



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

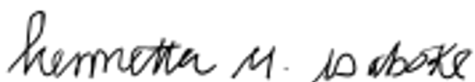
2022 was yet another challenging year for the farmers at Flats Mentor Farm. Not only did we deal with a devastating flood in 2021 but it was followed by a drought year in 2022. Regardless of the challenging weather we had farmers looking to expand their production. Farmers were working smarter and harder reworking their crop plans in order to accommodate the weather.

Farmers saw an all-around increase in sales, through wholesale purchases to support our food as medicine program. And through CDBG funding by our local community foundation we were able to purchase crops that were distributed on a donation basis to several communities in North Central Massachusetts. Farmers were able to access 19 different farmers' markets in Massachusetts and many are excited for the potential of 2023.

We look forward to expanding our support in land access so that farmers can have viable farming businesses. We urge and ask all our supporters who have idle arable lands to consider transitioning the land into agricultural lands. We are open to any and all discussions. It is going to take all of us working diligently together to make food sovereignty a reality.

With access to farmland one can become sovereign and secure in their food. World Farmers manages five farm sites across Worcester County, with over 85 acres of vegetables in production, and over 100 acres when counting farmers in our program who manage their own farmland. In 2023 our goal is to continue to foster the different enterprises run by the many farmers we support by finding more lands for production.

Sincerely



Henrietta Isaboke
Executive Director

A Year of Successes

9,638 shares

Packed and delivered **9,638 shares** to the homes of families across Massachusetts, majority at a free or reduced rate through our multiple CSA programs. In partnership with Just Roots, World Farmers provides a year-round food as medicine program offering fruits, vegetables, meats, and proteins sourced from producers in Mass and delivered straight to the consumers' door. World Farmers also operates a SNAP and HIP accessible CSA program for which we partner with area non-profits and businesses.



10% cultural shares

Of our in-season CSA shares **10% were culturally customized** to meet the needs of the end recipient through our new Cultural CSA Share program. This year World Farmers piloted a CSA program in partnership with VietAID to deliver shares catered to the Vietnamese and Asian communities of Dorchester, Boston. All shares were offered free of charge, or through the recipients' HIP benefits.



Facilitate sales for 52 farmers

Facilitated sales for 52 farmer businesses through our growing wholesale and CSA markets. World Farmers operates a model similar to that of a farmer cooperative or food hub, whereby we aggregate, sell, and distribute to wholesale markets such as schools, restaurants, ethnic grocers, and nonprofits.





7 New Commercial Farmers

Assisted **7 FMF farmers to begin selling commercially** for their first time. Our program provides access to land regardless of the farmers' intent to sell, prioritizing food sovereignty for all farming participants while also offering an avenue for business development.

Crop planning with 40 farmers

40 farmers engaged in pre-season crop planning with World Farmers so that farmers have sales commitments from World Farmers for the coming season and can adjust their crop plans accordingly.



19 retail markets

FMF farmers conducted sales at **19 retail markets** across Massachusetts, and by the end of the season all but one was a HIP and SNAP vendor. Each Flats Mentor Farm banner you see flying at market is a different farm business. The banner is used for communal branding purposes only, and each are operated by independent of but supported by World Farmers.

Connected 59 farmers

Advanced business growth by connecting **59 Flats Mentor farmers to increased land** for their operation. World Farmers continues to grow the number of acres in operation by FMF farmers, year over year.





100 acres in production

FMF farmers produced 85 acres of vegetables on program land this season, and **100 acres in production** when counting farmland in production by FMF farmers who manage their own leased land.



11 newly acquired acres

Provided services to **acquire 11 acres of new farmland**, all of which had either never been farmed or had not been farmed in many years, to be operated by 3 FMF farmers independently.



Independent leases for 4 farmers

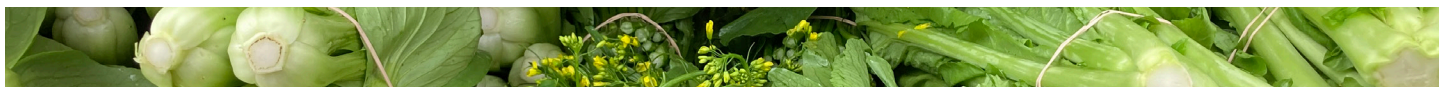
Secured **independent farmland leases for 4 farmers** to expand their businesses and operate independent from FMF program land.



Production Support for 136 farmers

Supported **136 farmers in production support** such as access to seeds, seedlings, compost and other soil enrichments, high tunnel repair and construction, and much more. All FMF farmers work hard to keep the land healthy through cover cropping, crop rotation, and organic matter incorporation.





19 new immigrant farmers in our network

Provided technical assistance to **19 non-FMF immigrant farmers** with land access assistance, market access through our wholesale efforts, and/or access to USDA programs and services.



Assistance programs for 27 farmers

Assisted **27 farmers with access to external resources and programs.** World Farmers assisted farmers to apply multiple programs this year, including: CARES Act funding targeted for small-scale farmers' infrastructure needs, Massachusetts' Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) to enroll as HIP farmer vendors to increase the purchasing power of SNAP customers; microgrants offered by other agricultural non-profits; and funding to make repairs to existing high tunnels.



Giving Thanks

World Farmers is thankful to be funded by:

USDA-NRCS • USDA-NIFA • USDA-AMS • USDA-OPPE • EEA • MDAR • TJX Foundation
Howard Family Foundation • Common Counsel Foundation • Collaboration with nonprofit partners
United Way of North Central Massachusetts • The Health Foundation Central Massachusetts
Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts
Contributions from community members like you!

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