

Pursuing Sustainable Farming and Ranching Production Methods: The Case of Latino Farmers and Ranchers in Missouri

Eleazar U. Gonzalez - University of Missouri-Columbia
Nadia Navarrete-Tindall - Native Plants Specialist



Phase one of the Program

Background

- Demographic changes in the last 4 Census of Agriculture
- Small and medium-sized Latino farms are entering the agricultural industry while non-Latino farms are quitting
- Production methods
 - Ag. Conventional
 - Ag. Ecological/Traditional
 - Ag. Organic
- Culture, social, financial, Human and institutional capacities



Leading questions

- What factors keep Latino producers from performing sustainable production activities?
- How significant might those be to fully become involved with sustainable practices?



Program: “On-Farm and Ranch Education for New and Beginning Latino Producers in Missouri.”

Research methodologies

- Qualitative analysis
 - Focus groups interview guide
 - Face to face interviews
- Quantitative analysis
 - Cross-sectional data Survey
 - Panel data modeling



Business and production challenges among Latino producers

Production practices influencing farmers transitioning into sustainable agriculture:

- Soil management
- Water use and management
- Grazing system
- Agro-ecological practices
- Biological pest control management practices.
- Native plants
- Pollinators
- Farm management skills
- Understanding of financial records

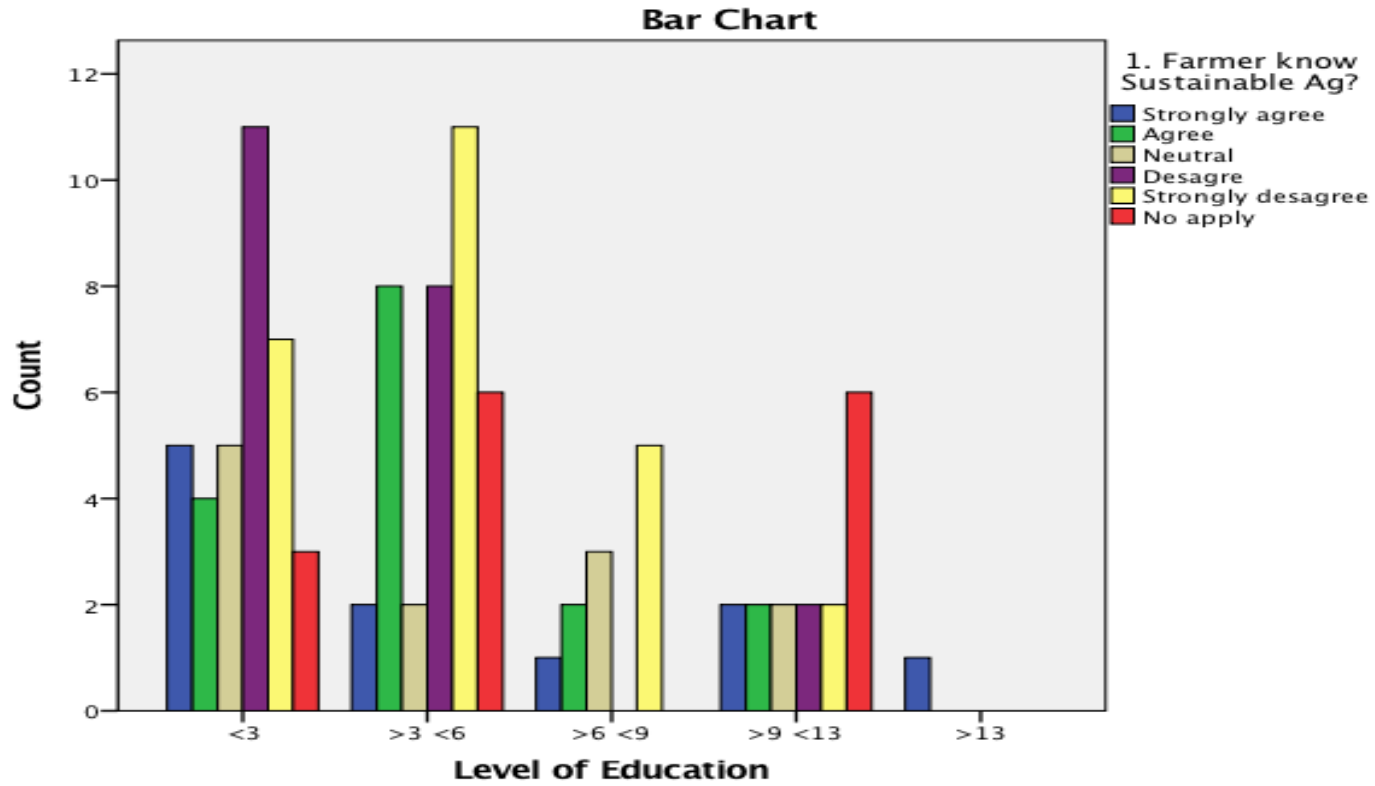


Demographic profile of Latino farmers in this study

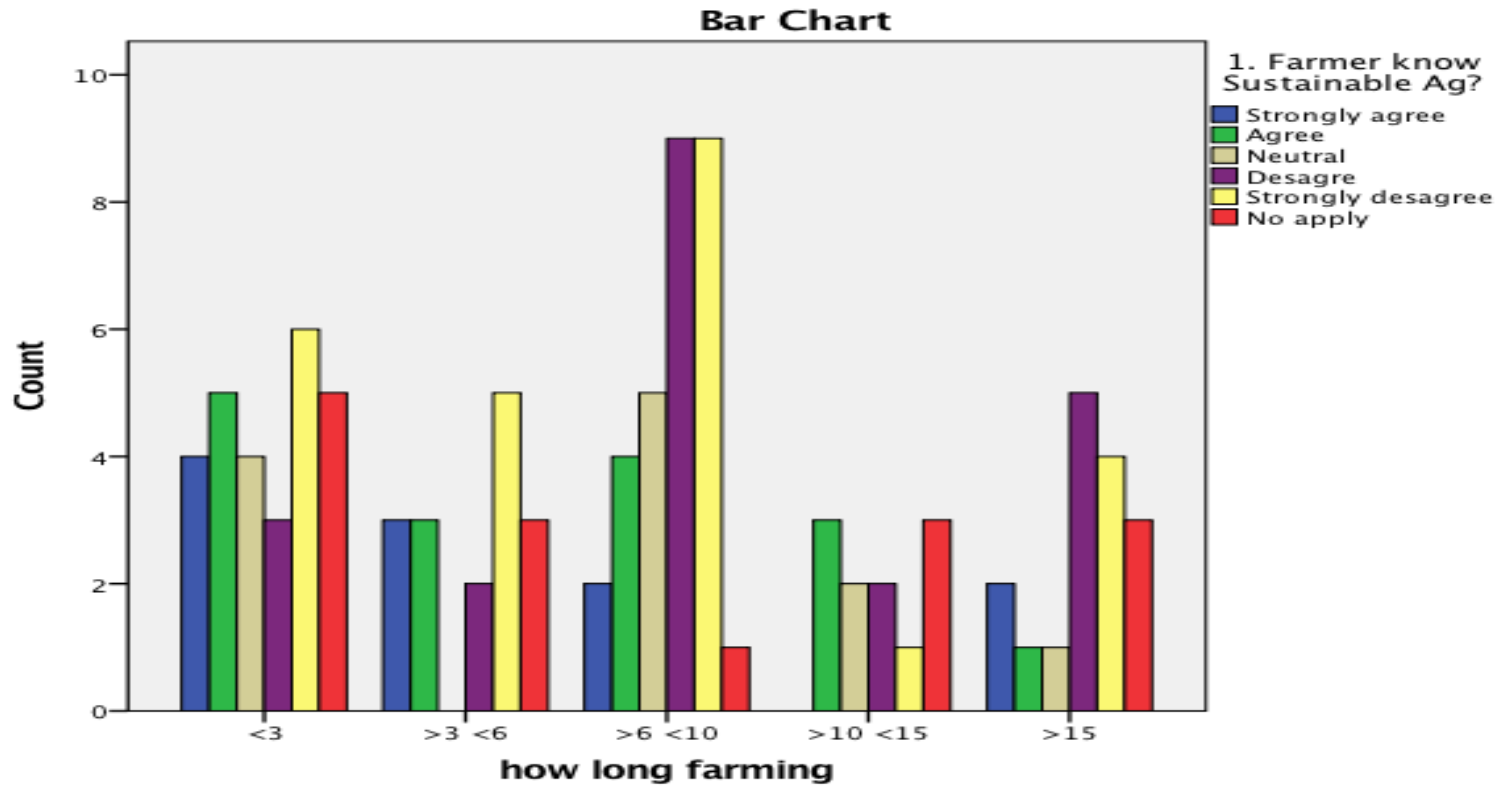
Variable 1 to 5	Indicator	Descriptive	
		Mean	SD
Education	< 6 = 72%	2.11	1.09
Age	<55=68%	3.7	1.19
Country org.	70% Mexico	1.61	1.04
Time in U.S.	88%>15 years	3.93	1.15
Farming act	67% Livestock	2.17	1.20
Time farming	73% <10	2.85	1.36
Income	<45K 70%	2.85	1.36
Farm size	<10=41%	3.39	1.14



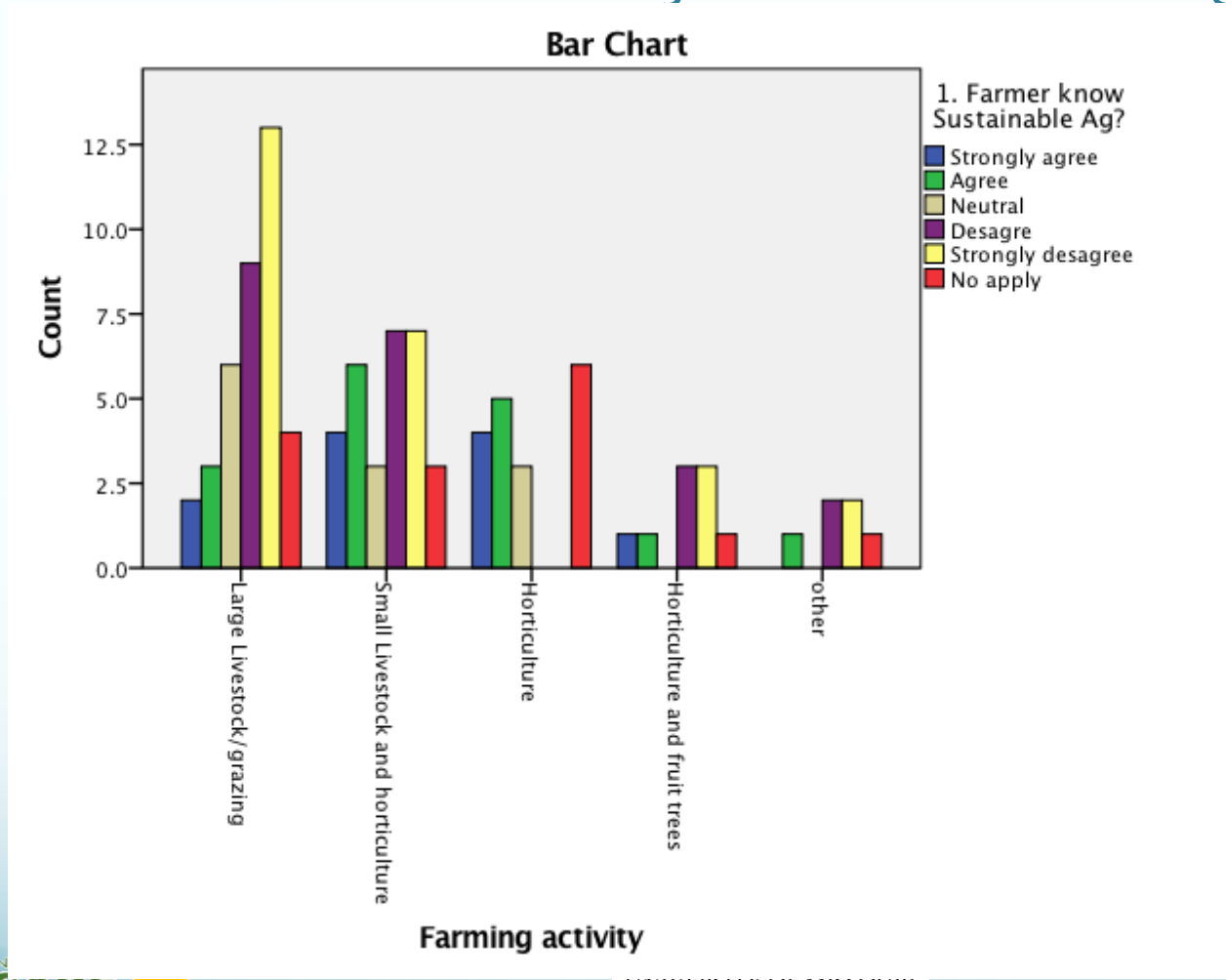
Education/sustainable agriculture



Farming Experience/Sustainable Agriculture



Production activity/Sustainable Agriculture



Empirical Analysis

- Regression models
 - Production Methods
 - Conventional
 - Sustainable
 - Demographics,
 - Production Capacities
 - Social Capital
 - Culture
- Panel data models/evaluation
 - Year 1 data set
 - Year 2 data set



Last Phase of this Program

- Replication of survey from year 1
- How significant might those factors influence Latino producers to fully become involved with sustainable practices?



Questions, comments and responses

Eleazar U. Gonzalez Ph.D.
gonzalezeu@Missouri.edu
Tel. 573-268-5785

Thank you

