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Agriculture

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and Agriculture

Beginning Farmer Training for Socially Disadvantaged Hmong and Latino Immigrants

Presenter: Pakou Hang and Yolanda Cotterall
Hmong American Farmers Association and
the Latino Economic Development Center
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Project Overview

Goal

- Build thriving and sustainable farming operations, farmers and farming communities

Target Audiences

- Hmong farmers
- Latino farmers

Key Approaches

- In-class room presentations
- On-farm 1:1 tutorials
- Videos and manuals
- Demonstration plots

Target Outcomes

- Increase farm income for participating farmers by at least 10-15%
- Increase the # of farmers who write business plans, file Schedule F forms and apply for microloans
- Develop 5 new value added businesses owned and operated by the children of farmers
- Increase new markets beyond \$300,000



Project Accomplishments

31 training sessions from how to grow peach trees in high tunnels to winterizing farm machinery

56 page Spanish and English training manual on post-harvest handling and food safety

Launched a **10** module value added curriculum for immigrant farmers and set up **12** bee hives

Worked with **7** Hmong children of farmers and their value added products and assisted **9** farmers to open IDA accounts and purchase **\$52,000** assets

Projected FY 2016 sales in HAFA and LEDC marketing cooperatives are over **\$300,000**



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Impacts and Evaluation





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Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- Engage with the whole family in all aspects of the production cycle
- Build capacity within our communities--Train the Trainer models work
- Diverse markets are critical



Next Year & After

- Build a GAP certified facility to increase markets
- Launch 7 value added products
- Lead from high tunnel demonstration site to actual purchase of high tunnels
- Frank conversations about saturation of food hubs



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Questions?

Latino Economic Development Center

Yolanda Cotterall

612.729.1820

yolanda@ledc-mn.org

Hmong American Farmers Association

Pakou Hang

651.493.8091

pakou@hmongfarmers.com