

# California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Land Access Experiences Survey Report

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*Submitted by:*

**Sacramento State**  
**College of Continuing Education**  
3000 State University Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone: 916-278-4826

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# 1 Background

The Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI) works to equitably increase agricultural land access across California for food and fiber production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. ALEI staff support and administer the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force).

Between November 2024 and April 2025, the Task Force conducted a survey of land access experiences among farmers, ranchers, and other land users in California. The Land Access Experiences Survey was administered in three languages (English, Spanish, and Chinese). The primary goal of this survey was to learn more about challenges related to land access, the value of specific resources in addressing these challenges, experiences applying for support, and how responses in these categories differed between different groups of respondents.

Because of how the survey was distributed, the sample of respondents obtained is not representative of California land-users as a whole. Responses to specific items by respondents in the sample do not necessarily imply the same responses by the population at large, and statistically significant differences between groups within the sample do not necessarily imply such differences exist in the population. However, the results of current survey do provide valuable insight into respondents' perspectives on challenges, resources, and support relating to land use.

The following sections present results from the Land Access Experiences Survey. Section 2 presents the characteristics of survey respondents, supplemented by data from the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture for context where applicable. Sections 3 through 5 present overall results from survey items, as well as results broken down by survey group (see Section 2.1) and state region (see Section 2.3). Additional information regarding analyses are shown in Appendix A.1. Verbatim responses to all open-ended items are shown in Appendix A.2, and the English version of the survey instrument is reproduced in Appendix A.3.

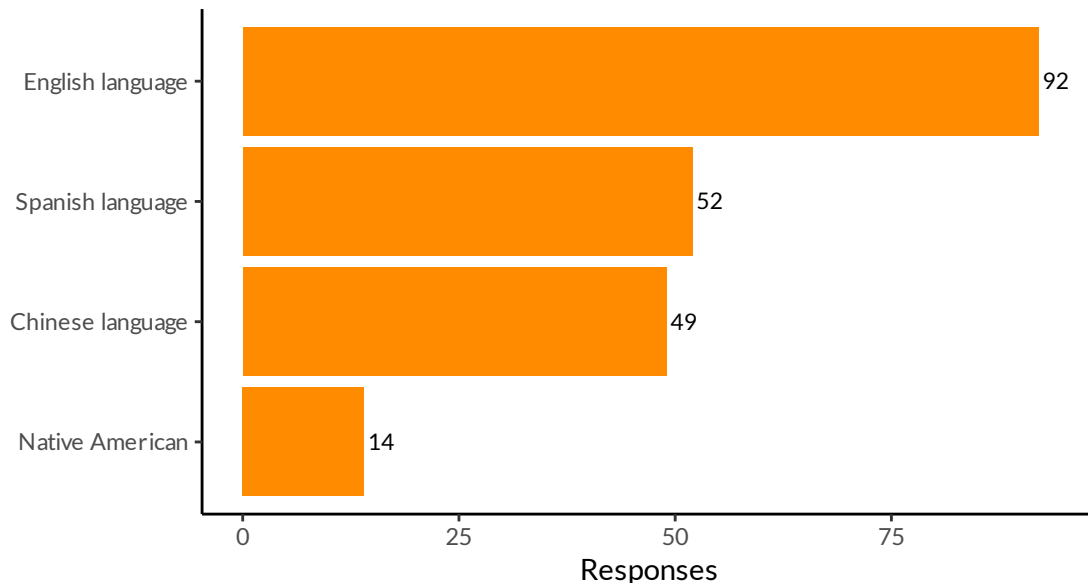
## 2 Respondent Characteristics

A total of 207 survey responses were received.

### 2.1 Survey group

For the purposes of comparing responses between survey groups, respondents who identified as American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native (see Section 2.4) were classified as Native American; all other respondents were classified based on the language of the survey they responded to. Responses by survey group are shown in Figure 2.1. Note that Native American respondents are a subset of respondents to the English-language survey; no Native American respondents were identified in the Spanish-language or Chinese-language surveys.

**Figure 2.1:** Respondents by survey group

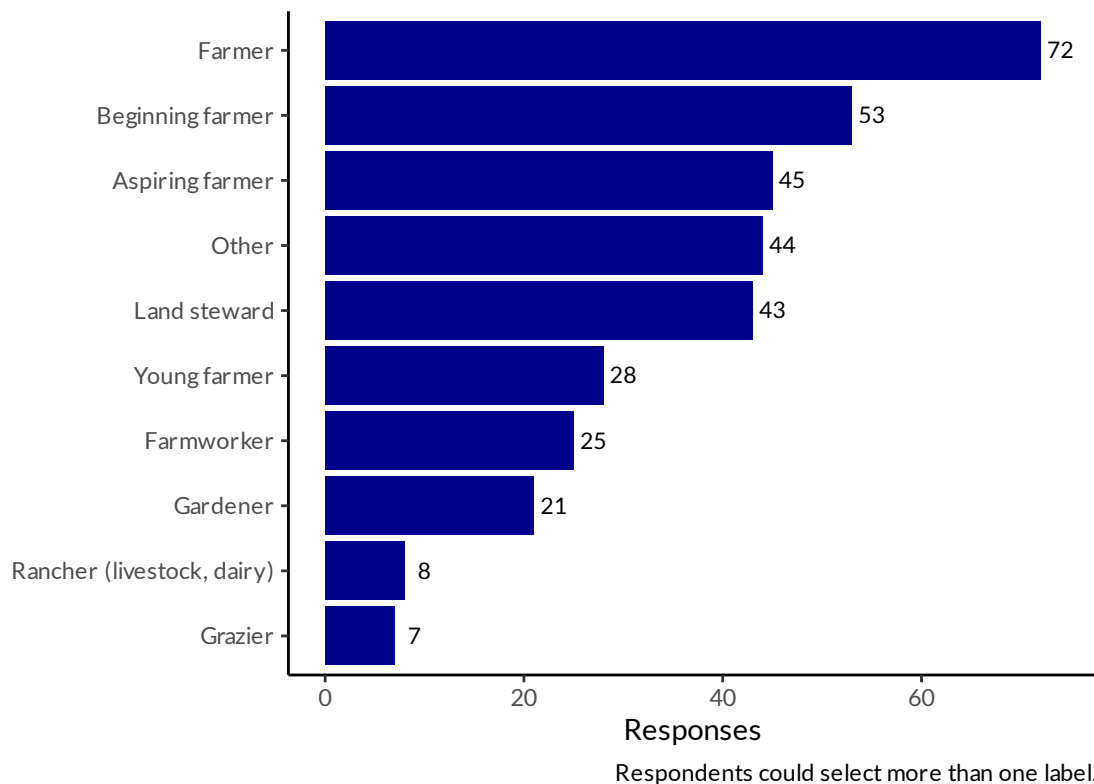


Number of English language respondents excludes Native American respondents.  
No Native American respondents were identified in Spanish- or Chinese-language survey.

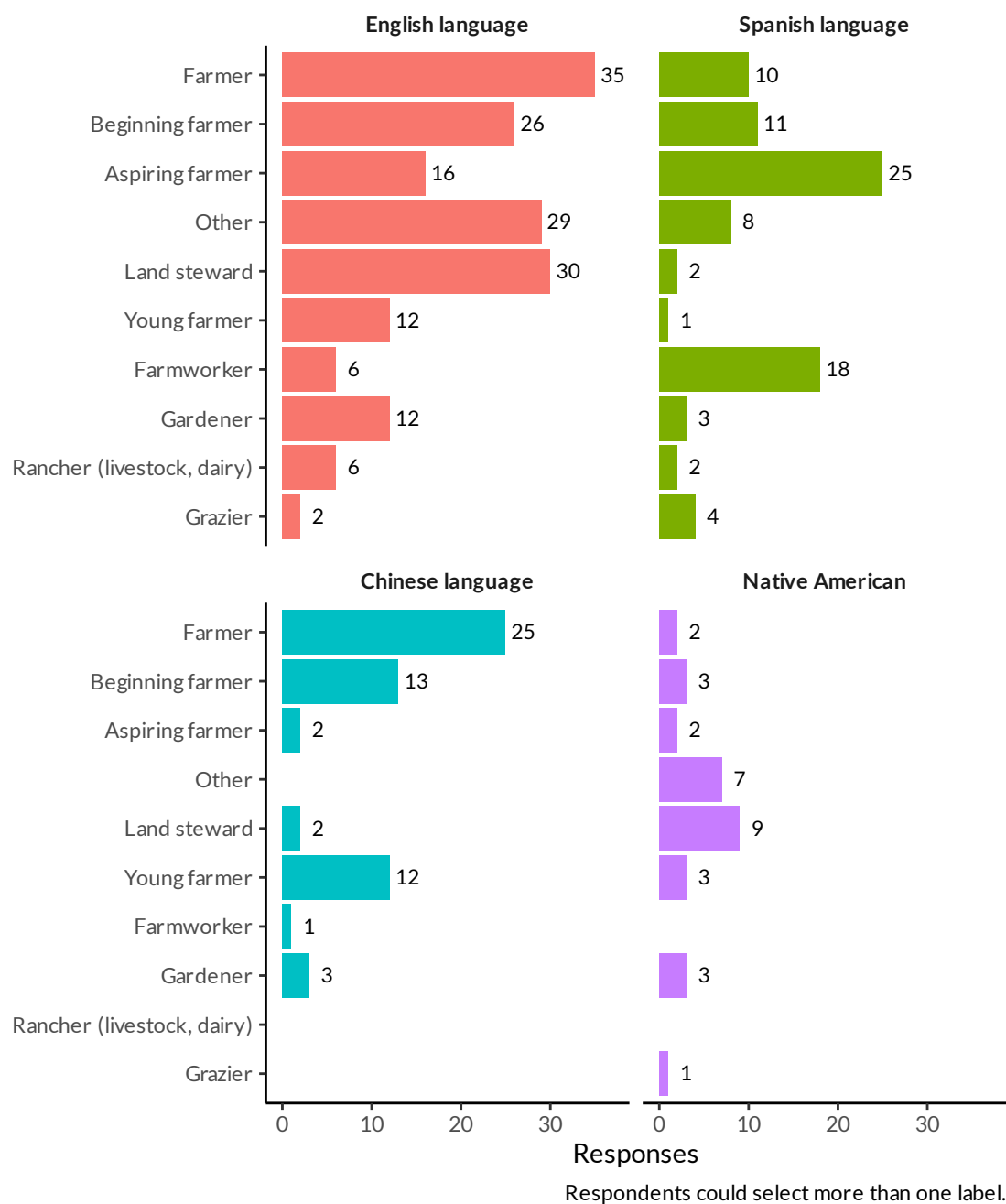
## 2.2 Role

Respondents were asked to indicate which role(s) they identified with, and were able to select all that apply. Responses are shown in Figure 2.2; responses by survey group are shown in Figure 2.3. A plurality of respondents identified as farmers. Verbatim responses from those selecting “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.1.

**Figure 2.2:** Respondent roles



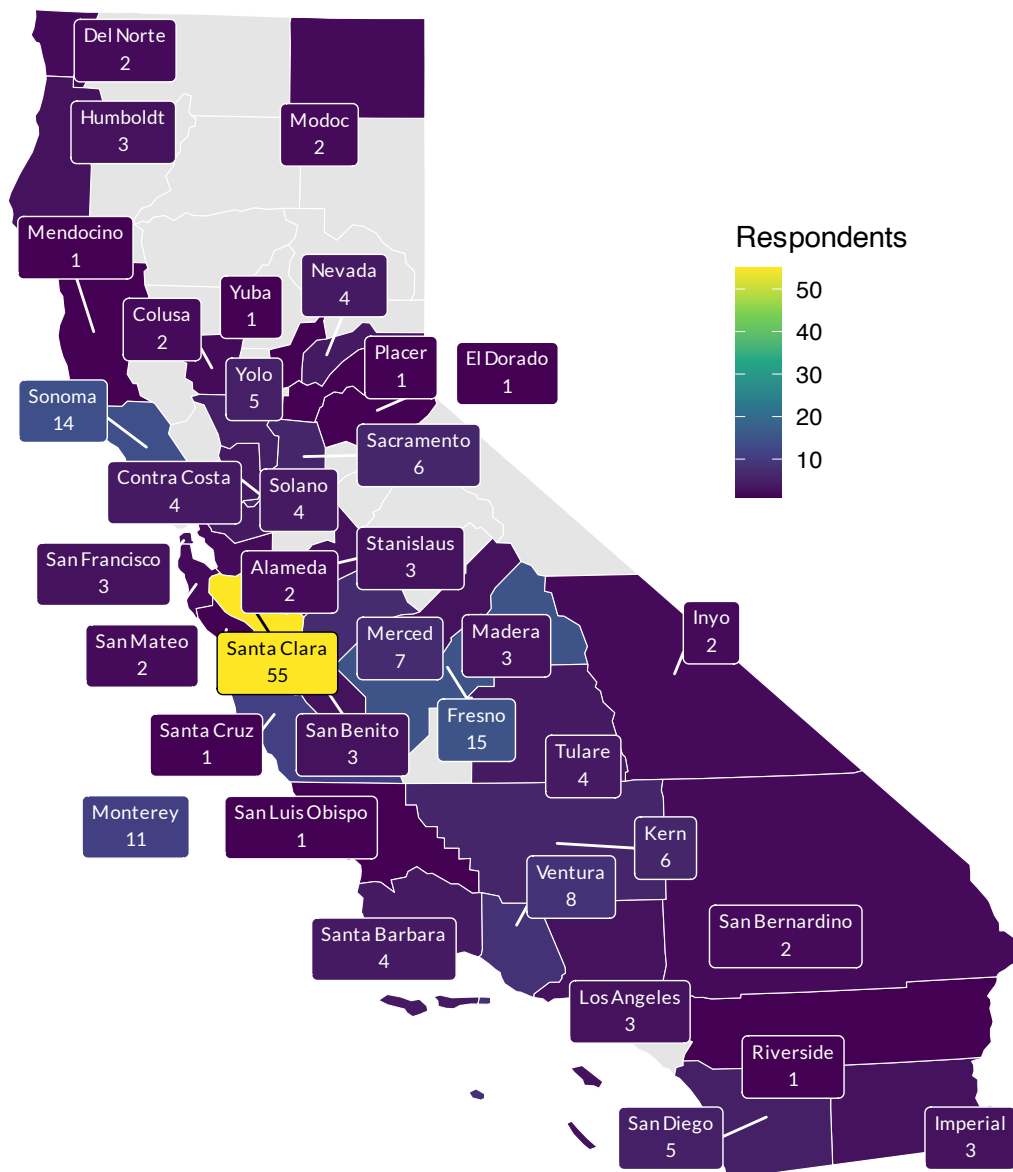
**Figure 2.3: Respondent roles by survey group**



## 2.3 Location

Respondents were asked to provide the ZIP Code associated with their primary location; this information was used to infer the county associated with their primary location. Figure 2.4 shows the number of respondents by inferred county; Figure 2.5 shows the number of respondents by survey group in each state region (per California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) Area Groups).

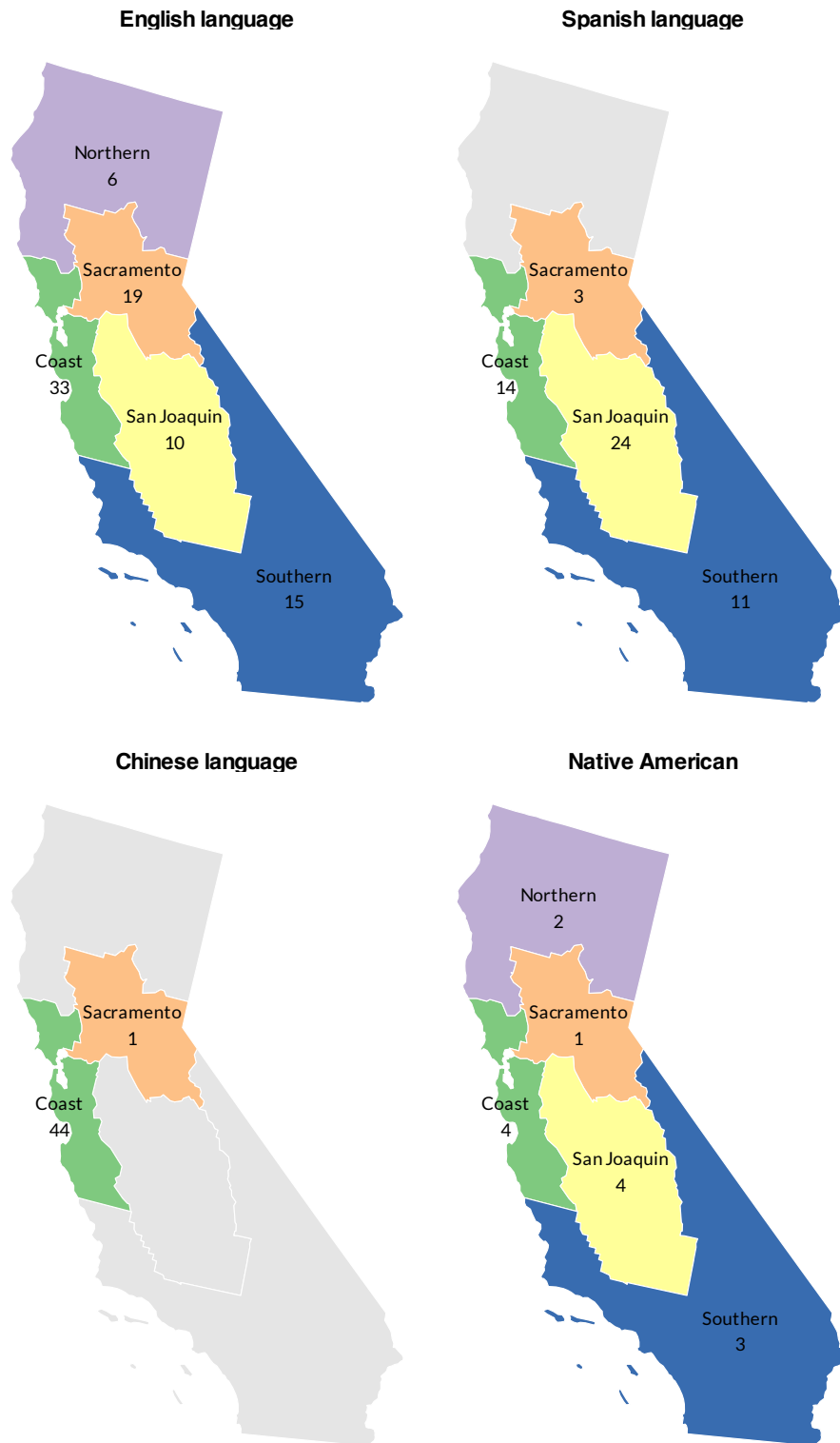
**Figure 2.4:** Responents by county



Counties inferred based on ZIP Code of primary location.



**Figure 2.5: Responenents by state region and survey group**



Region inferred based on ZIP Code of primary location.

## 2.4 Ethnicity

Respondents were asked to indicate which ethnic label(s) they identified with, and were able to select all that apply. Across all respondents, 119 indicated a single ethnic label, and 12 indicated more than one label, while 76 did not respond. Responses are shown in Figure 2.6. A plurality of respondents identified as Asian, followed by Hispanic/Latino/x/e and White/European. Verbatim responses from those selecting “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.2.

**Figure 2.6:** Respondent ethnicities

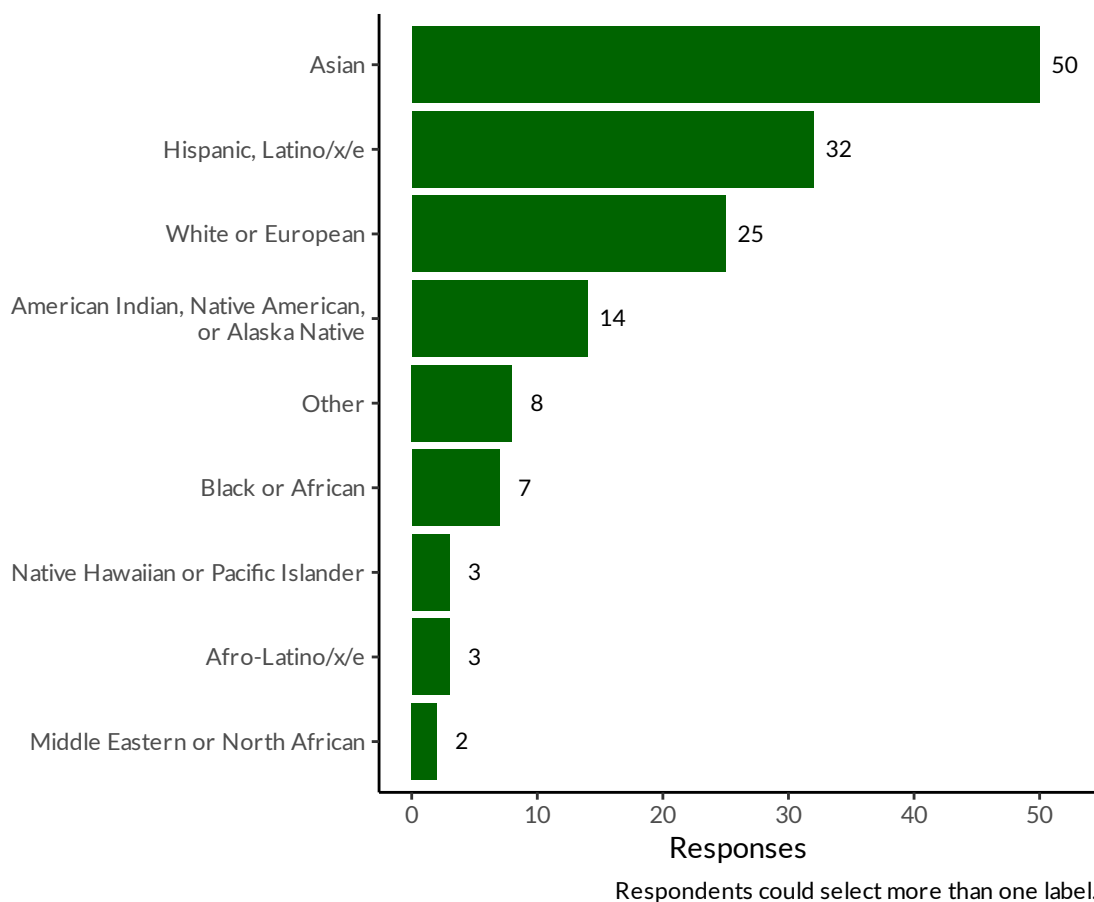
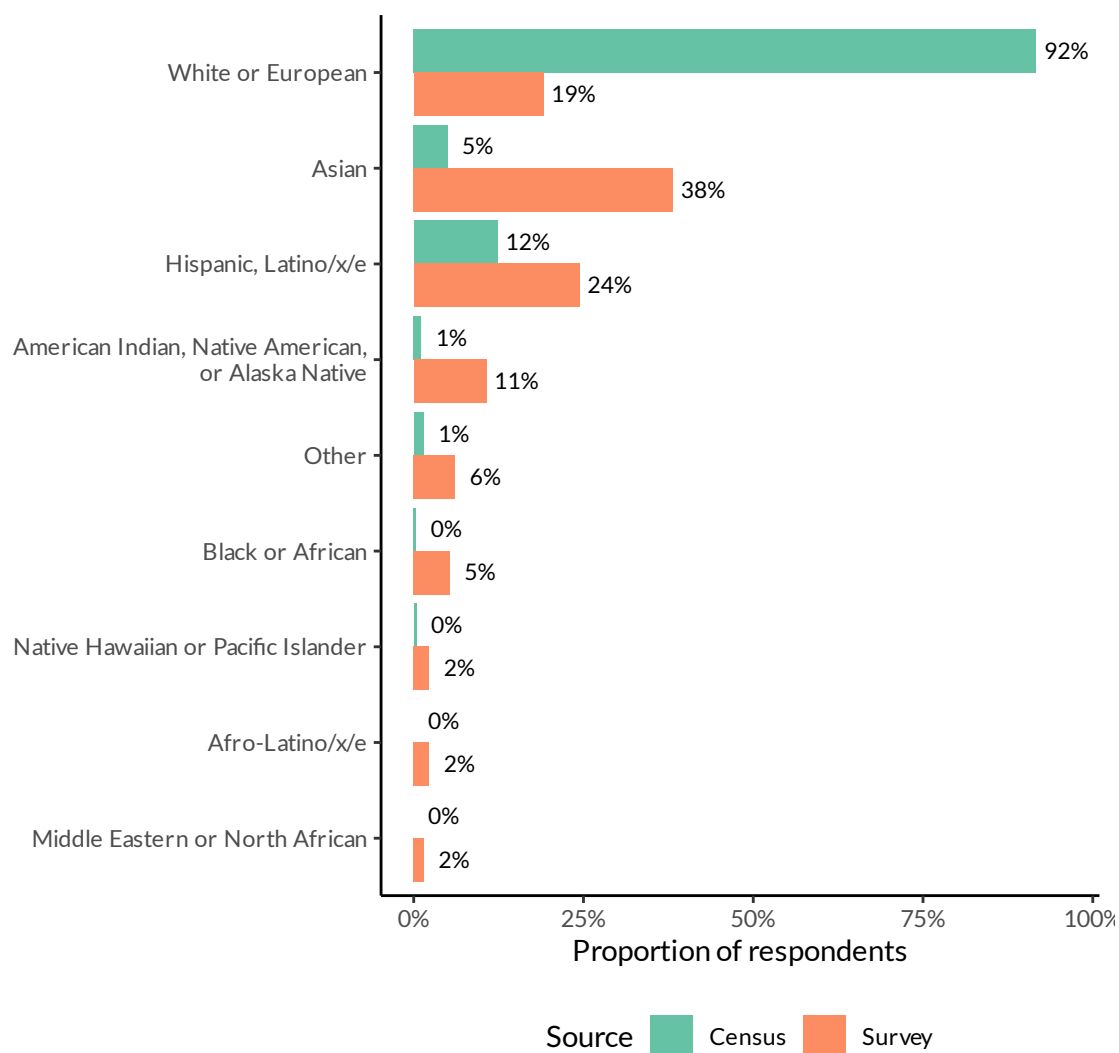


Figure 2.7 compares the proportion of respondents identifying with each ethnic label in the current survey with the corresponding proportions from the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture for California. Compared to the census data, the current survey has a substantially lower proportion of respondents identifying as White or European, and substantially higher proportions identifying as Asian, Hispanic, Latino/x/e, American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native.

**Figure 2.7:** Respondent ethnicities (Current survey vs. census)

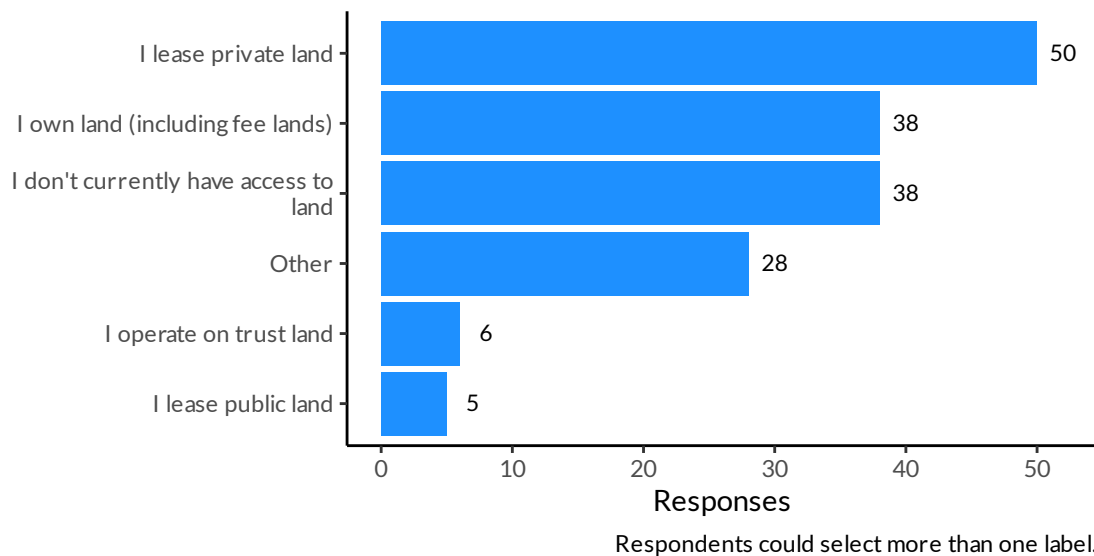


Census data from 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture for California.  
Survey respondents could select more than one label.

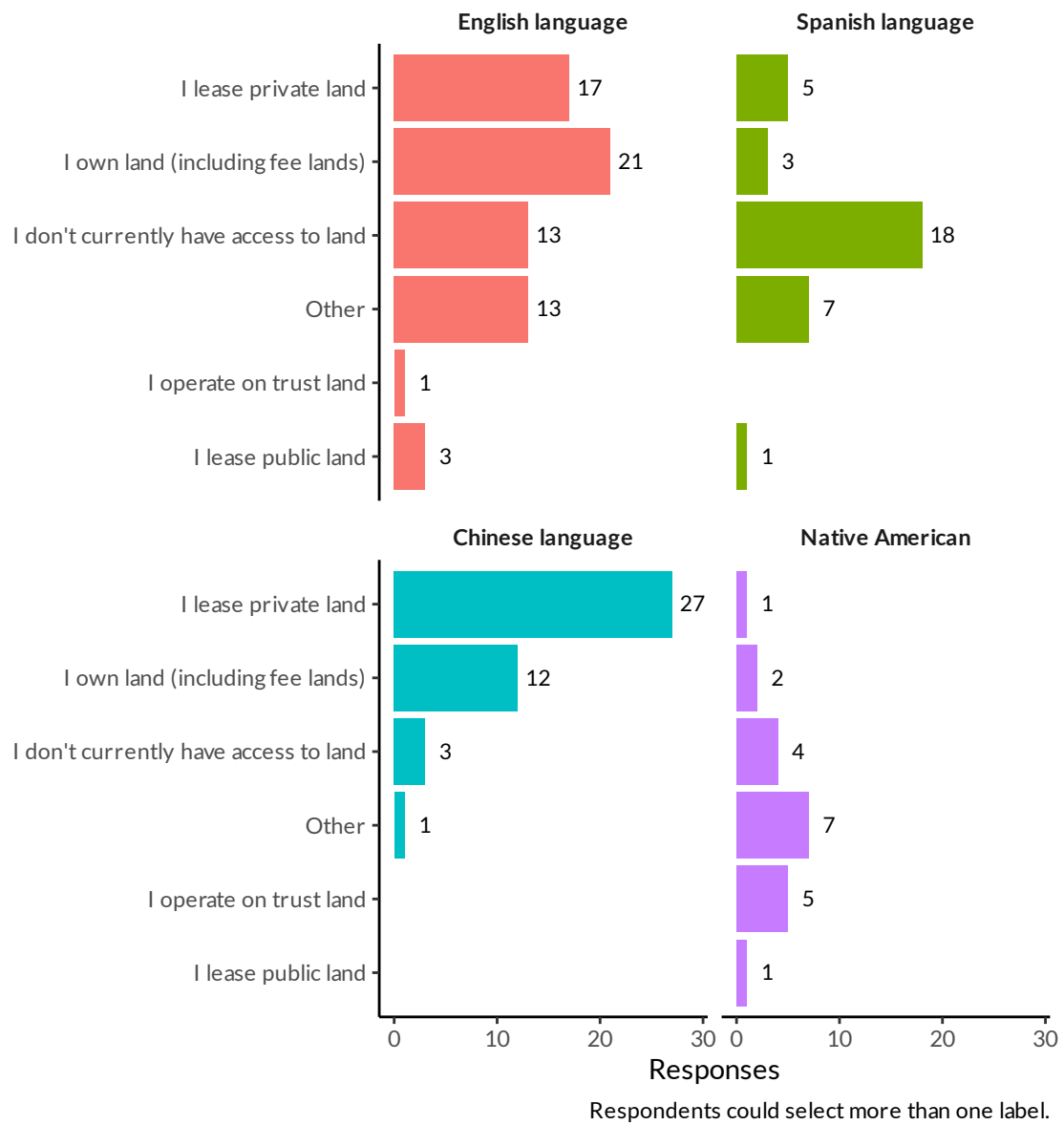
## 2.5 Access to land

Respondents were asked to indicate which option(s) described their access to land, and were able to select all that applied. Responses are shown in Figure 2.8; responses by survey group are shown in Figure 2.9. A plurality of respondents indicated that they leased private land. Verbatim responses from those selecting “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.3.

**Figure 2.8:** Land arrangements



**Figure 2.9: Land arrangements by survey group**



## **2.6 Hours worked per week**

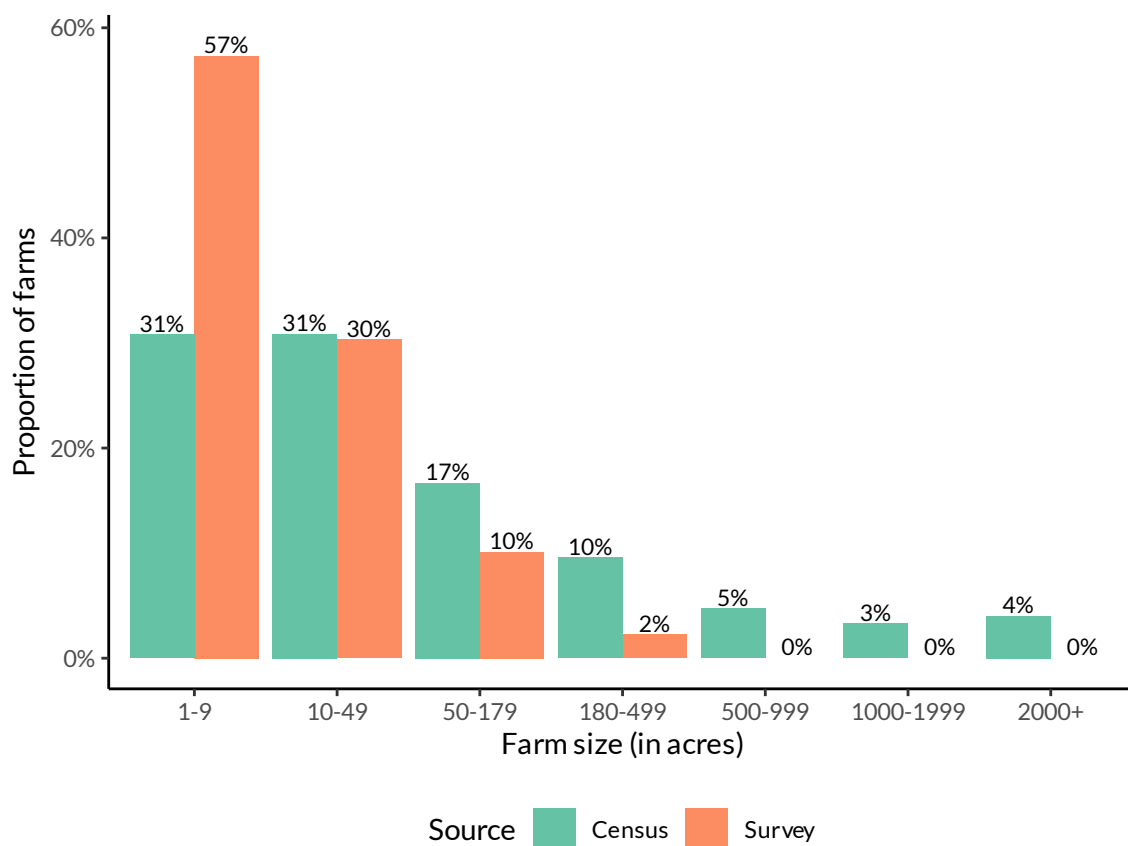
Respondents were asked to indicate how many hours per week they spent working or tending land via an open-ended item. Responses indicating zero hours (e.g, “zero” or “none”) or non-numeric responses (e.g, “every day” or “don’t know”) were treated as missing and excluded from analysis. Responses indicating a range were summarized by taking the average (e.g., “40-60 hours” was recorded as 50 hours). The mean hours per week reported was 43.2, with a minimum of 3.5 hours and a maximum of 100 hours; fifty percent of responses were between 17.5 and 65 hours.

## 2.7 Acreage

Respondents were asked to indicate how many acres they manage or steward via an open-ended item. Responses indicating zero acres (e.g., “zero” or “none”) or non-numeric responses (e.g., “less than one acre” or “don’t know”) were treated as missing and excluded from analysis. The mean acreage reported was 24.7, with a minimum of 0.25 acres and a maximum of 300 acres; fifty percent of responses were between 3.5 and 15 acres.

Figure 2.10 compares the distribution of acreage reported in the current survey to the distribution of farm sizes by acreage reported in the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture for California. Compared to the census data, the current survey includes a greater proportion of smaller farms (less than 10 acres), and a smaller proportion of larger farms (more than 50 acres).

**Figure 2.10:** Acreage reported (Current survey vs. Census)

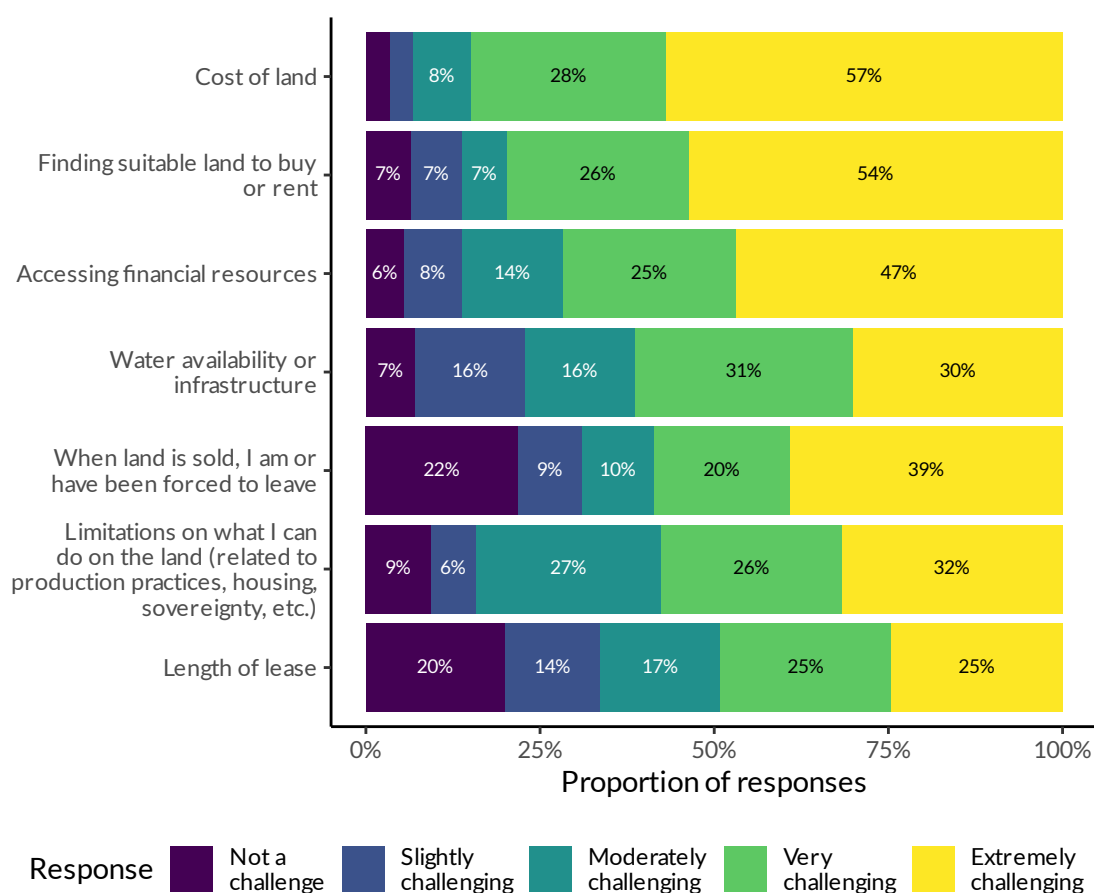


Census data from 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture for California.

### 3 Challenges

Respondents were asked to identify their “major past or present challenges related to land access” by rating each of a set of items on a scale from *Not a challenge* to *Extremely challenging*. Overall, the cost of land and finding suitable land to buy or rent were rated as relatively more challenging, while limitations on land use and length of leases were rated as relatively less challenging. Figure 3.1 shows responses to these items, ordered from most challenging to least challenging. Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3 show responses to each item by survey group; Figure 3.4 and Figure 3.5 show responses by state region. Verbatim responses from those responding “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.4.

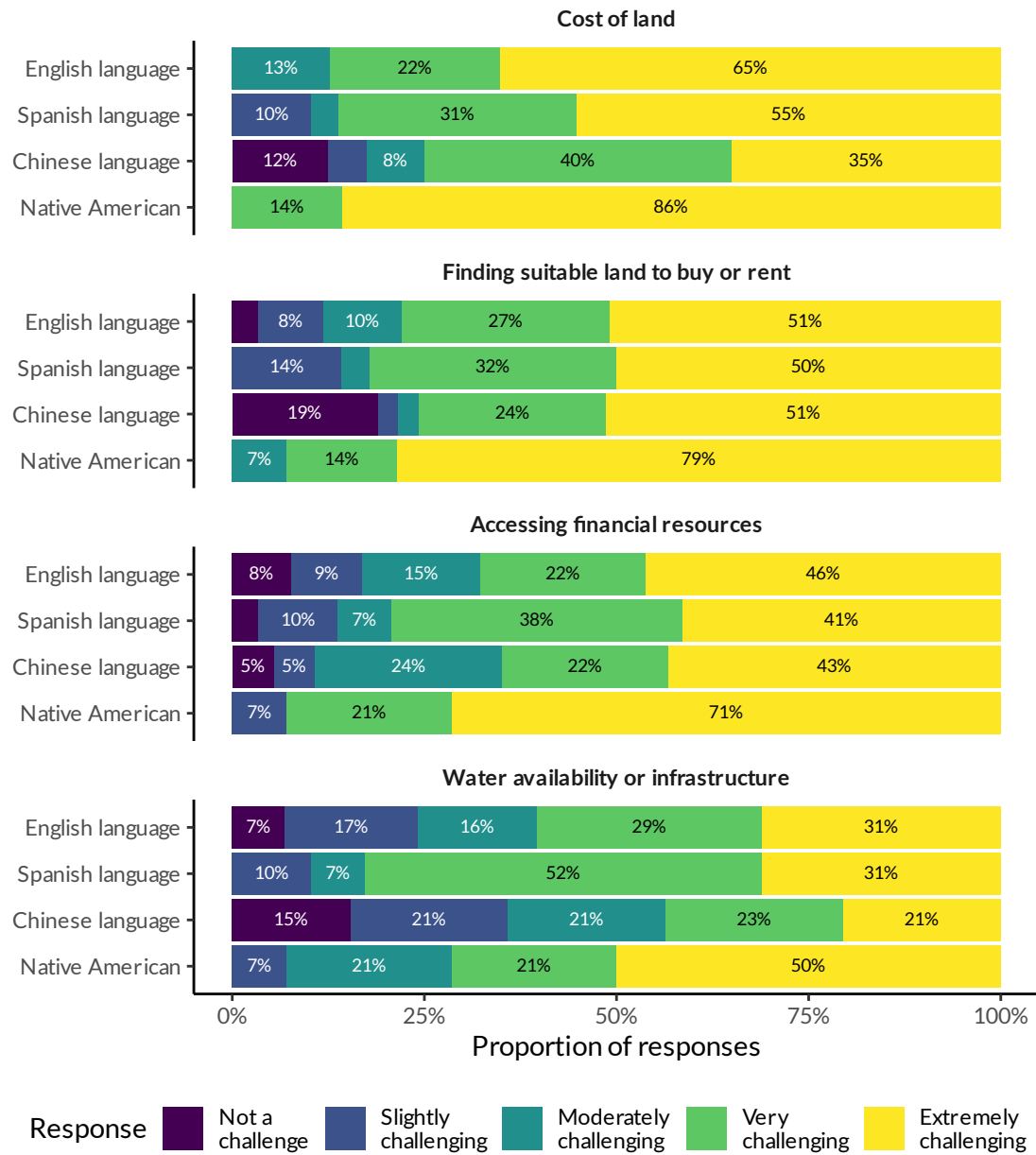
**Figure 3.1:** Challenges related to land access - Overall



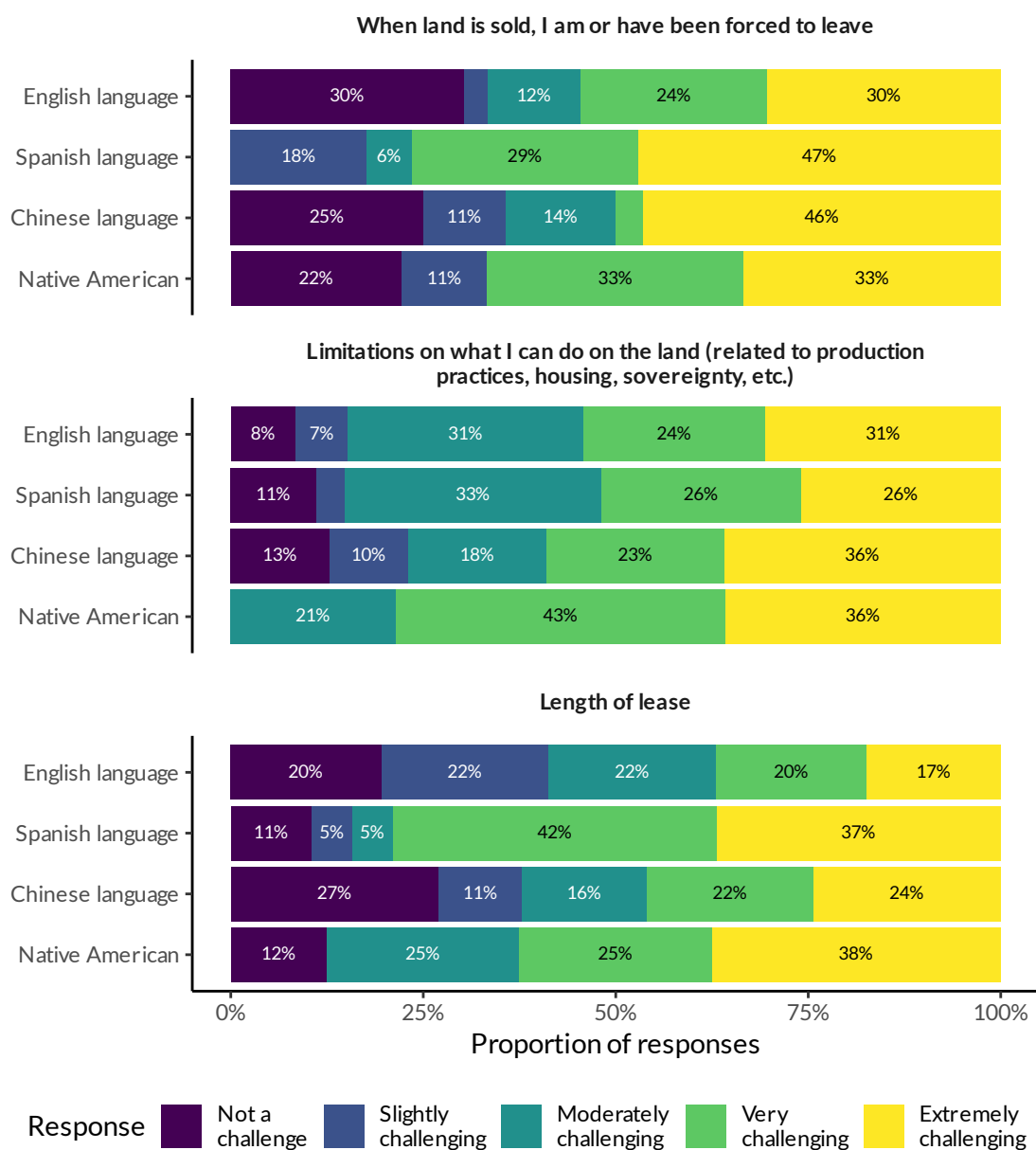


## 3.1 By survey group

**Figure 3.2: Challenges related to land access by survey group (Part 1)**

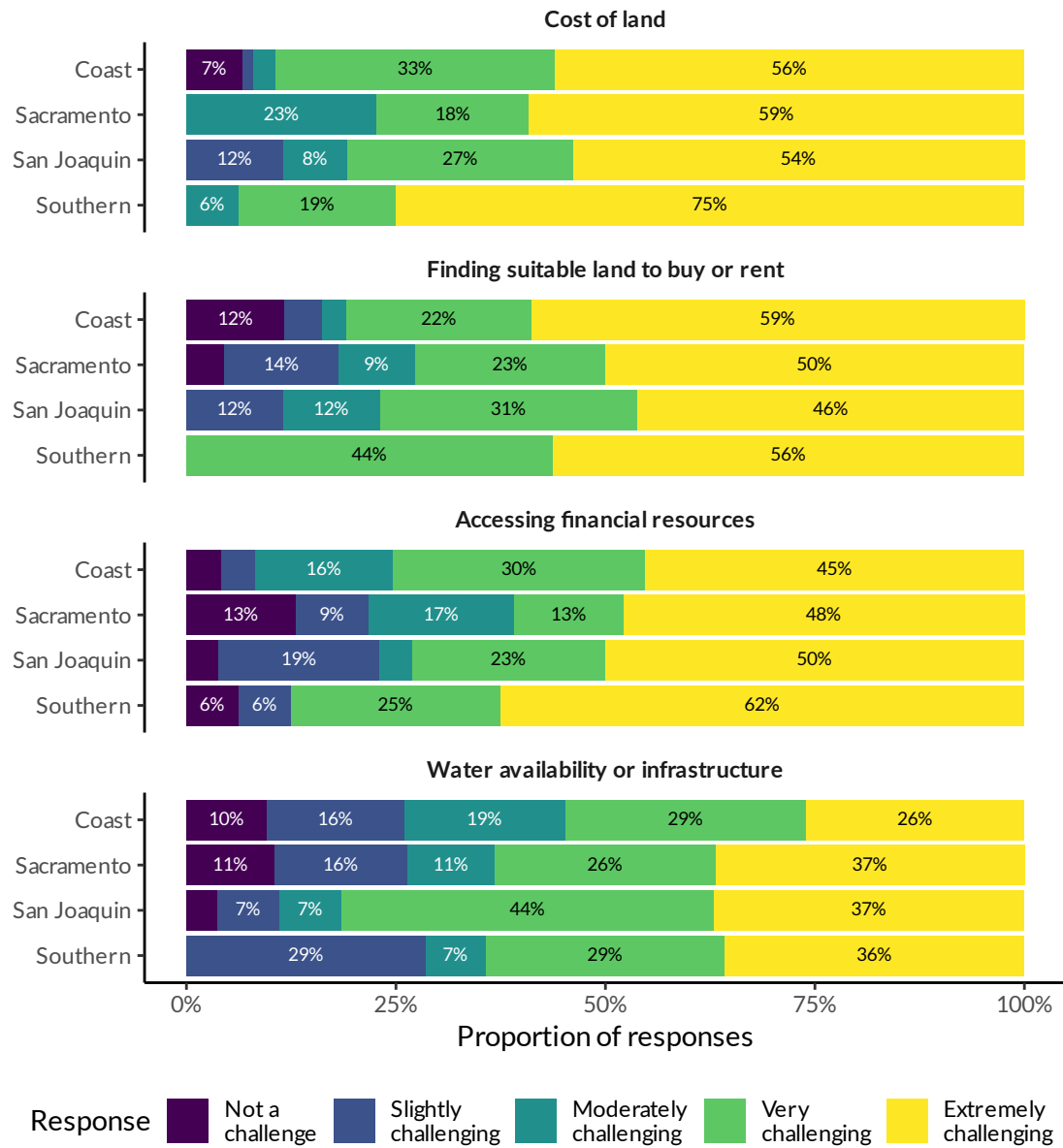


**Figure 3.3: Challenges related to land access by survey group (Part 2)**



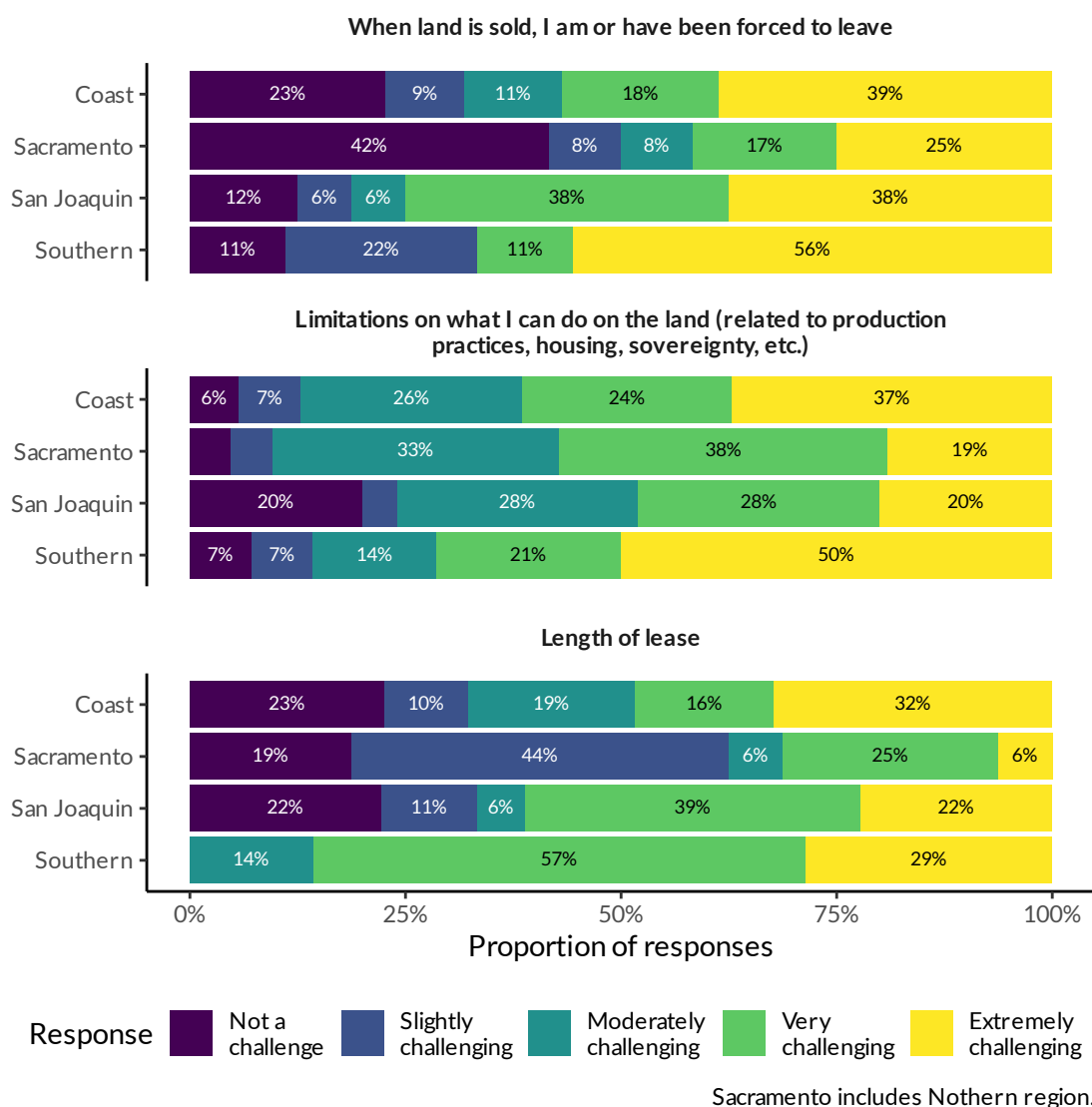
## 3.2 By state region

Figure 3.4: Challenges related to land access by state region (Part 1)



Sacramento includes Northern region.

**Figure 3.5: Challenges related to land access by state region (Part 2)**

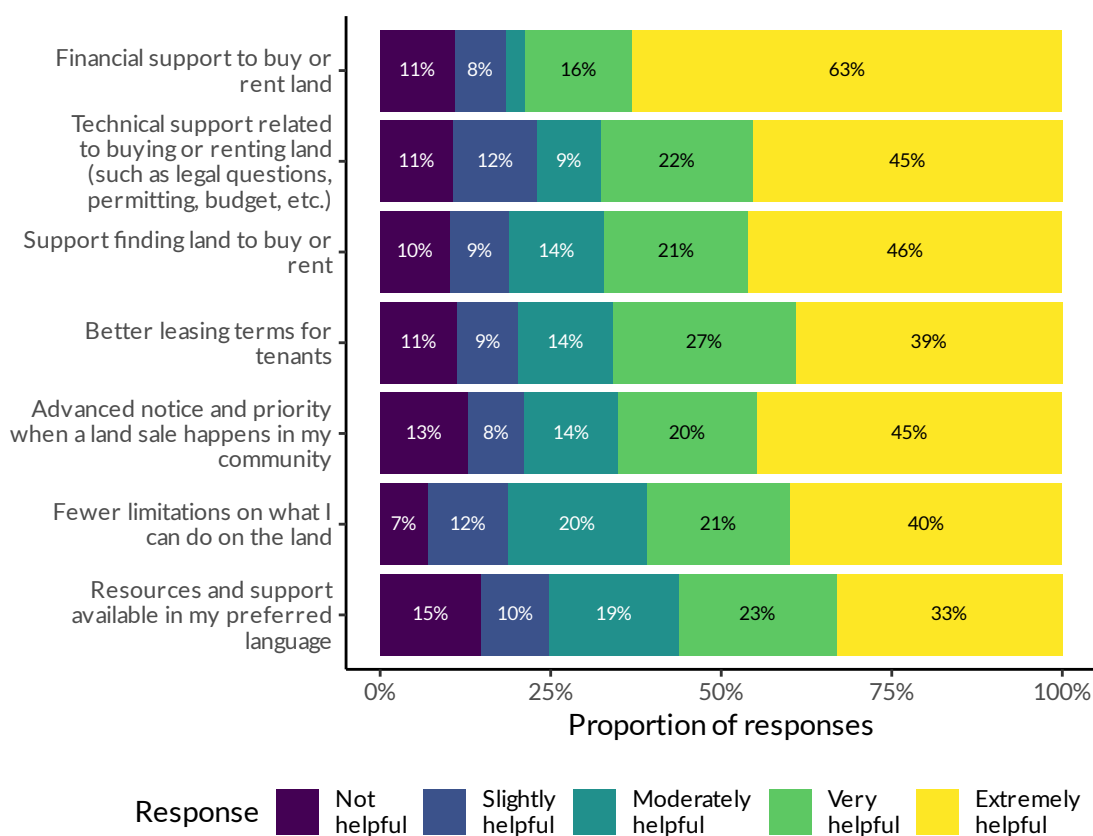


Chinese language respondents rated the cost of land as significantly less challenging than respondents in other survey groups, while Native American respondents rated the cost of land as significantly more challenging. No other statistically significant differences between survey groups or state regions were observed. For additional information regarding analyses, see Appendix A.1.1.

## 4 Potential Helpfulness of Resources

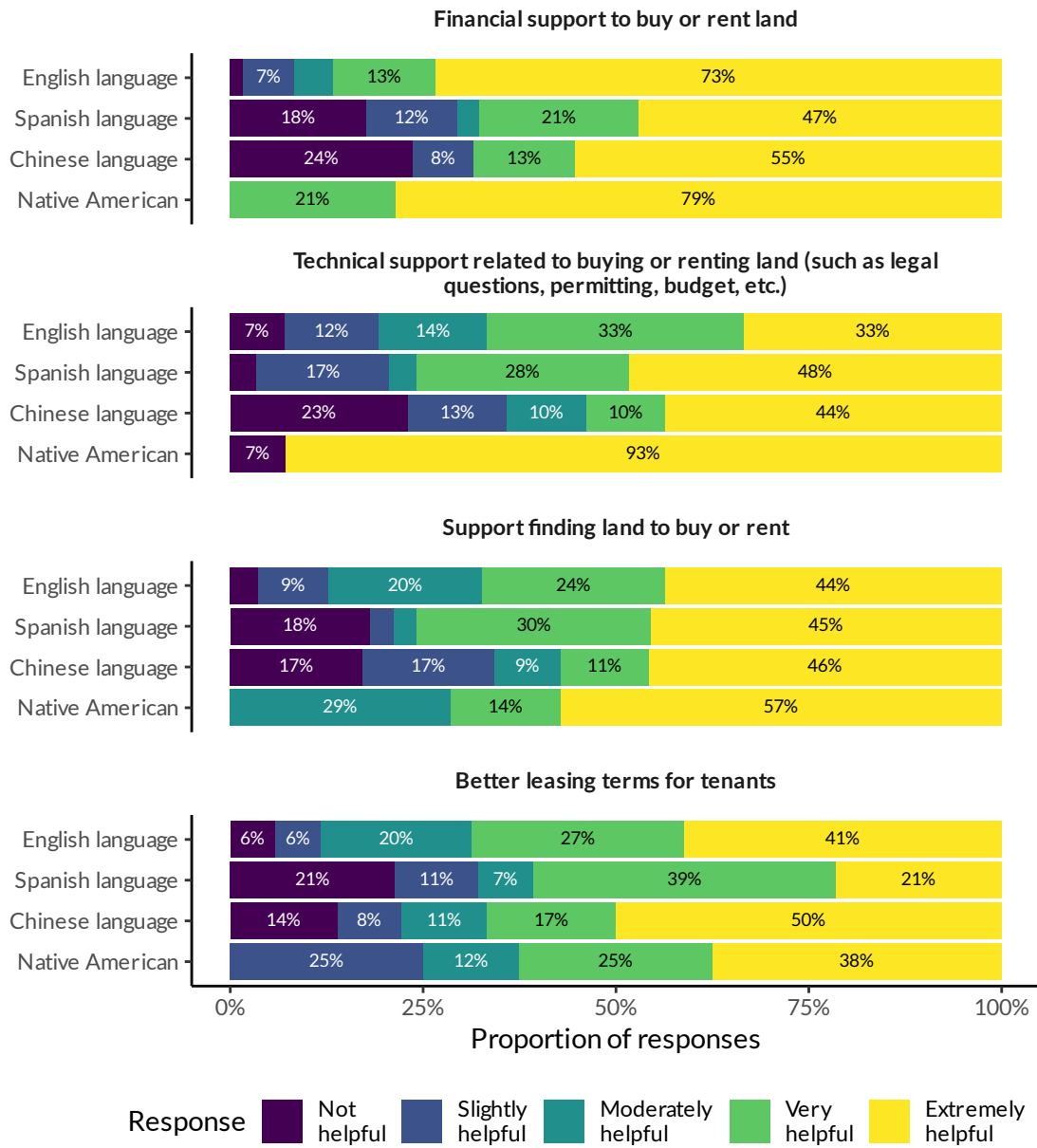
Respondents were asked to indicate which potential resources “would be most helpful to address [their] challenges” by rating each of a set of items on a scale from *Not helpful* to *Extremely helpful*. Overall, financial and technical support to buy or rent land were rated as relatively more helpful, while relaxed limitations on land use and availability of resources and support in respondents’ preferred language were rated as relatively less helpful. Figure 4.1 shows responses to these items, ordered from most helpful to least helpful. Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3 show responses to each item by survey group; Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5 show responses by state region. Verbatim responses from those responding “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.6; verbatim responses providing additional detail on kinds of support are shown in Appendix A.2.7.

**Figure 4.1:** Potential helpfulness of resources - Overall

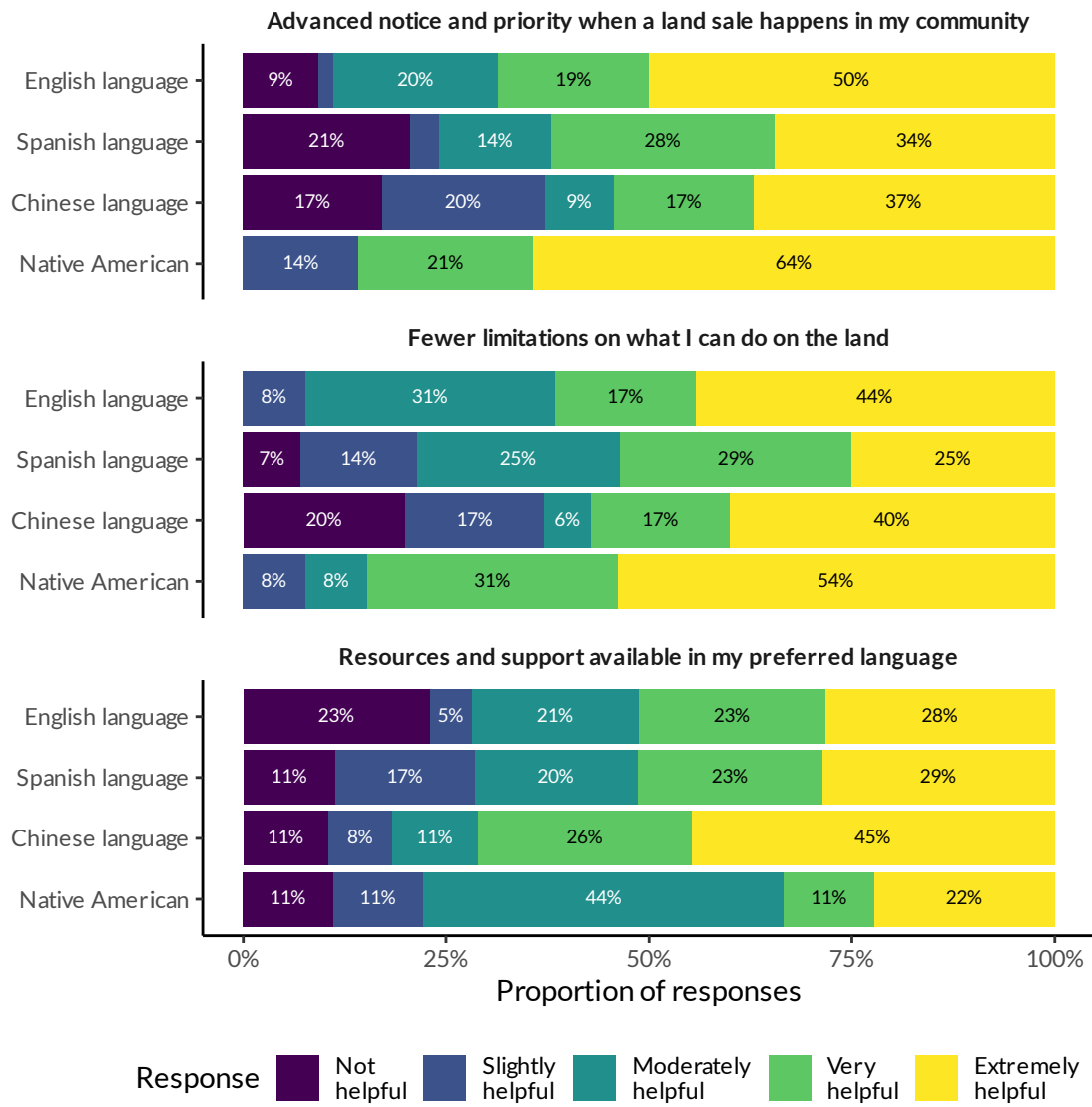


## 4.1 By survey group

**Figure 4.2:** Potential helpfulness of resources by survey group (Part 1)

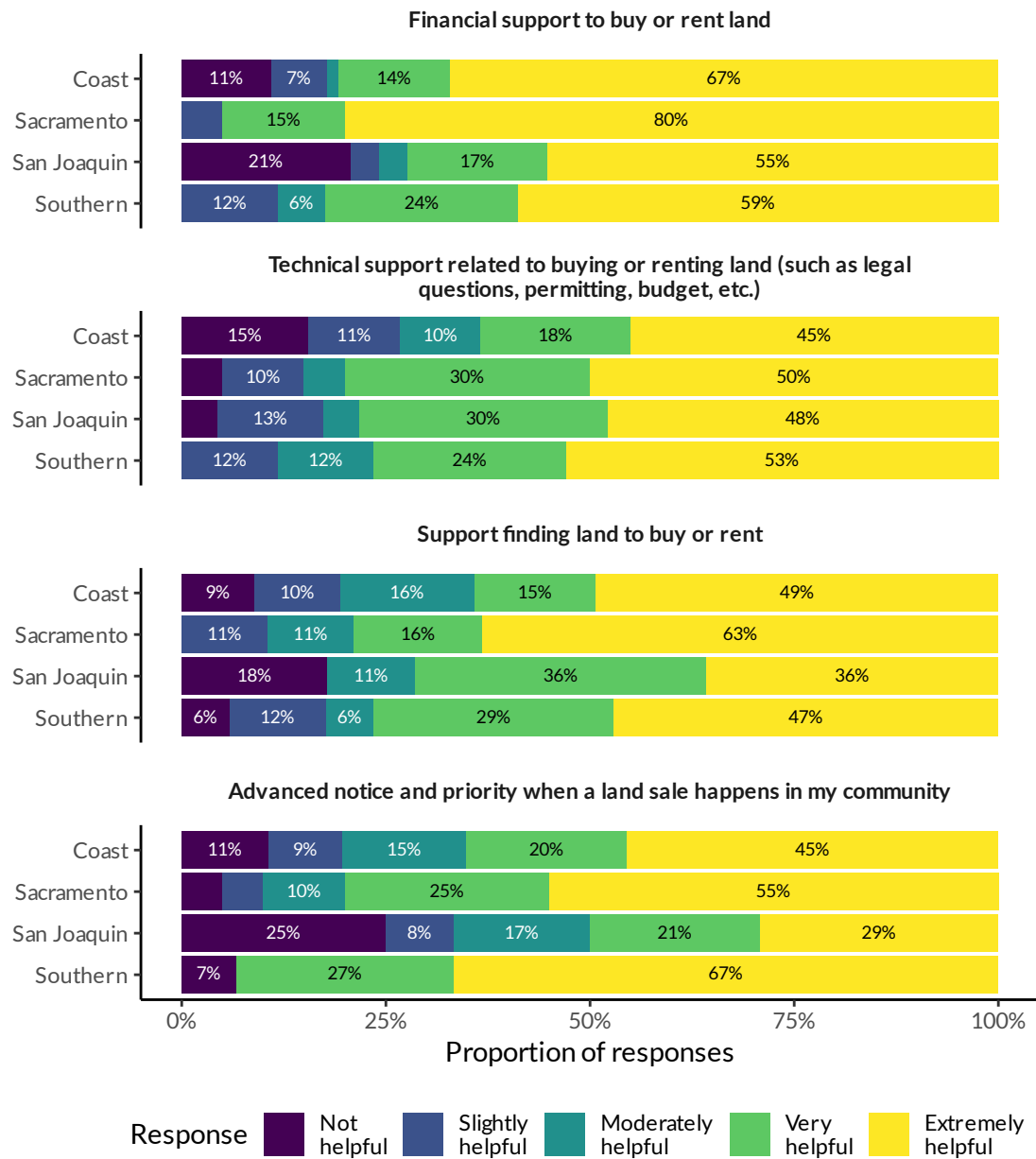


**Figure 4.3: Potential helpfulness of resources by survey group (Part 2)**



## 4.2 By state region

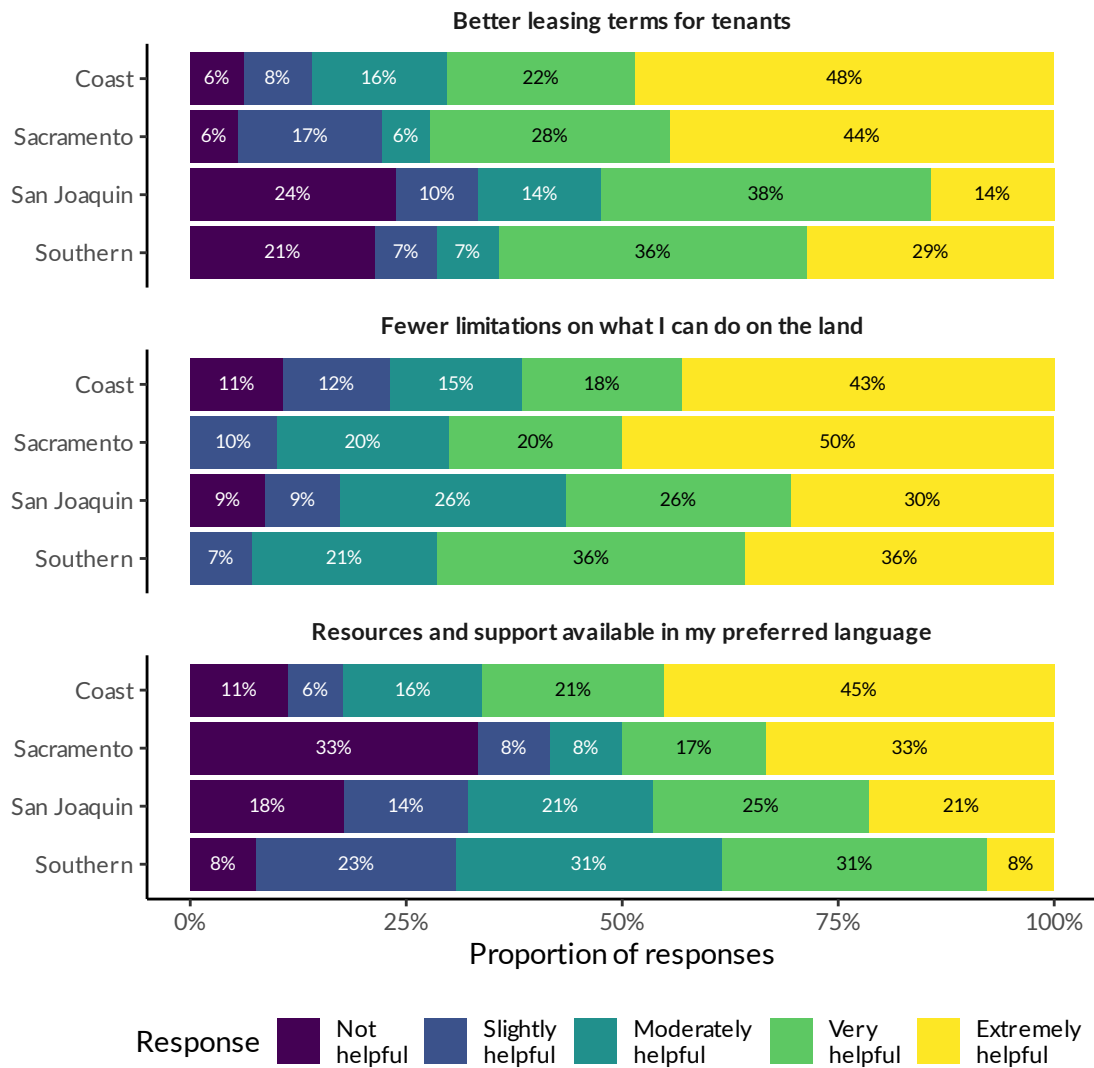
Figure 4.4: Potential helpfulness of resources by state region (Part 1)



Sacramento includes Northern region.



**Figure 4.5: Potential helpfulness of resources by state region (Part 2)**



Sacramento includes Northern region.

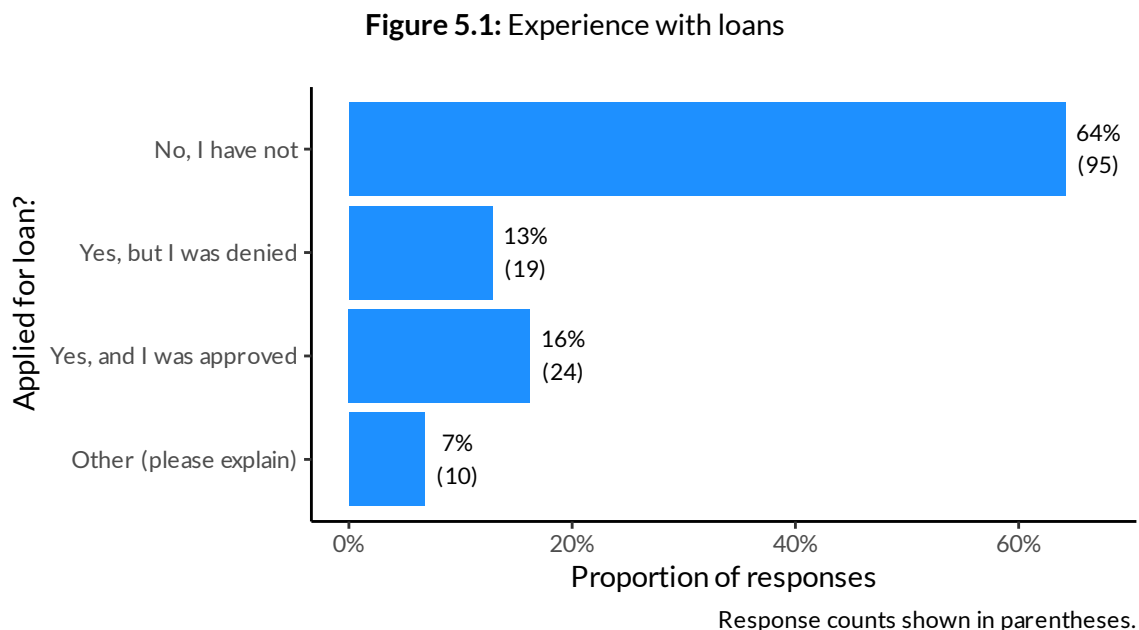
English language respondents rated technical support related to buying or renting land as significantly less helpful than respondents in other survey groups, while Native American respondents rated such support as significantly more helpful. Additionally, respondents in the San Joaquin Valley region rated advanced notice and priority when a land sale occurred as significantly less helpful compared to respondents in other state regions. No other statistically significant differences between survey groups or state regions were observed. For additional information regarding analyses, see Appendix A.1.1.

## 5 Experiences Applying for Support

Respondents were asked to indicate which loans/grants, if any, they had applied for, or alternately why they had not applied; verbatim responses are shown in Appendix A.2.11 and Appendix A.2.12, respectively.

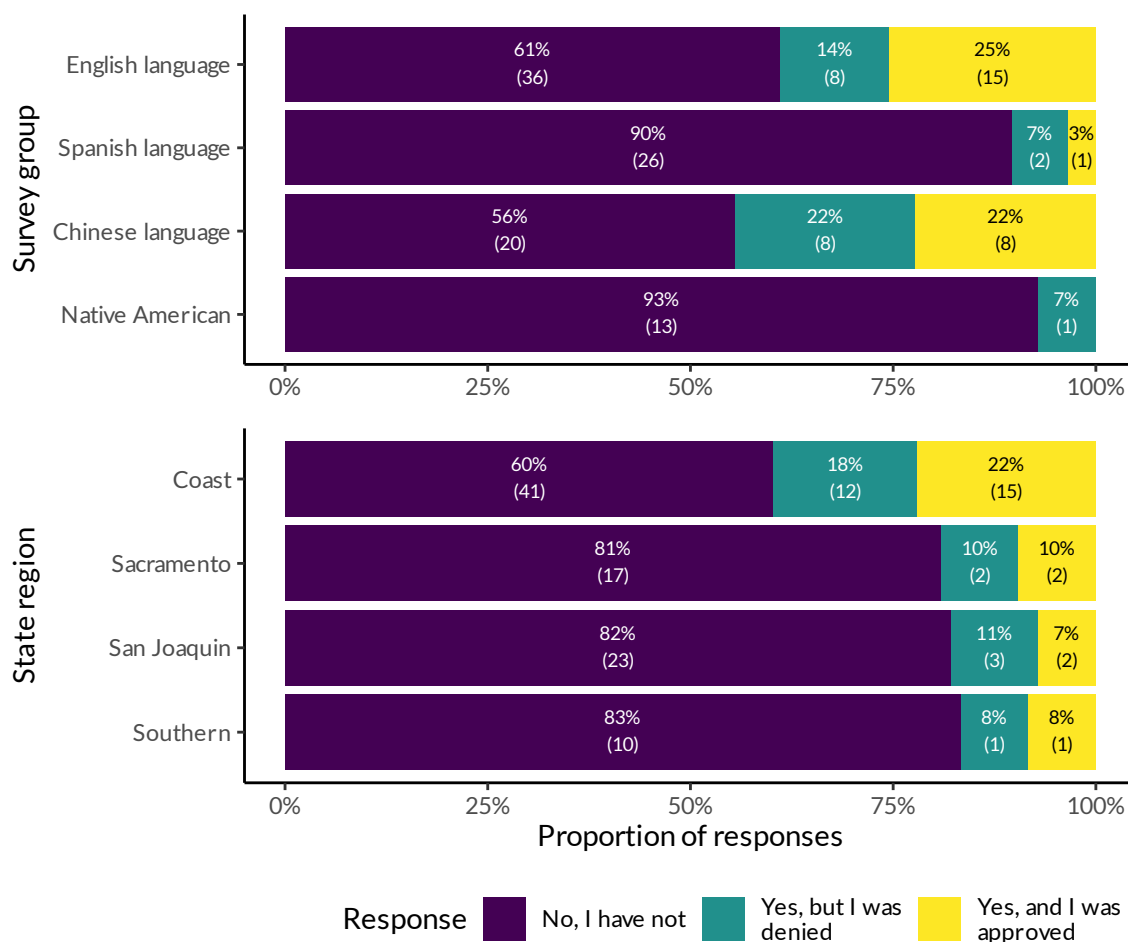
### 5.1 Loans

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had applied for a loan to support their land, farm, or business, and if so, whether it was approved. Responses are shown in Figure 5.1, and verbatim responses from those responding “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.9. The majority of respondents had not applied for a loan; among those who had, slightly more were approved than were denied.



Responses regarding loans by survey group and state region, excluding responses of *I don't know* and *Other*, are shown in Figure 5.2.

**Figure 5.2:** Experience with loans by survey group and state region



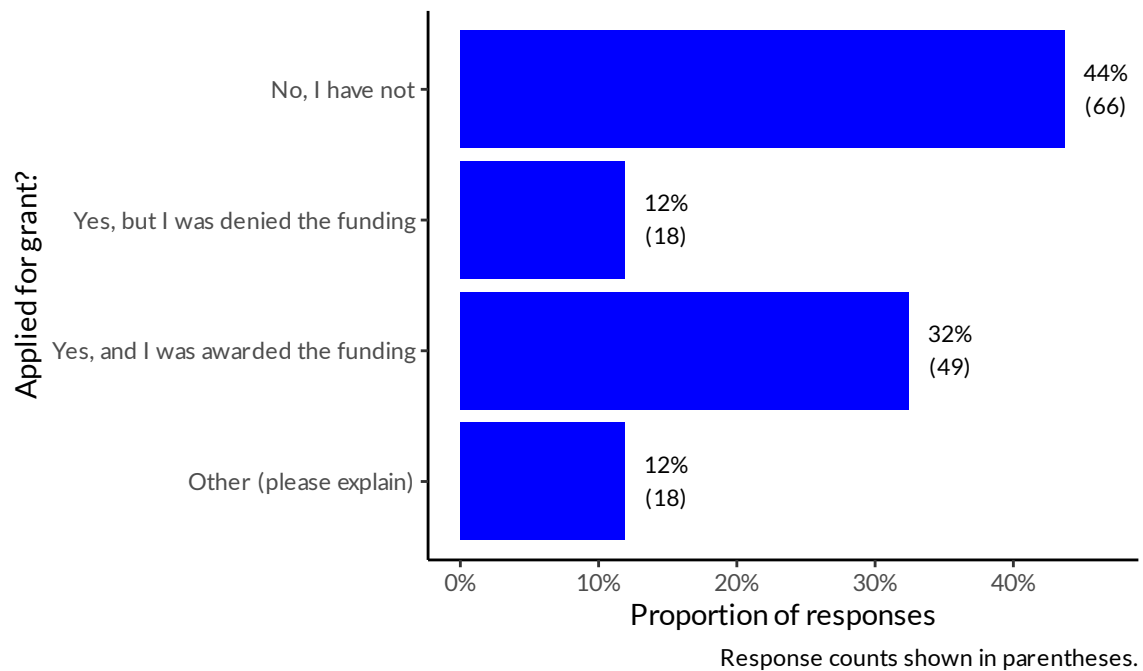
Response counts shown in parentheses.  
Sacramento includes Northern region.

Compared to the mean of other survey groups, English language respondents were significantly more likely to have applied for loans; Native American respondents and Spanish language respondents were significantly less likely. No other statistically significant differences between survey groups or state regions were observed. For additional information regarding analyses, see Appendix A.1.2.

## 5.2 Grants

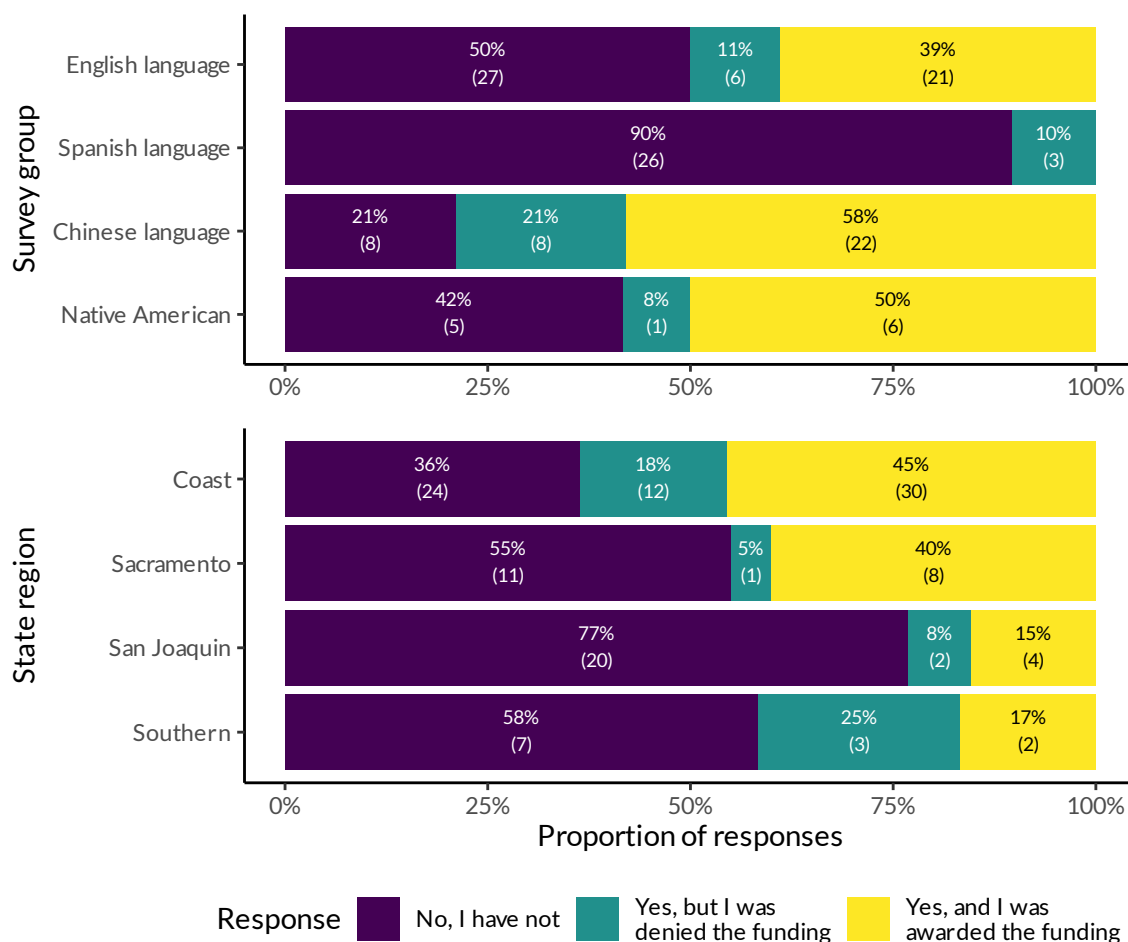
Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had applied for a grant to support their land, farm, or business, and if so, whether it was approved. Responses are shown in Figure 5.3, and verbatim responses from those responding “Other” are shown in Appendix A.2.10. The plurality of respondents had not applied for a grant; among those who had, more were approved than were denied.

**Figure 5.3:** Experience with grants



Responses regarding grants by survey group and state region, excluding responses of *I don't know* and *Other*, are shown in Figure 5.4.

**Figure 5.4:** Experience with grants by survey group and state region



Response counts shown in parentheses.  
Sacramento includes Northern region.

Compared to the mean of other survey groups, Chinese language respondents were significantly more likely to have applied for grants; Spanish language respondents were significantly less likely. No other statistically significant differences between survey groups or state regions were observed. For additional information regarding analyses, see Appendix A.1.2.

## 6 Summary

Key results from the Land Access Experiences Survey include the following:

- **Role:** a plurality of respondents identified as farmers.
- **Location:** a plurality of respondents indicated a primary location in the Coast state region (per CACASA Area Groups).
- **Ethnicity:** compared to the population of California farmers (per the 2022 USDA Census), the sample of survey respondents included a smaller proportion of White or European respondents, and a correspondingly greater proportion of non-White respondents, with a plurality of respondents identifying as Asian.
- **Land access:** a plurality of respondents indicated that they leased private land.
- **Hours worked:** respondents indicated spending an average of 43.2 hours per week working or tending land.
- **Acres worked:** the average acreage reported by respondents was 24.7 acres. Compared to 2022 USDA Census data, the current survey includes a greater proportion of smaller farms (less than 10 acres), and a smaller proportion of larger farms (over 50 acres).

In general, responses regarding challenges related to land access and helpfulness of resources did not differ significantly between survey groups or state regions, with the following exceptions:

- **Challenges**
  - Cost of land: Chinese language respondents rated this as less challenging than respondents in other survey groups, while Native American respondents rated it as significantly more challenging.
- **Resources**
  - Technical support related to buying or renting land: English language respondents rated such support as significantly less helpful than respondents in other survey groups, while Native American respondents rated such support as significantly more helpful.
  - Advanced notice and priority when a land sale occurs: Respondents in the San Joaquin Valley region rated such support as significantly less helpful compared to respondents in other state regions.
- **Support**
  - Loans: English language respondents were significantly more likely to have applied, while Native American respondents and Spanish language respondents were significantly less likely.

- Grants: Chinese language respondents were significantly more likely to have applied, while Spanish language respondents were significantly less likely.

It should be noted that the association between survey group and state region (i.e., the fact survey groups were not even distributed across state regions) means that effects of survey group do not completely control for effects of state region (and vice-versa).

The survey sample does not appear representative of California farmers in general, and thus results of the current survey do not necessarily generalize to the broader population; however, the results obtained provide insights into the experiences and perspectives of a specific group of California farmers.

# A Appendix

## A.1 Analyses

### A.1.1 Challenges and resources

Potential differences between survey groups and state regions in responses to items regarding challenges and resources were assessed via ordinal logistic regression models for each item, predicting the probability of more positive (versus more negative) ratings by survey group and state region. Respondents whose state region was unknown were excluded from analyses. Due to the small number of responses in the Northern region, this region was combined with the Sacramento region for the purpose of analysis.

Ratings from each group were compared to the mean across all other groups, and ratings from each region to the mean across all other regions; for each item, the Holm method (for four tests) was used to correct for multiple comparisons.

These models did not include an interaction term, because data was not available for all combinations of survey group and state region (e.g., no responses were received from Chinese language respondents in the Southern or San Joaquin Valley regions). Additionally, this association between survey group and state region means that effects of survey group do not completely control for effects of state region (and vice-versa).

### A.1.2 Experiences applying for support

Potential differences between survey groups and state regions in responses regarding loans and grants were assessed via ordinal logistic regression models predicting the probability of more positive outcomes (*Did not apply* < *Applied but did was denied* < *Applied and was approved*) by survey group and state region. Respondents whose state region was unknown were excluded from analyses. Due to the small number of responses in the Northern region, this region was combined with the Sacramento region for the purpose of analysis.

The probability of applying (vs. not applying) for each group was compared to the mean across all other groups, and the probability of each region to the mean across all other regions; the Holm method (for four tests) was used to correct for multiple comparisons.



As with the models regarding challenges and resources, no interaction term was included, because data was not available for all combinations of survey group and state region; likewise, effects of survey group do not completely control for effects of state region (and vice-versa).

## A.2 Verbatim Comments

### A.2.1 Role (Other)

- 20 year natural winemaker who collaborated with her regenerative farmer wine growers, planning and planting vineyards together
- Advocate
- Advocate for local farmers
- Ag Drainage Service Provider
- Ag supporter
- Aspiring in Agriculture
- Aspiring land steward
- Beekeeper
- Bee's and Honey
- Co-founder of an educational nonprofit to teach regenerative land management.
- Community-based organization working with farmworkers to become cooperative farm owners
- Conservation and Cultural Preservation Bearer
- Educator with agriculture
- Food systems professional
- Geenhouse
- Grassroots advocate; Scientist.
- Harvest my Fruits and Vegetables
- Housewife
- Huerto Familiar to feed my neighbors and Family-Organic 100%
- I am a student
- I work with organizations support farmers
- I'm interested because this way we can grow organic products.
- Land Back Advocate
- Land Developer-Zoned for Limited Agriculture. This may be Land Steward.
- Lending-finance options for young beginning and small farmers
- More information and would like to start gardening
- New organic farmer. Looking for land.
- Non profit
- None
- Nonprofit Organization
- Operator of small meat processor.
- PhD student
- Rancher (bison)
- Researcher
- Researcher and technical assistance provider
- Resource Conservation District - Agriculture Supporter

- Tribal Food Sovereignty Program
- Work directly with farmers
- Working in the field
- d
- owner / operator
- partner with farmers and gardeners
- technical assistance provider
- testing

### A.2.2 Ethnicity (Other)

- Eurasian
- Hispanic
- Hispanic
- I am mixed race. My partner is Latina and owns 50% of the company.
- Mexican
- Most of the farmworkers in our organization are Latino, but many are Mixteco or other
- Multi-racial human.
- a

### A.2.3 Which best describes the land that you work on or steward? (Other)

- 3/4 of an acre
- I am an agricultural worker
- I am currently in the process of personally purchasing private land, not fully owned by me, yet. Ideally my company would be purchaser, this is one of my needs-transferring land to my business, from my personal account.
- I am in the process of closing down my farm and will have access to do that until the end of May.
- I am not an ag producer.
- I am using my friend land to try to farm organically but too far from my home.
- I have a handshake deal with two landowner neighbors, one of which I pay rent to for living on his property, the other who asks for help with utilities, property management and landscaping in return for access.
- I have a personal land assignment on the reservation.
- I have access to family land
- I have no land
- I live on U.S. Trust Land - Public Domain Allotment lands
- I own land in another state and offer technical assistance to small farmers in CA
- I rent

- I rent housing and manage an 8 acre apple orchard in exchange for rent. I have knowledge and passion and aspire to be growing real food for the masses in an economy that actually supports it. I feel like I've sold out, but frankly, "hobby farming" for wealthy clients is where I've landed because land prices and low profit margins make real farming untenable.
- I represent a local public agency
- It's in my rental house
- Limited Land Base - even more limitations for agriculture use
- My house already has fruit trees
- My land I personally own is out of state; our organization does not own land.
- O
- Reservation
- Tribal
- We have access to lands that are part of other tribal development projects, but no lands that are specifically allocated to agricultural use.
- Wife of former agricultural worker
- Work for a tribal greenhouse
- a
- lie fallow
- partner's land. no legal entitlement.

#### A.2.4 Challenges (Other)

- Available lands to purchase. Limited private land availability. Majority landholders are federal agencies, BLM, USFS, NPS, DOD. Another large landholder in our region is the City of Los Angeles/LADWP.
- Contracts are temporary, lasting no more than one year. This drastically limits agricultural production in the long term.
- Equity. When I leave, I cannot take the energy, hours, financial investments nor land improvements with me.
- I am completing this survey to review it prior to sending out to local farmers/ranchers to complete.
- I can learn business
- Lack of information and resources
- Land I lease for farming now is owned by a woman, her sons will kick me off if she becomes sick or dies. 99% sure of that.
- Looking for alternatives to a conservation easement, such as a cultural easement.
- Most leases allow you to grow with strict stipulations which prohibits your diversity options.
- No comment
- Not Ideal

- Urban land zoning and requirements are confusing (in Sac) and (in Placer County) the general plan and lot size requirements are limiting options to conserve potential grazing land from development
- Useable Land Access for Tribes
- When Conservation Land Co-Stewardship occurs with Tribes - there is rarely water rights included
- all potential land is all bought up by the industry folks in Smith River. the industry monopolized the land
- that allows us to plant what we like

### **A.2.5 How have these challenges affected you and your relationship to land?**

- Access to Tribal ancestral land. Cost of land for Non Fed Recognized Tribe
- Access to capitol limits how well we can steward the land. Water in rural areas is impacted by low and/or contaminated aquifers. Our land has a high shelf making it hard for water to permeate. We are not able to pay for the fire mitigation and removal of invasive species efforts we would like to do on the land.
- Advocating for land for the a Tribe, no land, no money, competition from a group whose leader has no ancestry and dismisses the spiritual leader of the tribe.
- As Native people, it is extremely difficult to access (or own) land in our own tribal territory.
- As a farmer and farm business owner, being on leased land with a year to year agreement has made it difficult to strategically grow a business with a long-term horizon. We have also not been able to implement practices and grow crops that would be beneficial to our business from an ecological and business perspective (i.e. orchards, hedgerows, perennials). We have been interested on purchasing land since 2020 but have found it difficult to find land that is affordable, and that is relatively turnkey (i.e. has basic infrastructure like water, electricity, buildings, and some housing). We have been working with our local land trust but appropriate properties that meet our specifications are rarely available. We are competing with wealthy land owners that are looking for a second home or non-profits that are not knowledgeable about land management/stewardship or equipped to take on the management of a property.
- As a renter or non owner, I am subject to the whims and aesthetics of my landlords.
- As a white male, accessing financial resources and generational wealth provides me with the persistent advantages that our society (for some reason) deems acceptable. Nonetheless, even with those advantages, the cost of land and infrastructure (such as water) made it nearly impossible to start and operate a successful farm business. Only through repeated luck, poor life-work balance, and a second, off-farm income are we able to stay on our small parcel.

- Because it is a dream that we can form and make a reality and be able to foster more in the community
- Because land is very expensive and as a beginner farmer I can't buy my own land I have to rent and it is very expensive and I have no access to help.
- Because of the water that they don't let you use enough of
- Capital and cost of land is hard to justify in an ROI. There is security and legacy in land ownership, however there are so many infrastructure needs for growth.
- Certain funding sources prohibit other sources of income and/or allowable structures
- Conservation Lands come with limitations - such as not being able to have permit housing/structures and harvest access of native plants/foods.
- Costs and regulations!!
- We have been displaced through land theft and allocations; today the rancheria consist of 40 acres on a mountain side. Traditional areas are not available and to buy back the land is financially impossible.
- Due to lack of information or economic challenge, production
- Experience loss due to water drought, repairs to greenhouse and well
- Farming is an expensive business to enter and succeed. Everything is so costly. You need someone whom to trust and help you know what is a good price for a commodity or service.
- Finding land in our price range took us years, and in the end we got lucky by finding something before it went on the real estate market. That was 10 years ago; its even harder for people shopping for land now. Now we struggle with county limits on what we can build and how we can legally house our farmworkers. Also, our groundwater level is going down and it's making irrigation more challenging.
- Finding resources in the non tribal world is very complex and challenging.
- Finding suitable and affordable land is the greatest hurdle. Most suitable ag land is already in production and is subsequently priced too high for a new farmer to acquire.
- For me it will be the first time
- Getting a loan is extremely difficult.
- Have had to move land leases every year. Have worked on land leases with restrictions that include no infrastructure and no permission to hire employees. I have also had times when I am unable to find a suitable land lease for a reasonable \$ amt. Land owners have treated me like they own me and own my crop, and don't understand what it really means to lease land to a farmer.
- Having finances are incredible hard since most land are cash or conventional loan. Farm credits have limits to how big the land needs to be (at least 10 acres)
- Housing is the biggest challenge for us farmers.
- While I was only able to sign a year to year lease, I was told over and over I had up to 5 years to farm on said land. It turns out, this non profit's lease was up at the end of 2024 and the land was approved for affordable housing to be built on it. This situation has affected me not only financially but emotionally. I am looking for urban land to start again, but I have exhausted all my capital. I am a strong

advocate for urban farming!

- I am grateful for the lease I do have. However, I must maintain a positive and co-beneficial relationship with the school that manages the land, and they won't give me beyond a two or three year lease. I don't see a very real possibility of ever buying land in San Diego. The cost is too high, and the best acreage for row crops is very limited.
- I can't find any land to buy in Lodi, or Galt, CA. I need 3 to 5 acres to teach my young family. I need help with for land and loan.
- I don't have land
- I don't have generational wealth so I have no way to pay for land in this economy
- I grow perennial crops and so feel a need to buy land before I put out money for orchard infrastructure. My understanding of a lease is that a lease can end at any time. Land prices have only gone up here.
- I had a down payment 2 years ago, have spent it down paying housing rent and farm lease, plus farm infrastructure costs.
- I have a deep desire to restore healthy soils and native habitat while farming/ranching the land to provide food and fiber to my local community. At the same time I am aware that I am not preserving/protecting my assets.
- I haven't asked about what it takes to start growing.
- I haven't been able to garden/farm/connect to the land because of lack of access
- We see all levels of challenge for our land seekers and owners. Cost, zoning, water, all issues. We work with tribal partners, access to resources and capacity/workforce challenges are major. Lack of farm labor is a major challenge. Lack of access to start up capital.
- I purchased a piece of land with the intention of growing vegetables. The land was undeveloped, with no water, power or other utility. The process of making the land ready to farm, with reliable irrigation, a simple barn with a toilet and space to clean and store vegetable has been challenging. The permitting process has been convoluted and the information from the permitting department has been inconsistent.
- I still do not have the financial resources to start cultivating the land I could find to sow.
- I want to buy but there ease to do so.
- I'm just a farm worker
- I/we have built a thriving farm business that is constantly in danger of losing its land. We have about 12 employees in the summer season, 6 permanent employees, grow well over 100,000 pounds of food every year, paying living wages to all employees, and our selves but we have yet to have longer than 5 year terms on our leases. Land in our area is held by generational wealth, corporations and wealthy transplants. Very few if any of which are interested in leasing land to a production farm.
- If I can make more money caring for the land than the other uses of that land I find that in time I can get all the land I want. In the short term there are often challenges with a given piece of land but there is a lot of land out there. I have an advantage growing up in the farm community in this area and have some access to family land which opens doors.

- It is difficult for land trusts to accept a cultural easement, and we refuse to accept a conservation easement.
- It is difficult to find land to rent because there is none and it is difficult to buy it because of the prices. I was evicted from the house where I lived and I looked for a place to put my animals and it was very difficult to find one and where I have them. I cannot have water whenever I want. No one can help me clean because the owner gets upset. I cannot put something good and safe on the farm like a small house with sheet metal for my animals because I don't know how long they will allow me there. The owner does not want to give me a contract. I need electricity and I cannot have that either.
- It is very difficult to find accessible land in the area
- It is very difficult to find land with water and electricity, then the owners are very strict.
- It is very difficult to obtain funding.
- It is very expensive to buy a good land with irrigation.
- It's impossible to buy land without proven experience and a foolproof business plan. For people without experience, it's impossible to get a loan. Furthermore, interest rates are extremely high, making any project that isn't highly profitable unviable.
- It's been disruptive in our production/ business. It creates us to restart every time we have to move to work the land and its complex factors that may come with not having land that is operated by one person by allowing to own there own site.
- It's difficult to have greenhouse farming.
- It's hard to find land with a reasonable rental price, and I lack the funds to purchase land.
- It's very difficult to find suitable land.
- It's very hard to purchase farm land in gilroy as many people from other cities with money trying to purchase it for future housings. We have to keep fighting for it.
- I'm not able to settle on one piece of land and grow perennial orchard crops with no stable land access. Also, it's impossible to build an affordable house in California with the current building codes and regulations.
- Lack of resources and lack of land due to DWP.
- Land is expensive
- Lease relationship.
- Long-term land improvement plan and agricultural infrastructure development.
- Low income and high expenses.
- My biggest challenge is to obtain land at a moderate cost that has enough water for crops, and to obtain a long-term contract.
- My challenge is that I only have the project in mind and past practice (experience) and I don't have the place to start it.
- My family owns some land and would like to work to prevent development and make it available for grazing. Adjacent parcels are ag land under a conservation easement, but due to lot size rules, we're being asked to complete all the tests for residential development in order to split a parcel that we'd like to conserve. It means that we may just have to sell the whole parcel without any protections against development. I help manage an urban farm and we have a tenuous



sub-lease. It's not clear how long we'll be in our current spot and that makes it hard to plan for the future, but as a mutual aid farm we cannot afford to purchase or rent more stable land.

- My grower partners over 20 years were spread across the following appellations and each had unique characteristics pertaining to land use that was regulated by the county with wine industry particular regulations stemming from the AVA and CDFA. Cascading impacts overlayed with the regions history, culture and geopolitical realities provide me a vast experience and more reflections that I can share here.
- My illness
- My landlord is currently selling our farm which we had been growing vegetable for 17 years. As of now, our future of growing vegetable is unknown.
- Na
- No comments
- Not being able to build infrastructure since we only have short term leases. Mainly only larger parcels able to rent or buy, 20+ acres, which means a large investment in equipment to be able to use the whole parcels and make the finances work.
- Not knowing about the subject is a big challenge.
- Not knowing where to go for help and not knowing if help exists
- Once a farmer is on the land they have often utilized what out of pocket funds they had to get on the land leaving little if any funds remaining for working capital.
- Once the owner retires or passes away, their children often sell the farm, and I may face the need to relocate unconditionally within 60 to 90 days.
- One does not know information
- Pesticides in the house where I live do not want any plants, especially vegetables.
- Private land is extremely limited in our region. For tribes, the only available lands for development are on the Reservations, however, they are extremely small land bases. The majority landowner in the valley is the City. Beyond their borders, the land is owned by federal agencies such as USFS, BLM, NPS, DOD who manage hundreds of thousands of acres of land in our region. This makes it extremely difficult to conduct activities outside of reservation lands, which are very small to begin with.
- Production is almost impossible if contracts are short-season.
- An effort to build a farmworker cooperative and has been seeking land access options. Cost and availability are large challenges especially in the Central Coast region.
- Salton City is unincorporated. Resources are very scarce. We hear a lot of promises and nothing gets improved. People are selling their properties and leaving to other states.
- Since I'm not the farm owner, I'm always at risk of having the contract terminated by the owner, and finding another suitable farm is not easy.

- Smith river soil and dirt levels are depleting at a horrible rate. there is nowhere to farm and raise better crops for a better local food economy.
- Solano County has excellent ag land, & water access. We know some small farmers who had to give up farming due to land being sold, and/or too-short leases. Planning/zoning/ordinance issues also affect agritourism that some farms wish to have.
- The cost of growing vegetables in California is getting higher and higher. Farmers find it difficult to buy their own land. They simply cannot afford it.
- The cost of land in the San Francisco Bay Area makes it impossible to purchase enough to sustain a small community. Over the past few years I have had a number of health issues, and I know in my bones that I need to be working the land to heal.
- The cost of living in California, plus the cost of land along with the availability of suitable farmable land that has access to water, with a good well, that isn't at risk of going out of water soon or is contaminated with nitrates or other chemicals from other farming run off, as well as land that has housing are all very limiting factors when you are a farmer that has low or no access to funding and you want to own your land not lease your land. Leasing land from other people always has challenges and is never long term, investing as much money as you need to in farming is a huge improvement to a land owner and I don't want to do that on land I don't own.
- The land is not good for farming
- The price is high
- The process, resources, and costs to develop parcel. Parcel is located in high desert area, limited rain, underground water may be available, would require drilling. Proper guidance on HOW to do this is difficult to obtain.
- The small area I have for farming is not suitable and it is very expensive to properly till it and have more crops.
- The soil is not fertile and contains a lot of rocks.
- The state of California has made it increasingly difficult to utilize water in a manner that serves all constituents while also preserving the resource.
- There is no place for workers to live, and there isn't enough land for planting. Opening up new land is too costly, and there is a lack of funding.
- Under normal circumstances, there are no other impacts.
- We are renting, and with the high cost of living and significant investment expenses, we have no idea what will happen when the lease expires.
- We are tenants, and if the lease expires, we don't know what will happen. Finding a suitable place is difficult, and language barriers make communication challenging.
- We can't accumulate assets, and on the contrary, we lose them. We invest in rented land and then have to leave it behind when the land is sold or the lease expires. We have no security.
- We can't find land to rent, and if there is any, it's the big companies who rent it, and we have to look for rent very far away.
- We currently own 20 Acres, which were purchased in 2017. There have been increases in price/Acre making it extremely challenging to expand our farming

operations. We tried purchasing affordable farmland that came up for sale in our area but can only afford to purchase with an FSA Direct guarantee loan. Due to the long nature of the FSA loan process (90 days) most sellers rejected our offers even if we were at ASKING price. Extremely disappointing. My thought is streamlining the FSA procedure to 30 days instead of the 90 to make farmers more competitive instead of developers who have the cash money upfront. It's extremely difficult to compete.

- We have had to move 2 times in 1 year and just got notice to move a 3rd time ( all because the landlords have decided to sell at each of these properties). It has been stressful, draining, exhausting, frustrating and the lack of stability really shows on our finances. We can't qualify for loans because we don't show profits and don't have a long term lease we can show. Most grants only cover weather related losses so we easily slip through the cracks because land tenure issues are not often considered as a factor. Each move has made us go into debt and we are paying high interest so it is hard to dig ourselves out of the hole.
- We should try to handle it as soon as possible! Otherwise, we'll have to reduce the amount we plant. I also hope the government can provide support and financial assistance when there are losses!
- When I secured this piece of land for lease, there was no water infrastructure. So I had to build from scratch which is extremely expensive. The land owner helped initially, but the pump was incorrectly installed and I had to spend money I didn't have to replace the entire pump system. We also can't afford hard poly irrigation so have to spend money each year in cheaper drip tape, which costs more in the long term. Since we don't have access to funding we use our wages from day labor to pay for farm costs, so we still can't make enough income to work the farm full time. We are caught in a loop.
- When it rains, the area gets flooded, making it impossible to farm.
- When there are problems with nature, all the investment is lost and small businesses are not helped.
- You need land to grow however these challenges keeps you feeling an urgency to seek other land options which still have restrictions as well.

### **A.2.6 Resources (Other)**

- Advocacy to release public lands to be held in trust for the Tribes. We need a larger land base.
- Affordable rates for small businesses
- Grants that small farmers can be guaranteed to receive
- I have a small piece of land
- LandBack Opportunities
- No
- Sucession planning for older farmers to sell to younger farms would be incredible.
- The rent is too expensive.

- To produce organic products
- We would like to see ability for cultural burns. However we do not want an easing of restrictions regarding waterways and endangered species that harm the land for the future.
- have more orientation on the land

### **A.2.7 What kinds of support would be most helpful and why?**

- Access to capital.
- Access to financial resources and legal and financial advice to understand contracts
- Access to this information in other areas/statewide
- Accessing Affordable Farmland. Any of the above that give you a competitive edge to acquire farmland is a win in my mind vs a developer obtaining it and that farmland being lost into development
- Actual support and guidance to eliminate potential hazards, legalities etc.
- All kinds of information to be able to be supported in any situation
- Any financial support regarding loss of crops or repairs to help the business
- Assistance with the land purchase budget.
- Because we are new entrepreneurs and we need more business guidance
- Better cooperation between community organizations supporting farmers and planning departments. We need larger scale farm incubators to help facilitate experience and training for workforce development. We need financial support for regional infrastructure and processing equipment to increase market opportunities for producers to increase viability of ag in our rural communities, make land more affordable if farming could be more profitable
- Capacity building for general operations of Tribal land stewardship. Non co-management limitations, which limit Tribal Sovereignty.
- Cost is the biggest barrier, but interventions that help with availability such as a community opportunity to purchase policy would be very helpful as well.
- Distribute funds to support land development.
- Don't let them ask you if you have credit to apply for it.
- Even most resources have a cost element to them
- Farm Worker housing only. It will benefits people who are really here for farm work
- Finance, timely notification of lands for sale, and use of cultural ecology in the use of the land.
- Financial assistance in acquiring lands; Co-management of state/federal lands; LandBack initiatives from federal/state or even local private parties.
- Financial subsidies.
- Financial support
- Financial support for land purchase.

- Financial support for purchasing land.
- Financial support for purchasing or leasing land.
- Financial support is helpful for mortgage financing. Land appraisals help with land values. Technical support is necessary for quality of water and fertility of soil.
- Financial support is needed, as it requires a significant amount of funding to complete.
- Financial support would be the greatest help in acquiring ag land.
- Financial support would help us grow, as farm income is low and the risks are high.
- Financial support.
- Financial support.
- Financially where to obtain the appropriate resources
- For farmers and aspiring farmers there should be less permits, regulations, and legal paperwork. Land needs to be affordable (10% of current market value). Farmers should not have to pay interest on loans, or taxes.
- Getting the land
- Grant supports.
- Have a land where you can better plant your organic products
- Having funding go directly to producers rather than through a third party organization that minimizes the funding available to the producer overall to purchase potential land. As small producers I feel that loans are constantly thrown down our throats as the only option to continue to farm. These solution aren't viable and really feel like bandaids for a temporary long term solution.
- Help me find a large piece of land with water and electricity.
- Help on how to obtain land at low costs.
- Help us find land to rent or sell us some acres with zero interest or grants to rent or buy land ???
- How to prepare the soil
- I am confident that I can find ways to restore land in spite of geological and contractual limitations. I see land prices as the biggest hurdle to my ability to purchase it, and I see others who do fine work on the land having the same issue.
- I definitely need help finding financing given my limited experience in agriculture at a moderate interest rate since I plan to live on the property, so I would like it to be housing interest.
- I don't think that technical assistance alone is helpful - this is only useful if there is a viable land purchase opportunity on the table.
- I dont have experience in purchasing land and need the techno support
- I hope there will be support and assistance.
- I need help applying for grants but don't know where to begin. I also need help with legal questions regarding the land I farm so I can ensure the lease is long enough.
- I signed up for landlink and there were fewer than 5 listings of land for lease in my geographic area. Most were for livestock grazing, while I'm looking for a space suitable to rowcropping. We need more affordable land leases for farmers, especially with on-site housing.
- I think for me, it would be being able to request financial support and thus feel fulfilled

in following my ancestors, because they owned land and harvested their own organic crops... but in their own country.

- I would like financial support to encourage the land owner to sell me the land I am currently leasing. The owner is willing to sell if I could get financial assistance.
- I would like to acquire land with a group of family and friends, as a way of building community and sovereignty.
- I would like to have my own farm, but I am studying to be a farmer. I am a beginner right now.
- I would not want to rent land, renting land is only helpful in the first 0-3 years of a farmers career, long term a farmer needs to own their land not rent.
- I'm not sure yet
- If one is not already part of a community, it is difficult to know what land is available, the quality of the land, and the quirks of a landlord that can determine the terms and relationship to the land. Financial institutions, including government ones with the express intent to help farmers, do not allow for easy access to financial instruments to access capital, nor do they offer meaningful terms for starting a farm business.
- If someone can help looking for land and loan would be most helpful to me.
- If you have a house with a large plot of land
- Information
- It is difficult to find land, no one helps me search.
- It would be interesting to receive all the information to start with the entire structure of a small farmer. Thank you.
- Land access and financial support to start flower farming again would be very helpful. While I have only been farming for 3 short years, I now know what it takes to not only be a better grower but successful on the business side of things. I am looking for land to be able to have my community on site to teach, have workshops and to provide a place to connect with nature.
- Language advice on how to identify resources to be able to acquire and own our own land
- Language and legal support are the most helpful, as there is no other support available.
- Low-interest, high-value loans would be helpful to me.
- Making more land for sale accessible to people who plan to farm because there are many people who simply buy it as an investment. They want to lease on a yearly basis or even monthly sometimes which doesn't make sense for farming but they want to treat it commercially.
- Maybe a local database on available land?
- Money
- More information on pests and how to treat them.
- More resources
- Most land is sold without going on the market which makes it hard for someone that doesn't know the local community of older farmers to have the opportunity to purchase the land.
- Na

- Na
- No comments
- Older farmers have land that they would sell, but younger farms do not have the capital to buy with today's prices.
- One of the biggest helps would be somebody that can help navigate the local zoning laws, and advocate for preferred Land use for Farming. I love the idea of having a stronger Farmlink presence in San Diego, we already have such a strong food system here, but a representative from your organization here could really help round out our services.
- Owning my own land would give me the freedom to choose how to cultivate it and eliminate the possibility of being forced to leave.
- Prices of housing and land.
- Providing better conditions for tenants, as tenants never really benefit in the long run.
- Reducing the restrictions on my activities on the land would be most helpful to me. If all farming activities could be conducted within the farm itself, it would greatly improve efficiency and reduce costs
- Resources, free equipment with state or federal grants
- Serious. Financial help. That's what I need.
- Simply indicating land use is for working farmland vs specific practices keeps more flexibility for the farmers to manage their land according to its highest and best use and their local market demands.
- Simply put, systems need to be created to support nature based futurists creating bioregional abundance as stewards of land where they share equitably and build community. We currently have it all backwards.
- Sonoma County purports to want to promote and support its farming community, but the process for small growers is unwieldy and punishing. Having a tiered permitting process that would make it easier for smaller producers to feed their communities would help make it financially and logistically possible.
- Subsidy.
- Support for the place where I am to start my project
- That they benefit the community. Small farmers and the community, just like someone who has their own little garden at home.
- The main challenge is convincing the land owners that you will be a good tenant, and their main concerns are liability and interfering with their uses for the land, both as a close neighbor and in the future. Instructing new people to the area about these concerns, and giving oversight, perhaps a guarantee to the land owner to cover issues on their end, that would open doors.
- There is a lot of support organizations out there but it is often glacially slow and does not allow farmers to viably compete with others in the market. Legislative changes are needed more than more nonprofits/support orgs. If the laws, zoning and local government policies don't start to address the issue California will likely lose almost all small to mid scale farms. Food safety regs, organic regs, business taxes, etc, are all designed by and for larger businesses and are not conducive to owner operator style

businesses in general, much less farms.

- Understanding the process would be deeply helpful, especially the state and federal programs that could aid in land acquisition
- We can find land that are for sell, but just can't afford to buy or finding a bank that will finance.
- When land becomes available, it's very difficult to acquire. Even recently there was an example where private land became available for purchase that bordered the Reservation. This parcel of land borders the reservation and contains water rights. The Tribe was interested in purchasing the property, but when word of this purchase got out, they intimidated the real estate agent, and submitted a bid on the property that far exceeded the amount that was negotiated with the Tribe. On a lighter note, there was a successful land return to Tribes. This was a success due to the previous landowners willingness to sell the land to the Tribe.
- a loan, so I can grow my own vegetables
- financial and technical
- financial and technical support would be most helpful to me
- i would like to know if i can be safe and stay over night and be my own security as well in protecting.

#### **A.2.8 Do you have a success story or positive experience accessing land that you want to share? Can you share 1-3 reasons for your success?**

- 1.Find land with a good geographical environment. 2. The land price is affordable. 3. Seek help from organizations.
- 2017- my husband and I purchased 20 acres through FSA. FSA was EXTREMELY HELPFUL with flexible financing. We both had backgrounds in farming through our college degrees and family backgrounds. Higher commodity at the time made it a "safe bet" for FSA to approve the loan. Now it's very difficult to just make a living off of farming. My husband and I both have full time jobs and the farm. We would not be able to just live off our farm with 20 Acres.
- At the moment yes because the program I studied in helped me to be able to rent.
- Aunt died, allowing us to buy our land outright in our second year of farming, after us having the (2) luck to hear of a foreclosed property before it was put on the market. Generational wealth from (3) being white in this great country.
- Because they don't let you have enough of everything you need
- Currently leasing land under good terms, but only because the owner is kind and wants to support my business and doesn't need the money/can afford to lease to me for much below market.



- Currently working with Native American Conservancy to purchase land.
- Diligently study and work hard.
- Don't have any
- Financial support for purchasing or leasing land.
- Hard work through effort and experience, shape majority of my life to support my family. As a farmer, enjoy working as a farmer
- Health, food and land
- I am currently farming my partner's land with no legal entitlement to the land. But having farmed here for several years has taught me many skills that I can take with me wherever I go. Especially important is learning what and how to farm in the local climate.
- I am fortunate to be a part of African American Farmers of California. They provided me 1 of 17 acres for three years and assisted me to find a lease away from their site.
- I currently lease Land from a school district. I was a former Farmer for the nonprofit that was contracted to Farm for the school for a few years, and through that relationship built a trust between myself and the school. It is a fantastic, mutually beneficial relationship. I am able to upkeep part of the land that they would otherwise not be able to maintain or grow on, and I also support their farmers and team with mentorship. We are very collaborative and share tools, equipment, and building space. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to farm so close to my market.
- I do "own" (quotes, because the bank owns it) my primary residence, for which I am very grateful. Having experienced some housing insecurity growing up, owning my home provides a small sense of peace.
- I have half an acre to grow
- I have my garden and I want to expand it further since we have vegetables and fruits all year round.
- I love growing plants, I'm very good at it.
- I obtain the right to use the land through leasing.
- Banks did not want to finance my farm. I about 35% down payment. Then, I was required to have access to water to obtain mortgage financing. The well and pump were \$115,000 in 2009.
- I think it is possible to have my own land but it is not easy, it is a process
- I was incredibly lucky to have had access to incredible land via partnering with growers but it was not my land to work and in my 20 years of working for that outcome it was never realized.
- I'm not very successful yet.
- In general I have been able to find all the land I want. Buying is technically easy, you just

have to be able to pay market prices, leasing is more difficult so I will outline how I get leases when I want them. The main reasons I can get leases are: 1. I have my business structure and insurance set up so the land owner is convinced I will be a good tenant. 2. I have a record of leasing land, and have family land I am farming, so the land owners can see how I manage the land in my care. 3. I offer rent that is slightly higher than what they can make with the crops they are growing in the time period of the lease typically 2-3 years.

- In one place, we weren't charged rent for the land, and part of the harvest was purchased assuring it for sale to a cooperative. We also didn't pay for water.
- It was affordable and small in size. 2 acres.
- It's good to have land to grow vegetables and help my community. I'd like to start a farm to help the community. I'd like to plant corn and alfalfa for the animals.
- My experience accessing land unfortunately has been anything but positive.
- My property is less than an acre. Sharing with my community and also networking with other farmers has helped. We share our crops, tips, and seeds. My dream is to do regenerative with my family. Properties are too expensive at the moment
- Access to the land has been a success. It was

the first example of land return to tribes in our region. The funds used to purchase the property were raised via a successful funding campaign, a willing landowner motivated to sell her property to the tribes, first example of expanding tribal access to private property.

- We are leasing a parcel from an older farmer that wants to slow down. We are only leasing a portion of it and over a few years we hopefully will lease all of it. One of the reasons it has worked is that he wants it to be farmed by the next generation and worked with CA Farmlink to get a lease together that benefits everyone.
- We are working with non-government capitol groups like Dirt Capitol, Iroquois Valley, Mad Capitol to try to find land and they have been far more helpful, responsive and expedient than any of the local land trusts, open space districts, etc. They have resources, experience and a can do attitude, it is refreshing and exciting.
- We have been able to continue leasing on an annual basis at our main site. Even though it's not formalized, we have had some level of stability during the last 5 years, thanks to a non-profit. That being said, they will soon lose the lease on the property, and so it's unclear how long we will be able to remain on the property. We have a very positive relationship with other land owners in our region and so we have been able to access land in other parts of our town. However, they are reluctant to give out long-term leases. We have developed a good working relationship with our local land trust - so we are in the know of land that is or will become available.
- We have planted onions and chilies in pots at home
- We were able to purchase some land from an uncle at well below market rate. Unfortunately, our area is very expensive due to housing growth. It has limited our growth.
- We've helped borrower's with land purchases and infrastructure using our program which has specific benefits when you the producer is young, beginning or small.
- While my situation as a renter creates difficulty in finding equity in my situation, the land owners are good people who have allowed me to implement a regenerative grazing management plan. In 4 years we were infiltrating virtually 100 percent of all rainwater. Our well has continued to function at full capacity while neighbors are trucking in water. Reasons for success:  
1) Determination 2) Love of working with nature and a desire to do the right thing by the land 3) Learning patience, self evaluation, appropriate communication, and tenacity when working with others who were not initially inclined nor appreciative of such practices.
- Working with Tribal governments, they are sovereign. They understand the importance of access, they had their own water rights, they wanted to grow their own food for their community, I lived with a community member, I was paid directly by the Tribe, I was given permission by the Council, and we went after funding to train other Tribal members to farm the land.
- Yes
- Yes

- Yes. My experience is from Mexico. We carried out this project with a group of women using resources.
- i do have a successful access of land. my old landlord let me start creating and coordinate a new community garden for the Latino community. i am also working with both Del Norte and Humboldt county in searching for land to utilize in a land match program.
- saw a property in the la time and managed to buy it
- yes working hard is my experience

### A.2.9 Loans (Other)

- I haven't done it because I'm just studying to get myself a farm.
- I requested an oportun loan and at a very high interest rate.
- It was approved but due to escrow length (60-90days), seller decided to go for another buyer with 30days of escrow
- Na
- There are no avenues
- We are waiting to find out if we were approved
- Yes, kiva loan
- a
- bad credit
- n/a

### A.2.10 Grants (Other)

- Applied but didn't receive a response
- Don't know who will really help
- I have been awarded some grants and denied some grants.
- I have no land
- I have submitted the form
- I haven't done it yet because I'm just on the road to success.
- It doesn't matter
- Wasn't able to finish application
- We have been awarded funding on some and missed others
- Yea, but waiting on NRCS for over a year now...
- Yes and I'm waiting without a response yet.
- Yes but still pending, and many of these grants support overall programming of our organization but land purchase is not an eligible use of funding.
- Yes, but not myself personally. My tribal government was awarded grants for ag development.

- Yes, for prior years
- a
- a small mini grant to build a community garden.
- applied but have not received response
- n/a

### **A.2.11 Grants/loans applied for**

- A oportum are lenders with a very high interest rate but as soon as you ask for the loan they instantly accept it.
- Bank loan for delivery van. Mortgage for prospective land/house purchase.
- CCOF
- CCOF/CDFA funding for transitioning to organic (TOPP) For Farmers grant 2025
- CDFA Farm to Fork
- CDFA Urban Agriculture Grant Program (UAGP), AHEAD Economic Development Grant
- CSP, Seeds for Bees, EQIP, CDFA RSFI, CAFF Polinator Habitat Program, Kiva Loan, SBA EIDL (for both loans and grants)
- California relief grant program
- Covid Virus
- Cusp, Covid,
- Del Norte and Tribal Lands community food councils, Mini grant for either building a garden in a community area such as a school or church or a neighborhood
- Don't have
- Don't know
- Drought relief subsidy and flood relief subsidy
- Drought relief subsidy, soil improvement, and irrigation system upgrade
- EIDL Loan (COVID) Stanislaus County grant (COVID) CAFF (COVID) CDFA Refrigeration grant CUSP drought
- FSA programs PARP, MASC (pending), Payroll protection act. All were from COVID programs related to my being an employer. Organic practices (pending) Pays for conservation practices hedgerows, owl boxes and such. CCOF organic transition recently awarded funds practices related to organic farming.
- Farmer credit Fresno
- Flood relief subsidy?Compost .
- Flood,Drought etct.
- Food Sovereignty Program - multiple awards from agriculture, coastal conservatory, and private foundations.
- Healthy soils. Farm to school. RFSI
- I began applying for a loan through farm link that I had found, but each time I found a loan I didn't have enough years experience as a new farmer to qualify. Being a new

farmer makes it extremely difficult since i don't have three seasons under my belt, which had been standard across the board.

- I don't know
- I don't know, it's the first time.
- I have no information
- I have not done
- InterTribal Buffalo Council herd development grant
- Kiva loan CDFA cost share reimbursement Zero FoodPrint composting grant NRCS...but still do not have all the approvals in place after over a year!!!
- Lending relationship with RSF SBA Loans
- Loan: California FarmLink Grants: USDA, CAFF
- N/A
- N/A.
- NA
- NRCS EQIP SBA504
- NRCS EQIP and AgWest New Producer and Rural Community Grants.
- NRCS Transition to organic farming, EQUIP Tractor, sprinkler irrigation system. CDFA Healthy Soils program and CDFA SWEEP.
- NSF Equity Tract, USDA Water Grant, Zero Foodprint
- Na
- No
- None
- Not applicable for me.
- Organic fertilizer
- Organic fertilizer
- Organic fertilizer
- Pie
- Sacramento Food Coop Farmers Resilience Grant Program is the grant we did not get. California Farmlink Loan which we got.
- Sonoma RCD Grants for 1) Grazing infrastructure for our nonprofit 2) Organizing and promoting regenerative land management workshops 3) Organizing, promoting and presenting at sustainable equine management workshops and webinars.
- Subsidy for environmentally friendly fertilizers
- Subsidy for organic fertilizers
- Subsidy for organic fertilizers and irrigation subsidy
- Subsidy for replacing the plastic film in part of the greenhouse
- Subsidy funds for organic fertilizers
- Support for irrigation systems
- The specialty, cover crops etc.
- These grants will applied for in partnership with the Tribes, and I was sub-contracted with, this grants where from the USDA.
- USDA
- USDA

- USDA VAPG, CFAP2, NRCS, USDA Farm to Schools, etc. Loans via Kubota Credit Corp (tractors), American Ag credit (line of credit for operation expenses, small equipment loans)
- Uplift Central Coast - these supported program development but did not seem to be able to support land purchase or leasing
- WBO BANK, Native Cultures Fund, First Nations and Banc of California.
- compost
- compost? Irrigation
- disaster assistance subsidy? greenhouse subsidy
- drought
- electricity bill and flood
- greenhouse? irrigation? soil improvement
- electricity bill subsidy and flood relief subsidy
- organic fertilizer
- zero foot print

### **A.2.12 If you have not applied for a loan or grant, why not?**

- Applying for a grant or loan would require setting up a business structure and feels like a lot of work. I have my plate full with the other parts of getting this farm working.
- At the moment I don't have much information about it but in the future I would like to.
- Because I don't know who to contact.
- Because I haven't requested it
- Because I was unable to get into the group? It was limited.
- Because although I have a lot of experience working on farms. I need to create a business plan for my own farm and find ways to fund it.
- Because the farm total is too high.
- Because when I tell them that my farm doesn't make any money yet, they're not interested in giving me the loan.
- Don't know how to access Grant's and other resources.
- Don't know what subsidies are available
- Don't know where to begin
- Excluding organic fertilizer grants other (e.g., flooding) grant applications failed.
- Getting my business started and properly structured to be able to apply is one of the most important things/challenges.
- Have not applied for a loan because farm income is not yet steady.
- Have not met the qualifications yet
- He did not meet the minimum agricultural experience requirement.
- I can't figure out which I qualify and which I don't.
- I do not have knowledge of agricultural loan agencies.
- I don't know how to do it? And who should I do it with?
- I don't know what went wrong.

- I don't know where to start
- I don't want to go into debt. I would be curious about grants.
- I don't have the time since I work three jobs, and I don't know where to begin. I would love to take a course to help me learn how to apply for loans but I haven't found any in my community and I can't afford the ones online.
- I have identified a publicly own parcel - but owner does not want to sell at this time.
- I have not applied for a loan because I've been saving money to be able to pay off a loan to buy land.
- I have not been able to provide proof of a secure land lease and I don't know where to find grants or how to fill them out.
- I need to learn more about farming first.
- I'm not aware of where to get the funds or loans
- It's felt too daunting and I wouldn't know where to start.
- It's hard to get
- It's intimidating and confusing
- I've known some farmers who haven't received any grant due to language barriers. Even if they received help. They didn't know how to follow up on it.
- Lack of capacity, knowledge and experience.
- Low income, worried about loan rejection, and afraid that high loan fees and interest rates will be unaffordable
- My own lack of time, lack of knowledge of financial resources, and lack of understanding of financial vocabulary.
- N/A
- Na
- No information
- Only applied for organic fertilizer
- Other subsidy applications were filed, yet no response was ever provided
- Our community still needs to develop its agricultural program or expand the food sovereignty program.
- Reservation land has no equity to invest in also no P& L report or assets to show on paper.
- We are a nonprofit .... Maybe not applicable
- We can't even manage the down payment... getting loan approval seems impossible with these rates, and the land costs are just unattainable
- We don't understand how to apply, and there's also a language barrier
- Wrong timing, but some are becoming available now and I'll go for them.
- bad credit
- because I'm just studying to have my own farm
- limited income
- not familiar with the policy
- not familiar with the policy



**A.2.13 If you do not own the land, how many months total is your land access agreement?**

- 1 to 3 years
- 11 months
- 12
- 12 months
- 12 months
- 24 months
- 3 years
- 3 years
- 3 years
- 3 years
- 3 years
- 3 years
- 36 Months
- 36 Months
- 4 years
- 40 Months
- 48 Months
- 5 years
- 5 years
- 6 months
- 6 months
- 60 Months
- 60 Months
- All our properties are on year to year leases
- Annual
- Don't have
- Don't have
- Don't have
- For now it's a loose agreement with the property owner.
- For the moment one year
- I don't know; that's not my part of the work. The land my parents own that could be agricultural land is ~20 acres
- I have a farm and it's only for 3 years
- I have no land
- I only have a verbal agreement
- I only rent in one place
- Indefinite on the family land, lease with option to buy. On private land I typically want a 2-3 year lease, they often renew for many times.
- It varies, from 12-60 months
- It's from year to year

- There are a few cattle and alfalfa ranch leases that have been granted to non-tribal ranchers, but they have never once worked with the tribes in our region on this.
- Lease on 20 acres of almonds is 5 years. Lease on 23 acres of rangeland is for 5 years. Lease on 20 acres of rangeland is annually renewed.
- My land lease is for 10 years.
- No agreement as long we up keep the land. We can use the land to farm. We just started in Sept 2024.
- Owner can sell the farm anytime, I only have 60 days to relocate unconditionally
- Planned for five years
- The contractual lease is for five years
- Until the owners decide they no longer want to be here or are unable to be here (they are in their mid-eighties). Unsure of how much time I have left to be here.
- We lease land for 120 months
- in perpetuity
- indefinite
- no established length
- no established time contract
- our 1 year lease ended and we had a verbal agreement to sign a new lease for 5 years and now the owner wants to sell. So technically right now we have no agreement.

## **A.3 Survey Instrument**

The English version of the survey instrument is reproduced on the following pages.

# Land Access Experiences

## ***Survey for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force***

### Introduction

The purpose of this survey is to hear directly from people who are currently working the land or aspire to do so. We'd like to hear about your experiences related to finding, accessing, and managing land for food production or traditional tribal agricultural uses. **All of your personal information will be kept private. The survey will only take about 10 minutes.**

**Your responses to this survey will support and inform the work of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force).** The Task Force is drafting a report of recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on how to equitably increase land access for Native American tribes and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California. Learn more about the Task Force [on the project website](#). The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is the state agency that supports and administers the Task Force and is conducting this survey.

The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Please reach out to [landequity@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:landequity@sgc.ca.gov) with any questions or concerns.

**Your input is very valuable.** Thank you for sharing your experiences with the Task Force!

### About You

*All questions with an asterisk (\*) are required. All other questions are optional.*

1. \*Name:
2. \*Email address:
3. \*Zip code:  
*If you have multiple zip codes, enter your primary location.*
4. \*Do you identify with any of the following? Please select all that apply.

a. Aspiring farmer	g. Grazier
b. Beginning farmer	h. Land steward
c. Young farmer	i. Rancher (livestock, dairy)
d. Farmer	j. Other (please explain):
e. Farmworker	
f. Gardener	

## Challenges & Opportunities

5. \*What are your major past or present challenges related to land access? Please score the challenges below from 1 to 5. Write "X" if it is not relevant.

### Scoring

1 = Not a challenge

2 = Slightly challenging

3 = Moderately challenging

4 = Very challenging

5 = Extremely challenging

X = Not applicable or I don't know

Challenge	Score 1-5
Cost of land	
Accessing financial resources	
Finding suitable land to buy or rent	
Water availability or infrastructure	
When land is sold, I am or have been forced to leave	
Length of lease	
Limitations on what I can do on the land (related to production practices, housing, sovereignty, etc.)	
Other (please explain)	

6. Please share more detail about your responses to question 5. How have these challenges affected you and your relationship to land?

7. \*What resources would be most helpful to address your challenges? Please score the topics below based on your needs and experiences. Select "X" if it is not relevant.

1 = Not helpful

2 = Slightly helpful

3 = Moderately helpful

4 = Very helpful

5 = Extremely helpful

X = Not applicable or I don't know

Topic	Score 1-5
Financial support to buy or rent land	
Resources and support available in my preferred language	
Support finding land to buy or rent	

Technical support related to buying or renting land (such as legal questions, permitting, budget, etc.)	
Advanced notice and priority when a land sale happens in my community	
Better leasing terms for tenants	
Fewer limitations on what I can do on the land	
Other (please explain below)	

8. Please share more detail about your responses to question 7. What kinds of support would be most helpful and why?

9. Do you have a success story or positive experience accessing land that you want to share? Can you share 1-3 reasons for your success?

### Your Experience with Grants and Loans

10. \*Have you applied for a **loan** to support your land, farm, or business? *Some examples may include infrastructure improvements, conservation practices, purchasing land, etc.* Circle your answer.

- a. Yes, and I was approved.
- b. Yes, but I was denied.
- c. No, I have not.
- d. I don't know
- e. Other (please explain):

11. \*Have you applied for a **grant** to support your land, farm, or business? *Such as infrastructure improvements, conservation practices, purchasing land, etc.*

- a. Yes, and I was awarded the funding.
- b. Yes, but I was denied the funding.
- c. No, I have not.
- d. I don't know
- e. Other (please explain):

12. Please list the name(s) of the grants and/ or loans you have applied for. If you don't remember the exact name, tell us which activities it supported. Skip if not applicable.
13. Can we follow up to interview you about your experience applying to grants or loans? *If yes, we will email you with next steps and compensate you for your time. Even if your application was not successful, we are interested in learning about your experience applying.* Circle your answer.
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Not applicable
14. If you have not applied for a loan or grant, why not? Skip if not applicable.

### More About You (You're Almost Done!)

The Task Force is focused on advancing equitable land access and would value knowing more about your land arrangements and how you identify. These questions are optional, and your personal information will be kept private.

15. Which best describes the land that you work on or steward? Select all that apply.
- a. I don't currently have access to land
  - b. I own land (including fee lands)
  - c. I lease private land
  - d. I lease public land
  - e. I operate on trust land
  - f. Other (please explain):
16. If you do not own the land, how many months total is your land access agreement? *If you have multiple properties with different agreements, please explain. If you have an agreement with no established length, please note that.*
17. How many acres do you manage or steward? If you have multiple properties, please share the combined total.

18. About how many hours per week do you spend working or tending to the land?

19. Do you identify with any of the following? Select all that apply.

- a. Afro-Latino/x/e
- b. American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native
- c. Asian
- d. Black or African
- e. Latino/x/e
- f. Middle Eastern or North African
- g. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- h. White or European
- i. Do not wish to answer
- j. Other (explain if you would like to):

### Stay in Touch

20. You can learn more and follow the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force [on our website](#). How else would you like to be involved as the Task Force drafts its recommendations? Select all that apply.

- a. Add me to the e-list to receive quarterly email updates.
- b. I would like to see and/or comment on a copy of the draft recommendations before they are finalized.
- c. I would like to receive a copy of the final recommendations.
- d. I am willing to be interviewed about my land access experiences and ideas.
- e. I do not request any follow up.
- f. Other (please explain):

21. Thank you for participating! Do you want to share anything else with us? If you are filling out this survey on behalf of someone else, please let us know here.