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

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

Maria Moreira
Executive Director
mmoreira@worldfarmers.org

World Farmers
769 Main Street, Box 112
Lancaster, MA 01523
(413) 658-4279