



Palm Beach International Agricultural S U M M I T

MAY 4, 2016 | PALM BEACH COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

Hosted by:



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**FLORIDA
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The Washington
Economics Group, Inc.®

The Agricultural Sector: A Top Driver of Economic Development in Florida

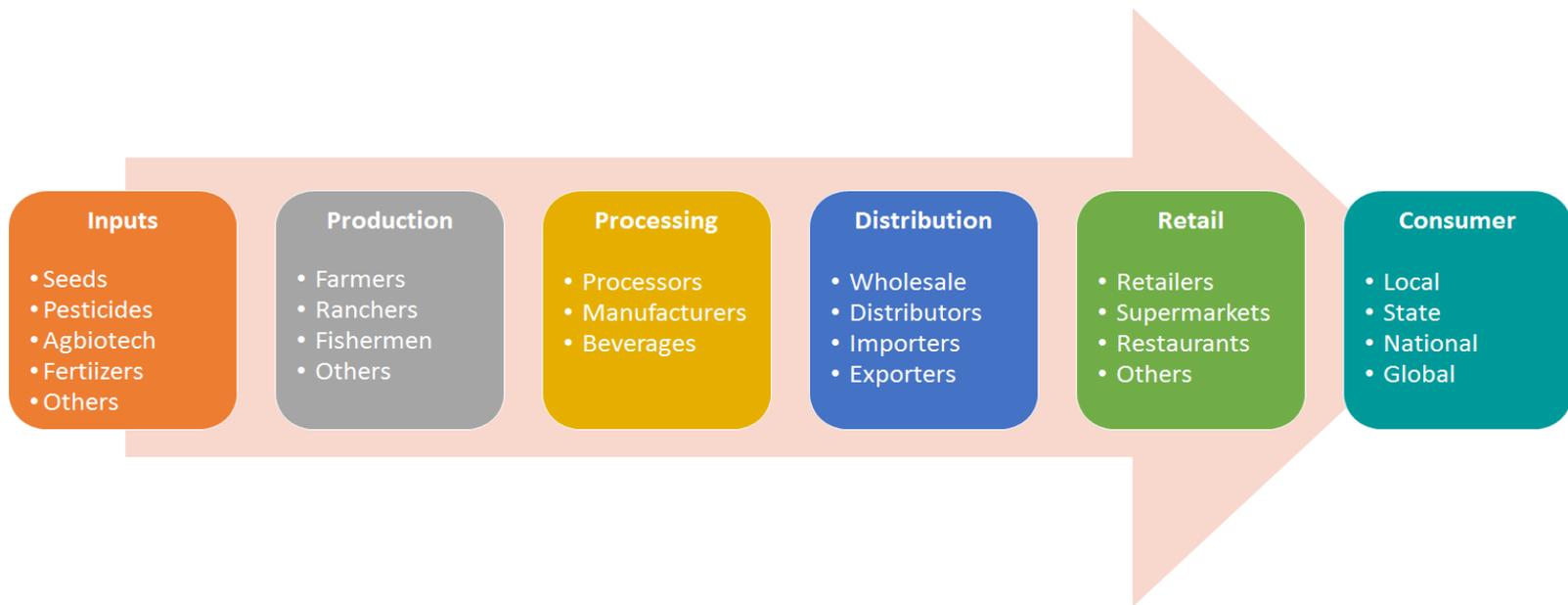
Tony Villamil
Founder and Principal



Palm Beach County Convention Center
May 4, 2016

Florida Agriculture: Top Contributor to Economic Development

❖ Long and integrated value chain creates significant economic impacts



Florida Agriculture: Dynamic and Top Contributor to Economic Development

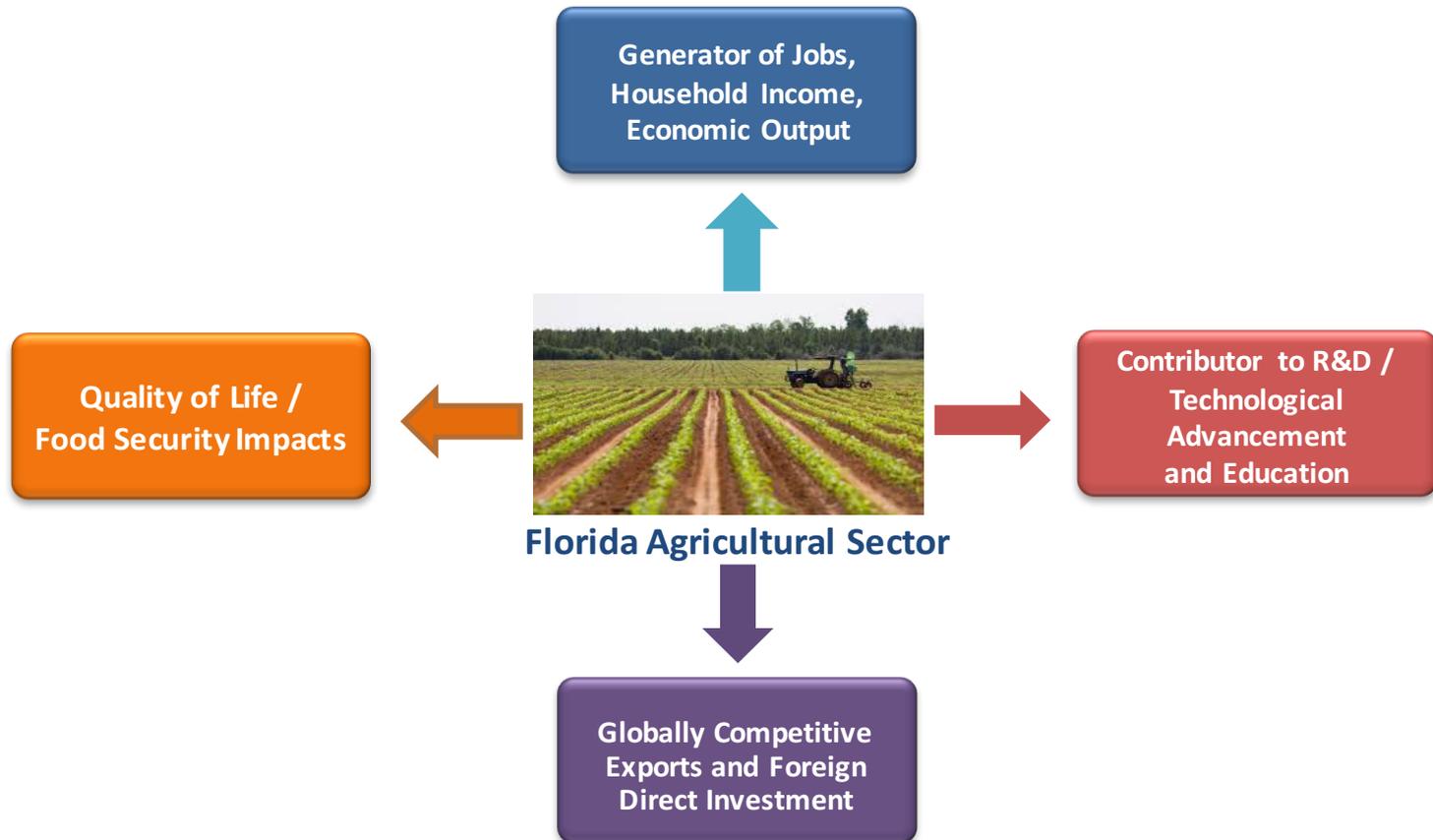
- ❖ Sector strongly supports the broader Economic Development Strategy of the State



**To create an innovation and knowledge-intensive
globally competitive economy**

Florida Agriculture: Dynamic and Top Contributor to Economic Development

- Multifaceted economic development contributions of sector to achieve State goal



Increasing the Contributions of Agricultural Sector to Economic Development of State

- ❖ Fully incorporate as objective the growth of agriculture into Florida's Economic Development Strategy
- ❖ Designate agricultural manufacturing as a **targeted industry** for State's proactive economic development efforts
- ❖ Facilitate greater integration into the global food value chain
- ❖ Increase marketing, branding and the coordination of present efforts among Department of Agriculture, Enterprise Florida, Visit Florida and local EDOs
- ❖ Intensify advocacy efforts at Federal level to decrease **onerous and growing regulatory burden**, in coordination with other states that may have a common interest
- ❖ Monitor on an ongoing basis current and prospective global trade agreements, and the ongoing events in Cuba, to identify opportunities, but to also minimize risks

Concluding Observations



- ❖ Florida's agricultural sector provides significant and growing contributions to the economic development of Florida
- ❖ Fully incorporating agriculture as a key component of the broader Economic Development Strategy would further enhance the sector's positive impacts on the State economy
- ❖ The sector faces a range of contemporary challenges, **but it is also able to capitalize on existing and emerging opportunities**

THANK YOU!



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