

# Pathways to Farming: Facilitating land access, technical assistance, and cooperative development for beginning farmers of color

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Oregon Food Bank (OFB), a leading agency of food distribution and innovative food security programs throughout the Pacific Northwest, and Mudbone Grown, LLC, an African-American owned farm enterprise with expertise in culturally specific food production models for socially disadvantaged communities are partnering to develop the ability of beginning farmers of color in the Pacific Northwest to participate in Oregon's agricultural economy. The target audience for this project is beginning farmers of color with a focus on African American farmers. This project seeks to address economic hardships disproportionately affecting communities of color that serve as a barrier to securing the training, relationships, and investment capital needed to fully participate in the agricultural economy.



## Project objectives

- ❖ **Objective 1:** Develop the technical capacity of beginning farmers of color to successfully develop their own agricultural businesses.
- ❖ **Objective 2:** Facilitate land access and provide farm-based mentorship and agricultural production training for beginning farmers of color.
- ❖ **Objective 3:** Convene farmers of color and agricultural industry stakeholders from throughout the Pacific Northwest and nationally to facilitate networking, mentorship and technical assistance.
- ❖ **Objective 4:** Work with beginning farmers of color to develop and launch an agricultural cooperative.

## Project activities

- ❖ Work with Farm Commons through a train-the-trainer model to provide trainings in farm employment structure, business structures, land acquisition, food safety, sales/contracts, and value-added production.
- ❖ Provide one-on-one mentorship to beginning farmers of color to establish individual professional development plans.
- ❖ Facilitate stakeholder relationship building through two annual conferences with farmers of color.
- ❖ Launch an agricultural cooperative designed by beginning farmers of color in the region

