

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Global Gardens - Idaho New Refugee Farmer Project</b>		
<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	NIFA	<b>Project Status</b>	COMPLETE
<b>Funding Source</b>	Non Formula	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>	Annual
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<b>Submitted By</b>	Jan Reeves	<b>Date Submitted to NIFA</b>	11/25/2013

**Program Code:** BFRDP

**Program Name:** Beginning Farmer and Rancher

**Project Director**

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**Recipient Organization**

MOUNTAIN STATES GROUP, INC.  
1607 W JEFFERSON ST  
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DUNS No. 70927330

**Performing Department**

Idaho Office for Refugees

**Co-Project Directors**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Departments**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Non-Technical Summary**

Global Gardens' New Refugee Farmer Project serves refugees resettled in southwest Idaho's Ada County - the location of Idaho's capital, Boise. Our program has been a part of Mountain States Group, Inc., a nonprofit organization, since 2004. Global Gardens works with beginning and aspiring refugee farmers at our incubator farm, two refugee community farms, and five refugee community gardens. Refugees constitute a socially disadvantaged population as they are members of racial and linguistic minority groups, and face numerous barriers to creating viable farm businesses. Their English-language skills and ability to read in any language vary widely. Due to their history of flight and often long internment in refugee camps, refugees have no accumulated assets, live in poverty, and can not access mainstream financing. Many work at low-wage jobs while they learn farming skills. The majority of refugees interested in becoming farmers are from east Africa; others have arrived from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bosnia, Colombia, Russia, and Uzbekistan. Future refugee farmers most likely will include Burmese and additional Bhutanese. One hundred percent of the project budget will be allocated to serving socially disadvantaged farmers. The beginning farmers will be in the early stages of entering the farming profession and establishing farm operations. They will not only be learning horticulture and business skills, but also language skills, acculturation to U.S. markets, U.S. farming business requirements, and resources available to farmers. Refugees participating in our program will start by either working at shared community farms of 2-3 acres, or by leasing a 1-acre plot at our new 22-acre incubator farm. Refugee farmer sales from the two community farm plots have increased from \$200 each to \$2,000 and \$10,000 over the past three years. We expect that the incubator farmers will have sales around \$5,000 during the first year. Sales are currently conducted at farmer's markets, via CSAs, and to local restaurants and ethnic grocery stores. Global Gardens is working to expand market sources and strategies. We will offer new refugee farmers classroom and farm-site training and technical assistance that is culturally and linguistically appropriate and offers knowledge, skills, and tools refugee farmers need to begin and sustain farming operations. Our project partners include the Somali Bantu Zigua Community Farm, African Development Community Farm, University of Idaho, two farm apprenticeship sites, and a mentor farmer.

**Accomplishments**

**Major goals of the project**

Global Gardens proposes to address six of USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program's 25 priority topics: I. Production and management strategies to enhance land stewardship by beginning farmers and ranchers: 1. Mentoring, apprenticeship, and internship activities; 2. Curriculum development; 3. Basic Crop Farming Practices; and 4. Specific Types of Practices. II. Business management and decision support strategies that enhance the financial viability of beginning farmers and ranchers: 1. Entrepreneurship and business training; and 2. Financial Management Training including assessment and training for individual development accounts. We will address these topics by providing culturally and

linguistically appropriate knowledge, skills, and tools refugee farmers need to begin and sustain farming operations. We will: - Offer an annual Farm Planning for New American Farmers course for 20 refugees, incorporating information on sustainable and organic practices, marketing, and business training and entrepreneurship. - Further develop the Farm Planning for New American Farmers course content and make this curriculum available to other organizations nationwide working with refugee farmers. - Sponsor 20 refugee farmers' participation annually in University of Idaho Extension, USDA, and other existing agricultural education programs. - Sponsor two beginning refugee farmer apprenticeships per year at local organic, sustainable farms; six refugee youth internships per year at our community and incubator farms; and a mentor farmer for beginning refugee farmers at our incubator farm; - Offer farm-based group training and individual technical assistance to 40 refugee farmers per year on horticulture, marketing, and small business development; offer technical assistance on organic horticultural practices to an additional 85 refugee families participating in our five community gardens. - Provide business management and marketing support to 20 refugee farmers per year through sales at farmers' markets, CSAs, mobile market stands, and local businesses. - Support the transition of five refugee farmers per year from community or incubator farms sites to independent farm operations.

### What was accomplished under these goals?

#### Accomplishments/Outcomes

##### Plan to start farming

plan to continue farming, plan to be a leader and mentor to other farmers, improve farm practices based on methods learned during internship.

4 farmers held full or part time internships at local farms. Of these participants, one also began farming on his own farm this year, one plans to begin farming next year, and a third has taken on a leadership role in training other farmers from his home country.

Years Measured after Initial Training: 1

Number of Participants Affected by Change: 4

Participant Total for your grant: 24

##### Change in knowledge

plan to continue farming, plan to improve practices

Participants reported a change in knowledge after each training session.

Years Measured after Initial Training: 0

Number of Participants Affected by Change: 24

Participant Total for your grant: 24

##### Change in skills

See accomplishments narrative

Farmers are increasingly able to understand produce orders, harvest and pack produce correctly using safe food handling practices. Farmers understand how to seed flats in the greenhouse and are able to do this independently. Farmers are able to repair their own irrigation in many cases. Farmers are able to follow the correct protocol to request the use of a program tiller and use it safely.

Years Measured after Initial Training: 1

Number of Participants Affected by Change: 24

Participant Total for your grant: 24

##### Change in skills

increased farm profitability

13 refugee growers/families had weekly booths at one of two local markets. All of these growers are now able to transport all of their own materials to market in their own vehicle, set up their stand, price their items, and assist customers. 9 growers participated in our CSA or wholesale program and are now able to understand their weekly order, harvest the items correctly and deliver the order to our cold storage on time.

Years Measured after Initial Training: 1

Number of Participants Affected by Change: 24

Participant Total for your grant: 24

##### Changed farming/land management practices

Developed and followed a food safety plan.

8 growers reported change in knowledge and plan to change practices related to food safety. Developed a food safety plan as a group as a follow up to this workshop. 8 growers reported a change in knowledge and plan to make changes on various areas of their farm after networking with other growers at the Grower's Own Conference. 1 farmer reported a change in knowledge after attending the Cooking Matters class. 1 farmer reported a change in knowledge and developed a plan for the hoop house on her farm, after attending a farm tour.

Years Measured after Initial Training: 1

Number of Participants Affected by Change: 24

Participant Total for your grant: 24

A six week classroom training course in farm planning was held for beginning refugee farmers, 24 farmers participated.

12 attended at farm tours, conferences, and other mainstream training events.

4 beginning farmers held full or part time internships on established local farms with experienced farmers.

Two on-farm workshops were held, including a greenhouse workshop and a workshop on using our tillers and other equipment. 22 farmers received weekly technical visits to their field during the growing season to assist with problems, observe harvest and handling practices, etc.

22 growers received one on one marketing support which included assisting them with entry into farmers markets, and ordering produce from them to be used in the Global Gardens CSA and wholesale program. Growers received business development support including choosing a farm name and designing a logo or signage.

#### **What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**

A six week classroom training course in farm planning was held for beginning refugee farmers, 24 farmers participated.

12 attended at farm tours, conferences, and other mainstream training events.

4 beginning farmers held full or part time internships on established local farms with experienced farmers.

Two on-farm workshops were held, including a greenhouse workshop and a workshop on using our tillers and other equipment. 22 farmers received weekly technical visits to their field during the growing season to assist with problems, observe harvest and handling practices, etc.

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#### **How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?**

An annual recruiting meeting is held to inform potential participants on the basics of the program. Other refugee service agencies are also informed of the program.

Participants in our program are very visible in the community at weekly farmers' markets. We also host a 60-member CSA, and attend various community events with the purpose of informing the wider community about the Global Gardens program and encouraging them to buy from our farmers, volunteer, etc.

Best practices and curriculum and materials are disseminated to our national network of partners, including other BFRDP grantees, Start2Farm.gov, and Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program grantees.

#### **What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?**

{Nothing to report}

#### **Participants**

##### **Actual FTEs for this Reporting Period**

Role	Faculty and Non-Students	Students within Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	2.3	0	0	0	2.3
Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0

Computed Total	2.3	0	0	0	2.3
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**Target Audience**

The target audience consists of beginning refugee farmers resettled in Boise, Idaho. The majority are African immigrants. We serve about 40 for-profit farmers and 250 home and community gardeners each year.

**Products**

{Nothing to report}

**Other Products****Product Type**

Educational Aids or Curricula

**Description**

Six presentations on various topics including food safety, developing a business name and identity, crop planning, use of cover crops, selling at farmers markets. Hands-on farm mapping activity. Tiller workshop curriculum, greenhouse curriculum and methodology, on-farm food safety plan.

**Changes/Problems**

{Nothing to report}