

**USDA Helps Deliver the Latest in Innovative Agricultural Methods
to Small, Socially Disadvantaged Agricultural Producers**
Support Expands Opportunities for Producers Across the Country

WASHINGTON, October 1, 2014 - Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden today awarded 17 grants in 12 states to help small, socially disadvantaged agricultural producers expand their operations and create jobs

Below is a complete list of grant recipients. The funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the grant agreement.

Alabama

- Tuskegee University – \$188,899 grant; To help 150 socially disadvantaged agricultural producers in the Black Belt region secure profitable markets to sell their produce.
- Alabama State Association of Cooperatives – \$200,000 grant; To help African-American producers of vegetable and forest products in Greene, Wilcox, Hale, Pickens, Marengo, Choctaw and Sumter counties.

Arizona

- San Xavier Cooperative Association, Inc. – \$188,129 grant; To provide business planning and marketing assistance to socially disadvantaged producers.
- Arkansas
- University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff – \$169,066 grant; To develop business plans, conservation plans, market research and other tools to help socially disadvantaged producers and two vegetable cooperatives.

California

- Southern California Focus on Cooperation – \$200,000 grant; To provide training on growing practices, crop planning, processing and post-harvest handling to immigrant and refugee farmers and cooperatives.

Hawaii

- The Kohala Center, Inc. – \$197,219; To provide technical assistance to the Maui Aquaponics Workers Cooperative, the Palili 'O Kohala Cooperative, the Ka'u Coffee Growers Cooperative and the Molokai Livestock Cooperative.

Louisiana

- Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. – \$200,000 grant; To provide legal assistance, business planning and marketing plan development to socially disadvantaged commercial fishermen.

Massachusetts

- World Farmers, Inc. – \$135,188 grant; To provide technical assistance on harvesting, marketing and post-harvest practices to 225 immigrant, socially disadvantaged and refugee farmers to ultimately result in access to new and innovative marketing opportunities for their crops.
- Cooperative Development Institute Inc. – \$100,743 grant; To provide cooperative development training and technical assistance to refugee farmers primarily from Somalia, Bhutan, Burundi, Sudan and the Congo, collaboratively with four partners: the Association for Africans Living in Vermont, the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success, Cultivating Community, and the U.S. Kenyan Somalian Cross Border Trader's Association.

Mississippi

- Tri County Agricultural Cooperative – \$200,000 grant; To help socially disadvantaged agricultural producers develop diversified farms and utilize production and management strategies that will enhance their long-term viability.
- Mississippi Association of Cooperatives – \$200,000 grant; To provide technical assistance tools such as personal and business record-keeping, business planning and marketing assistance.

New Mexico

- Southwest Development Center, Inc. – \$188,255 grant; To provide accounting and financial management training to socially disadvantaged producers, and to help develop a cooperative food hub and a Native American food hub.
- Capacity Builders, Inc. – \$174,984 grant; To provide technical assistance, research, legal advice, feasibility studies and business plan assistance for the "Earth Mother Agricultural Initiative."

South Carolina

- Farmers Cooperative Community Improvement – \$100,000 grant; To provide technical assistance to help socially disadvantaged producers develop marketing plans, risk management and whole-farm planning.
- SCF-Organic Farms, LTD – \$200,000 grant; To complete an organic farming progress study, conduct on-farm pest management workshops and conduct on-farm land preparation demonstrations for socially disadvantaged producers.

Texas

- University of Texas-Pan American – \$197,317 grant; To increase the capacity of small-scale Hispanic producers to improve production technologies and serve local markets.

Washington

- Northwest Cooperative Development Center – \$160,200 grant; To help socially disadvantaged producers become sustainable cooperative businesses.

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