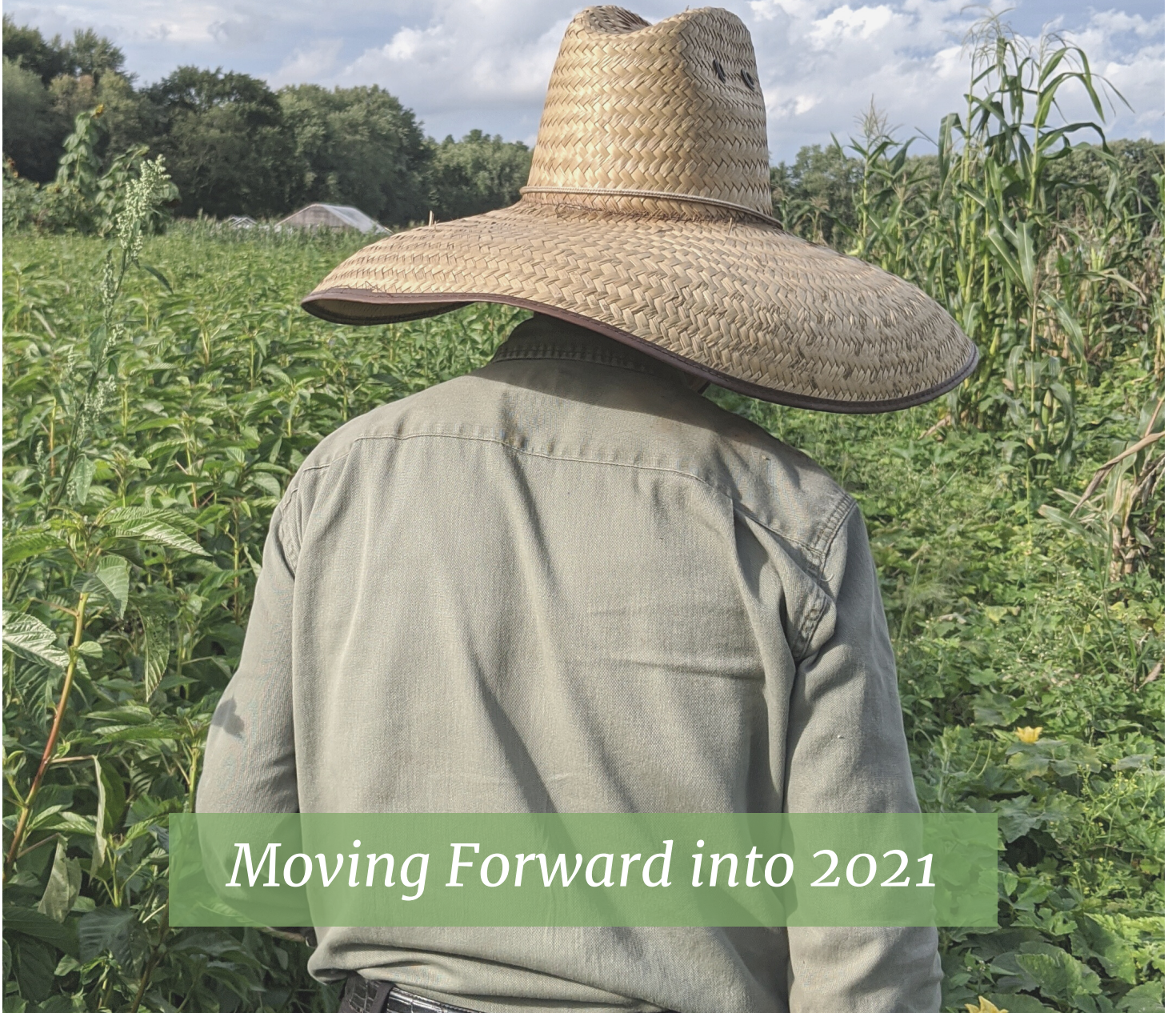




# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



*Moving Forward into 2021*

# A Year of Change

2020 will forever be defined by its changes, challenges, and hardships. We hope everyone took some time in this New Year to feel a sense of New Resolution; we are taking time to acknowledge the work accomplished, and our ability to make shifts like never before.

COVID forced us to reinvent the way we ran our programs. Many farmers at Flats Mentor Farm stepped away from selling at farmers' markets and opted to market wholesale, some by choice but many by necessity. World Farmers worked to support farmers in this market shift, and was awarded a USDA-AMS contract to purchase and distribute fresh produce grown by farmers at Flats Mentor Farm. As a result, FMF farmers played a key role in ensuring food security for diverse communities of need, just as in years past but through different means.

The resiliency of farmers and the true spirit of community were proven this year, with individuals bonding together to feed each other.

In 2021 we will continue to reshape our work as we hear the needs of the farmers we support, and the needs of the communities they serve. We will continue to customize services that respect the needs and goals of the individual farmer, and we hope to continue to see growth in each farmer's business amidst this unprecedented pandemic.

We see 2021 as a year that brings opportunity to work toward solutions to some of the most significant political, social, and health issues of our time. We invite you to join us in fostering change within yourself and your own community in any way you can, and in a way that will instill a sense of true fairness and equity for all peoples.



**Maria Moreira**

Executive Director



# A Year of Successes

2020 is a year that will forever be defined by its hardships, but that allows us to take time to acknowledge the great work accomplished in spite of the year. What follows are twelve successes from this past year that we are most proud of achieving.

## 14 non-profit partners

Coordinated with **14 non-profit partners** to purchase and/or distribute Flats Mentor Farm produce to feed hungry people during the pandemic. We were so grateful to partner with the Springfield Food Policy Council, Southeast Asian Coalition, Growing Places, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust, and many others.



Rep. Jim McGovern admiring the WF food boxes and the work of SEAC

Photo: Southeast Asian Coalition (SEAC)

## 208,550 pounds

Purchased **208,550 pounds of local produce** and distributed across Massachusetts, free of charge. With this, we were able to help feed a multitude of families across the state and share with them the hard work of immigrant and refugee farmers from Flats Mentor Farm.



World Farmers was also approved as a HIP vendor (Healthy Incentives Program) for our CSA!

## 18,700 food boxes

Packed and delivered over **18,700 food boxes** into the homes of hungry families across Massachusetts this summer, free of charge. These boxes were filled with fresh, healthful, and culturally familiar vegetables, sourced 100% from small-scale farmers in the Northeast, prioritizing purchase from the immigrant and refugee farmers at Flats Mentor Farm. This program was in large part thanks to the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box however, we received smaller donations and foundation contributions that allowed us to continue the boxes past our contract.



## 34 cultural crop varieties

Sold and distributed **34 cultural crop varieties** into grocers and ethnic markets throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts.



## 74.5% sales increase

Facilitated a **74.5% increase in wholesale sales** for Flats Mentor farmers, as compared to last year. Our wholesale purchasers included grocery stores, ethnic markets, schools, restaurants, and other non-profits.

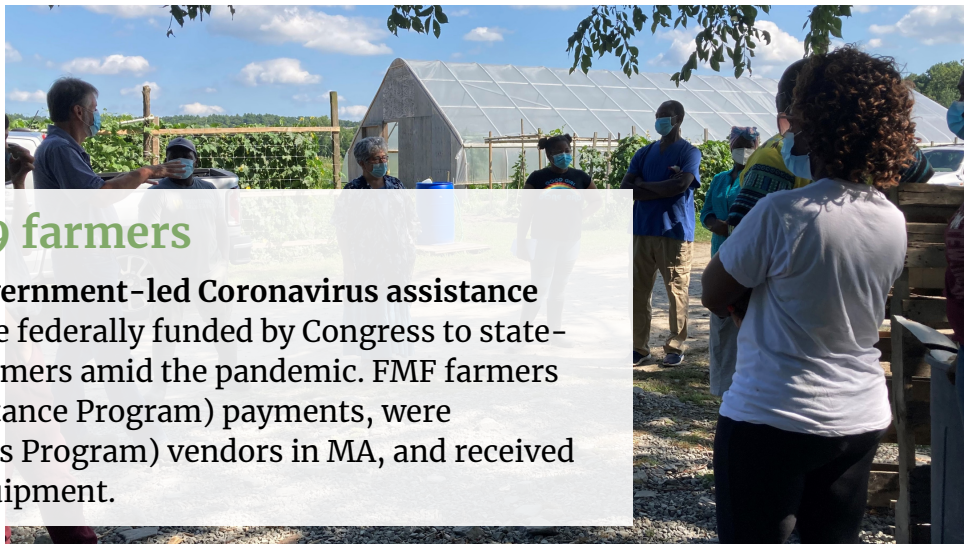
## 44 sales increases

Facilitated an **increase in sales for 44** Flats Mentor Farm businesses. This is thanks, in part, to an increased wholesale market opportunity this year.



## 25 new commercial farmers

Assisted **25 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, first and foremost.



## assistance programs for 59 farmers

Provided **59 farmers with access to Government-led Coronavirus assistance programs**. Programs ranged from those federally funded by Congress to state-run programs, all created to support farmers amid the pandemic. FMF farmers received CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) payments, were accepted as new HIP (Healthy Incentives Program) vendors in MA, and received the necessary funds to purchase the equipment.

USDA-FSA County Director at Flats Mentor Farm this summer talking to FMF farmers about the various programs



## production support for 185 farmers

Supported **185 farmers in additional production support** such as soil health, pest management, and seeds access. Flats Mentor Farm sits on some of the best soil in Massachusetts. A previous riverbed, we have great natural soil, but all farmers still work hard to keep the land healthy through cover cropping, crop rotation, and organic matter incorporation.

## connected 42 farmers

Advanced small farmer business growth by **connecting 42 Flats Mentor farmers to increased land**. With four farm sites across central Massachusetts, we are happy to find space for all the wonderful farmers who use our program.



## 51 new farmers

Welcomed **51 new farmers** into the Flats Mentor Farm program for the 2020 season.



## 322 immigrant and refugee farmers

**Emboldened 322 immigrant and refugee farmers with access to farmland for themselves and their families, ensuring food sovereignty and the opportunity for business development.**

# Giving Thanks

**World Farmers is thankful to be funded by:**

- USDA-AMS
- USDA-OPPE
- USDA-NIFA
- The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Collaborations with non-profit partners
- Contributions from community members like you!

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