



# ABC's Training Tuesdays — Part Four

## Alternative Harvesting Updates: Logistics and Economics

**February 16, 2021 | 8:00-9:30 a.m.**

The California almond industry is seeking alternative harvesting techniques to further reduce dust during harvest. This effort will involve some changes in handling logistics and mechanical drying. Studies, thus far, have demonstrated that mechanical drying of fresh, in-hull almonds – harvested via off-ground practices – provides a value proposition for almond growers and shows no negative impact on kernel quality. During this training, researchers will discuss the latest findings from their studies, after which attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a Q&A session.

**8:00-8:05 | Welcome and Introductions**

Guangwei Huang, Almond Board of California

**8:05-8:20 a.m. | Economics of Alternative Harvesting**

Dr. Chris Simmons, Department of Food Science and Technology, UC Davis

- Different handling, non-conventional drying may be required with alternative harvesting
- Off-ground harvesting followed by mechanical drying: a modeled value proposition

**8:20-8:35 a.m. | Pros and Cons of Alternative Harvesting**

Dr. Patrick Brown, Department of Plant Science, UC Davis

- Alternative harvesting reduces the need to use insecticides and herbicides, and eliminates sweeping
- Is prevalence of windfall a concern?

**8:35-8:50 a.m. | Drying Logistics of Fresh In-Hull Almonds**

Dr. Zhongli Pan, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

- Prompt mechanical drying stops infestation of in-hull nuts and shows no impact on quality
- Many commercial dryers can be used for drying of fresh in-hull almonds

**8:50-9:05 a.m. | Onsite Stockpile Aeration Drying**

Dr. Irwin Donis-Gonzalez, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

- Drying conducted at the orchard site or off-site via stockpiling
- Stockpile aeration drying needs proper air flow and stockpile dimension

**9:05-9:30 a.m. | Q&A Session**



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