



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring for Beginning Immigrant and Refugee Farmers

**World Farmers**

Maria Moreira

Lancaster, Massachusetts





# Project Audience

Who we are aiming to work with:

- Beginning immigrant and refugee farmers in the northeast, mainly Massachusetts and Rhode Island
- Includes ethnic minority, women, and limited resource beginning farmers
- All of our farmers come from an agrarian background looking to build basic farming and farm business skills for growing and marketing in this climate
- Working with more established farmers in our program to develop a farmer-to-farmer mentorship model



# Partners/Collaborators

## Key people on our team:

- Maria Moreira – *Executive Director, World Farmers*
- Jessy Gill – *Program Director, World Farmers*
- Delia Tallent – *Program Coordinator, World Farmers*
- Susan Scheufele – *UMass Extension Vegetable Team, University of Massachusetts*
- Joanne Foster – *Executive Director, Growing Places*
- Timothy Castner – *Nashoba Regional High School*
- Lorette Picciano, *Executive Director, Rural Coalition*
- Alexandra Turner – *Lancaster Community Center*
- Susan Miner – *Lancaster Agricultural Commission*



# Key Approach

World Farmers cultivates a climate where cross-cultural farmer co-learning and mentorship thrives.

Through trainings, workshops, and mentoring our farmers learn about sustainable agricultural production and marketing techniques necessary to grow and build a business in the northeast.

We approach each farmer as an individual and shape our training program to fit their needs.



# Target Outcomes

Grant Objectives	Sampling of Outcomes
Provide TA to farmers according to their capacity in the Flats Mentoring Program	Farmers provide self-assessments as they move through the program
Conduct on-farm food safety trainings and workshops to update certifications necessary for the markets	A total of 220 beginning farmers will be able to implement hands-on food safety handling practices
Develop innovative marketing strategies, and systems to connect farmers to high value markets	A guide on Marketing Strategies for Beginning Farmers will be created, published, and disseminated
Develop skills on financial and risk management, including agricultural credit	50 beginning farmers/per yr will build skills on financial & risk mgmt
Expand the Farmer-to-Farmer mentoring model and spread nationally	SD and limited income farmers will become more food secure
Increase beginning farmer participation in USDA programs	200 farmers able to obtain a farm number and register with USDA



# Learning from Each Other

What we would like to learn from the other projects:

- Learning best practices from other organizations running similar programs
- Discuss strategies to overcoming barriers we are encountering in our programs
- Share and view work products developed through BFRDP funding



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# Stay in Touch

**Maria Moreira**

Executive Director

[mmoreira@worldfarmers.org](mailto:mmoreira@worldfarmers.org)



**World Farmers**

769 Main Street, Box 112

Lancaster, MA 01523

(413) 658-4279