

## Examples of Culturally Responsive Curriculum

### 1- Classroom activities:

Describe a case study or put a picture with series of questions for students to work in teams and discuss with the entire class.

**Example:** You visited a lettuce grower in Santa Maria and noticed the following symptom(s):



- 1- Describe the symptoms and what could be the cause?
- 2- How do you confirm the cause, what tests?
- 3- How do you fix the problem?

### 2- Correlate topics to environmental and climate impacts:

Describe how a specific situation although important for a certain topic can have a negative impact on the environment or the climate if used excessively.

**Example:**

- Phosphorus (P) is an essential element for plant growth; however, excessive amount of P can run off to lakes and cause eutrophication which is the overgrowth of algae and the depletion of oxygen that can result in the death of fish.



- Nitrogen (N) is also an essential element for plant growth but too much N can lead to air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission (Ammonia and Nitrous Oxide emissions have increased with industrialization).

### **3- Guest speakers:**

Invite diverse guest speakers who represent various ethnicities, genders, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds etc. and who are leaders in their career.

**Example:** I have invited both men and women to be guest speakers from the private sector (Ward Laboratories, Inc.), the government (USDA-NRCS), and who were Peace Corps and Fulbright Scholars exposed to different cultures and brought work experiences from various places in the world.

### **4- International projects:**

Allow students to select a project or assignment in any location and not necessarily limited to USA.

**Example:** I have students who selected their final project on nutrient management assessment to be done in another country (e.g., Mexico).

### **5- Students helping others.**

Change the instructional methods to allow students to teach other students.

**Example:**

- I have each student select a topic (crop/location) to assess the nutrient management program and bring any suggestions to improve it. At the end of the semester the project will be presented to the entire class and all the students will learn about various crops and their nutrition programs.
- I also encourage students to help others whose first language may not be English to clearly explain their ideas.

### **6- Field trips and hands on experiences:**

In addition to the weekly laboratory experiments, it is very helpful to expose students to field trips e.g., visiting farms, soil testing laboratories etc.

**Example:** I have my students go to AHC garden to collect soils and leaves and analyze them in the lab. I also organized a field trip to Betteravia soil testing lab to check some of the lab instruments that are not available on campus. The students will see how a private lab is run and learn directly from the lab manager and the technicians.