food Futures

[We don't farm because it's trendy; we farm as resistance, for healing and sovereignty.](#)

By Ashley Gripper for Environmental Health News. 2020.

Notable Quote: "What I learned is that farming is not new to Black people. While some dominant modern narratives talk about urban agriculture as an innovative way to build community and

fight food insecurity, Black folks in this country have been growing food in cities for as long as they have lived in cities. Before that, our ancestors lived in deep relationship with the land. For the first time in my 22 years, I understood that growing food is a tool for dismantling systemic oppression.”

[Op-ed: Overthrowing the Food System’s Plantation Paradigm](#)

By Ashanté M. Reese and Randolph Carr for Civil Eats. 2020.

[Fannie Lou Hammer and Farming as Activism](#)

By Dr. Monica White (an excerpt from her book, Freedom Farmers, with the work of Fannie Lou Hamer leading the charge as an example of social justice through agriculture). 2019.

Notable Quote: “While the media has often focused on white members of the urban agriculture/food justice/sovereignty movements, both have a strong African American contingent who draw on generations of farming knowledge and a recognition that the existing power structure has little stake in our well-being.”

[Reframing Food Hubs: Food Hubs, Racial Equity, and Self-Determination in the South](#)

By Dara Cooper for *Race Forward*. 2018.

[Food Is Just the Beginning: A Conversation with Monica White](#)

Podcast conversation between Brian Hamilton and Monica White for *Edge Effects*. 2019.

[Black California Farmer Still Working the Land.](#)

Podcast conversation (transcript included) with Sasha Khohka and Will Scott for NPR. June 2006.

Section D: The Bigger Picture: Environmental Racism

[Read up on the Links Between Racism and the Environment](#)

A collection of various contributors compiled by Somini Sengupta. 2020

[Food apartheid: the root of the problem with America's groceries](#)

Anna Brones for *The Guardian*. 2018.

[Environmental Racism](#)

The Food Empowerment Project.

Long Reads (Books)

[“Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington D.C.”](#) by

Ashanté M. Reese (2019). *Open access through this link but, if you have the means, consider purchasing or donating to a Black-led organization.*

[Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land](#) by Leah Penninmen (2018).

[Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement](#), UNC Press by Monica White (2019).

Tools

[Racial Segregation in the San Francisco Bay Area](#) by Stephen Menendian and Samir Gambhi at UC Berkeley's Othering & Belonging Institute.

1. [Part I: Segregation](#)
2. [Part II: Demographics](#)
3. [Part III: Measuring Segregation](#)
4. [Part IV: Effects of Segregation](#)
5. [Interactive Segregation Map](#) (note: you can filter for Sonoma, Marin Counties)

[Racial Equity Tools for Food System Planning](#) by Lexa Dundore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

[Racial Equity Toolkit](#) from Young Farmers Coalition.

BIPOC-led Organizations (mostly, but not entirely, food & farming related)

Section A: Sonoma County

List from: [Sonoma County website](#)

Section B: California

[African American Farmers of California](#)

[Anti-Police Terror Project](#)

[Black Earth Farms](#)

Section C: Nation-wide

List from Civil Eats:

[Want to See Food and Land Justice for Black Americans? Support These Groups.](#)

Additionally:

[Acres of Ancestry](#)

[Black Organizing Project](#)

[Black Visions Collective](#)

[Black Urban Growers Association](#)

[Divine Natural Ancestry](#)

[Fannie Lou Hamer Institute of Advocacy & Social Action](#)

[HEAL: Health Environment Agriculture and Labor\) Food Alliance](#)

[National Black Food & Justice Alliance](#)

[The Okra Project](#)

[Showing up for Racial Justice](#) (not BIPOC-led, but a good resource for white people)

Visual

Chart from page nine of [Racial Equity Tools for Food Systems Planning](#) by Lexa Dundore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning

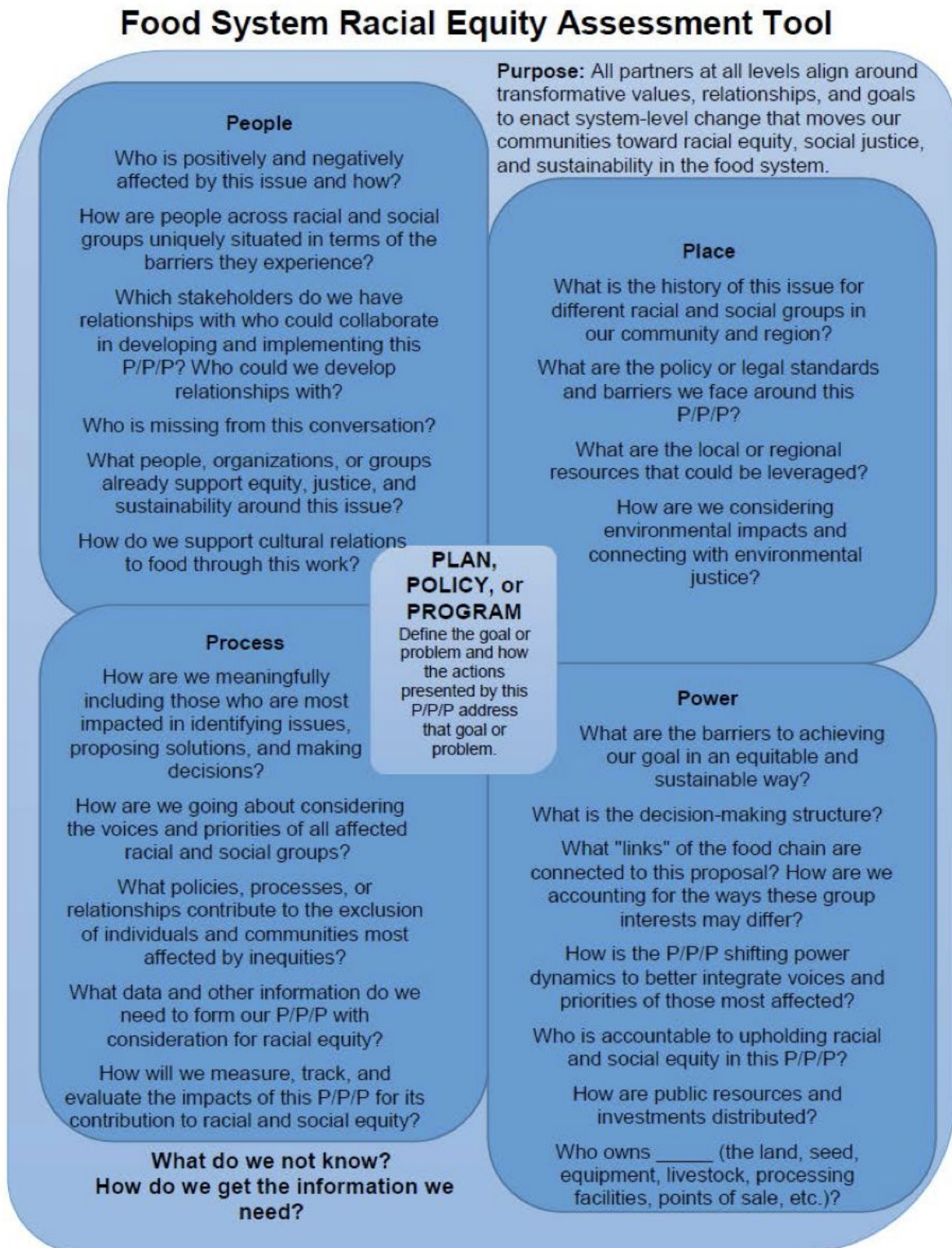


Figure 1: Food System Racial Equity Assessment Tool