

2018

World Farmers

3rd Annual

Harvest Gala





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Evening's Events

Tuesday November 13, 2018

*A Time to Honor Farmers, Culture, and Cuisine
and to
Celebrate the Season's Harvest*

5:30 - 6:30

**Red Carpet Arrival and Photographs
Farm to Table Cultural Tasting and Cash Bar**

6:30 - 7:00

**Opening Remarks
Guest of Honor, Karen Spiller, Principal, KAS Consulting**

Announcement of World Farmers 2018 Awardees

**Emcee John Pacheco, Board Treasurer, World Farmers
Supporter of the Year, Susan Scheufele
Buyer of the Year, Ronn Garry
Farmer Friend of the Year, Tim Castner**

**Blessing of the Harvest and Thanks to all Farmers
Ms. Georgia Good, Board President, World Farmers, and
Executive Director of the Rural Advancement Fund,
Orangeburg, South Carolina**

7:00

Dinner - Portuguese-Themed Buffet Dinner

8:00 - 10:00

**Evening's Entertainment and Celebration
Traditional Hmong Dance
Music and Dance of Africa
Grupo das Candeias**

8:30

Closing of Silent Auction

9:00

Silent Auction Winners Announced

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Cultural Music and Dance Presentations

Traditional Hmong Dance

In this song and dance, you will see the story of what a wonderful day it is for the Hmong families to meet each other. The story starts at a time when it has been a while since everyone has gathered, so everyone has come together to celebrate and dance. For time after the gathering, from now into the future, the song shares hope that all will love each other, that all receive what they wish, and that all love and support the Hmong name across the many ethnic groups within the Hmong culture.



Music and Dance of Africa

Antoinette Mutuyimana, of the group Crocodile River Music, and a performer in her own right, will lead us in a dance performance demonstrating some of the many movements of East African dance. Antoinette was born in Tanzania and came to the U.S. in 2007 to escape the strife and violence that was prevalent at that time in East Africa. She is the first graduate of Crocodile River Music's Cultural Ambassador Training Program, personifying their mission to develop career paths for young African refugees. She is a favorite among the students, and a valued full-time member of Crocodile River Music.



Grupo das Candeias

Enjoy the traditional dance from Portugal, the Folclórico. The dance has been passed down through generations, telling the tales and history of the Portuguese people. Accompanied by the sounds of the guitar, accordion, and tambourine, the Folclórico is a beautiful Portuguese tradition and will be performed by Grupo das Candeias, based in Hudson, Massachusetts.





About World Farmers

The World Farmers' organization supports small-scale and under-served beginning immigrant and refugee farmers by providing land access, training, technical assistance, market and marketing support, and connections to viable commercial markets in New England. World Farmers, founded in 2010, aims to support the farmers at Flats Mentor Farm and other beginning farmers, both nationally and internationally, through a program of expansion that includes similar beginning farmer programs. The recently-established World Farmers International, a for-profit entity, applies the same mission to support and advocate for small sustainable farming enterprises in other countries that seek alternative marketing opportunities and fair prices for their produce.

The Flats Mentor Farm program operates to serve the needs of refugees and immigrants to grow their own food and start their small-farming operations and has supported farmers since 1984. Located in Lancaster, Massachusetts along the bank of the Nashua River, Flats Mentor Farm hosts more than 300 immigrant and refugee farmers who produce nearly 60 acres of ethnic specialty crops and supply wholesale, retail, and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) markets throughout New England, selling their crops at many farmers' markets and community markets across Massachusetts, New England, and beyond. Participating farmers are often skilled producers with agrarian backgrounds who seek to enhance their lives in this country by growing and preserving food important to their cultures. In the spirit of the name, Flats Mentor Farm, participating farmers enjoy mentoring relationships that provide opportunities to farmers from diverse backgrounds to learn farming and production techniques from each other.

www.worldfarmers.org





· 2018 ·

Karen A. Spiller

Guest of Honor

Karen Spiller is dedicated to supporting the sustained health and equity of our communities. As Principal of KAS Consulting, she provides mission-based consulting with a focus on resource matching, board development and strategic planning for health and equity-focused initiatives. She works with diverse stakeholders, including community residents and businesses; state and local agencies; policy makers; corporations and foundations; community-based organizations; and healthcare providers. She serves on national and regional committees and leads teams committed to creating equitable public health and sustainable food systems. Karen's board member contributions include Boston Food Forest Coalition, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts.

Involved in state-wide and regional food system work, Karen is an engaged process team member of the Food Solutions New England (FSNE) network. She also serves as Massachusetts Ambassador for FSNE's New England Food Vision. In this role, Karen promotes network building with a relentless commitment to engaging with Massachusetts residents, organizations, and communities of color in service of a shared racial equity commitment at the core of the evolving food system work happening across our New England states.

As a Thomas W. Haas Professor in Sustainable Food Systems at University of New Hampshire (UNH), Karen connects the community-engaged, transdisciplinary work of FSNE and its racial equity work to students, faculty, and staff at UNH through lectures, workshops, and collaborative scholarship.



Sue Scheufele

2018 Supporter of the Year

Sue Scheufele is an extension educator with the University of Massachusetts' Extension Vegetable Program. Sue enjoys working with commercial vegetable growers across Massachusetts, helping to find innovative ways to manage crop and pest issues.

She also conducts pest management research at the UMass Experiment Station and enjoys working in the field, growing crops of her own, and finding new tools to control pests sustainably. She holds a Master's degree in plant pathology from Cornell University, where she focused her studies on sustainable disease management in vegetable systems. Sue has been working with Flats Mentor Farm on pest management education on and off since she started at UMass Extension in 2013. Sue, a familiar and welcome face at Flats Mentor Farm, conducts bi-weekly Pest Walks during the growing season to identify current pest risks and follows up with sustainable pest management techniques and suggestions for integrated pest management.



Ronn Garry, Jr.

2018 Buyer of the Year

Ronn Garry, co-owner of Tropical Foods, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has worked at Tropical since 1993. Tropical Foods, “The Supermarket for Everyone,” is a 40-year old, third-generation grocery store in Boston. Ronn and brother Randy bought the business in 2006 from their father, Ronn Garry, Sr. One of the first ethnic grocers in New England, Tropical Foods has been named “Best of Boston (1997)” and the “2008 Small Business Administration New England “Family Business of the Year.” Soon after the purchase, Ronn began the process of planning and developing a replacement location. It took nine years, but Ronn persevered to make the project happen, and Tropical now inhabits a new state-of-the-art, 26,000 square foot store that sits as the anchor of the Dudley Square business district. Tropical boasts more than 95 employees and in excess of 16,000 customers per week. Tropical Foods enjoys the reputation as one of the largest and most successful ethnic stores in all of New England and the country.

Ronn proved to be an extremely responsive buyer: easy to reach and open to trying new products. Ronn embraces the mission of World Farmers and wholeheartedly supports the farmers directly. Early in the season, Ron’s purchase pattern was consistent from week to week. After Flats Mentor Farmers recovered from the first flood, Ron immediately began ordering new crops for the first time, demonstrating his care for the farmers and the farm and going to great lengths to support World Farmers, its mission, and the farmers.



Tim Castner

2018 Farmer Friend of the Year

Tim Castner has taught History at Nashoba Regional High School for the past twenty years. He received a BA in History and Russian from Middlebury College and earned an MAT in History education from Boston University. In 2016 he was awarded the Kidger award for excellence in pre-collegiate teaching from the New England History Teachers' association. In addition to teaching Advanced Placement US History and other levels, he developed a class, Living Locally, which provides an interdisciplinary approach to life in the local community. He is active in the Lancaster Town Forest Committee, the Lancaster Trails and Bikeway Coalition, and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. He is working with Freedom's Way to create the Thoreau Trail which would link Walden Pond to Mt. Wachusett by a permanent hiking trail. In addition, he serves as the Vice President of Shirley Forests Inc., a family-owned forest management company in the Adirondacks. His publications include chapters on The Great Awakening and The Constitutional Convention in Conflicts in American History: A Documentary Encyclopedia, 8-Volume Set, and a recent collaboration with Paul D. Hanson for his book, A Political History of the Bible in America. Tim, through his many contributions to World Farmers has enhanced the Nashoba Regional High School's/World Farmers' grant-funded student internship program, contributed to strengthening World Farmers' ties to the community, and provided valuable and insightful historical context of farms and farming in Lancaster. Tim, his wife, Paula, and children, Emily, Hannah, and Jonathan, call Lancaster home.

World Farmers Executive Members



Georgia S. Good

Georgia S. Good - Board Member of World Farmers and Executive Director of the Rural Advancement Fund (RAF), Board Member Georgia Good has assisted low-income rural south Carolina communities for over forty years. Born and raised on a farm, she left school every August to November to plant and pick cotton. In 1970, Ms. Good helped found the Family Health Center and organized the Orangeburg County, South Carolina, Consumer Health Council for poor families. Through RAF and as Vice President of the D.C.-based Rural Coalition, Ms. Good assisted in passing a key program for small farm groups in the 1990 Farm Bill called 2501, and she secured more than thirty sections of policy in the 2008 Farm Bill. She promoted the Pigford Claims under which thousands of African American farmers received settlements for being closed out of USDA programs for many years. In 2012, President Obama tapped Ms. Good to participate in the White House Policy and Action Leadership Conference, and she served on committees under President Jimmy Carter addressing migrant and seasonal farm workers. She attended Claflin University, U.C. Berkeley, New York Training Institute, City College of New York, and she held a fellowship position at MIT. A life member of the NAACP, she attends Mount Pisgah Baptist Church and is a proud mother and grandmother.



Veronicah J. Nyaigoti

Veronicah J. Nyaigoti - Board Member of World Farmers, coming from a culture in which farming is a significant part of the daily routine, Veronicah developed, from examples set by her own family, and instilled in her own children, a natural affinity for caring for land and loving agriculture. After leaving the farming life she grew up with in her native Kenya, Veronicah moved to the United States with her husband and four children to further her education and provide a better future for herself and her family. She received her Practical Nursing License from Mt. Wachusett Community college in 2008 and became involved with World Farmers in 2010, giving her and her family the opportunity to continue to uphold the tradition of children learning farming and agriculture from their family. There are now four generations of her family working on the farm. A board member, farmer, nurse, wife, parent, and grandparent, Veronicah exemplifies the ideals of an inspirational, strong, and motivated God-fearing woman.



John Pacheco Jr.

John Peter Pacheco, Jr. - Board Member of World Farmers and VP - Business and Branch Manager for Fidelity Co-Operative Bank, born in Fall River, Massachusetts, John is a Massachusetts' native and resides in Lancaster. During the day, John is Vice President for Fidelity Bank, a Community-based bank rooted in North Central Massachusetts; he has been with the organization since January 2018. John has worked in the financial sector his entire adult life. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a dual degree in Biology and Criminal Justice, John grew up running a family business and naturally developed a sense of community where he resides in North Worcester County. He is heavily involved in the community through the Montachusett Area Rotary Club and volunteers at Mansfield High School teaching students in the color guard program. John has been teaching students since he was in college and continues to work and volunteer in the community where he lives.

World Farmers Executive Members



Oliver A. Kia

Oliver A. Kia - Board Member of World Farmers, native to Cameroon, Oliver farms at Flats Mentor Farm between working as an Electrical Engineer and raising three children, ages 6, 9, and 12. He balances work, family, and farming, often taking his children to the farm to assist. Having lived in Cameroon's countryside with his grandparents, where he developed farming skills, he grows most of the crops at the Flats that he grew there, including bitter leaf, garden huckleberry (*Solanum scabrum*), amaranth, taioba, tomatoes, pumpkin leaves, kale, okra, peppers, and more. He sells commercially, including through the World Farmers' CSA and at various community gatherings. Oliver enjoys the cooperation between farmers that exists at the Flats, and he helps others in the farming he knows. He has received valuable information, including pointers on using social media in marketing and sales, encouragement from Maria Moreira, and explanation of farming techniques from Sangiwa Eliamani. He also improves his farming by attending training and technical assistance programs on the Flats. He also noted the biggest difference between farming in New England and farming in Cameroon is the spacing of crops and planting in rows, a practice he now employs, making weeding much easier. Oliver works in Maine, resides in Lowell, and farms at the Flats, enthusiastically bringing his experiences to the workings of the Board of Directors.



Lorette Picciano

Lorette Picciano - Board Member of World Farmers and Executive Director of the Rural Coalition, since 1992, Lorette has led Rural Coalition, a Washington, DC-based alliance of more than 60 culturally diverse community based organizations representing small producers and farmworkers in the US and Mexico. She works with RC's diverse aBoard and members to promote just and sustainable development in rural areas, particularly in civil rights in agriculture. She is now leading efforts in her 8th Farm Bill Debate where in the past she has coordinated unified efforts to assure equal access to USDA programs for farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers helping to secure more than 35 sections of new Farm Bill Policies. Her education includes a BS in Agriculture and Life Sciences from Cornell University, and an M. Ed. from the University of Hawaii, where she was a participant in the Food Institute of the East-West Center and did fieldwork in the rural Philippines. She has worked on the farm crisis of the late 1980's, on equity in food and farm policy, and on food security and fair trade issues. She helped secure farm credit borrowers' rights and programs for historically underserved farmers in the 1987 Agriculture Credit Act and Section 2501 of the 1990 Farm Bill. She has long served on the Steering Committee for the USDA National Small Farmers Conference and also serves on the Boards of Directors of Agriculture Missions, Inc., and the Solidarity Economy Network.



Maria Moreira

Maria Moreira, Ex-Officio Board Member of World Farmers and Executive Director and Co-Founder of World Farmers, Maria has mentored beginning farmers since 1984. A businesswoman, a farmer, a mother, a grandmother, an advocate, a fierce supporter of equity and justice, and everything in between, Maria has been a leading force in identifying and marketing ethnic foods in Massachusetts, making culturally appropriate crops more readily accessible to immigrant and refugee communities. A consummate businesswoman, Maria, and, therefore, World Farmers, focuses the work and the organization's mission on only what is best for farmers, and works tirelessly to ensure farmers' success, however each farmer may define that success. Maria has created an atmosphere of safety, dignity, and welcome to all immigrant and refugee farmers who seek to grow at Flats Mentor Farm. Respected by her colleagues for her experience, knowledge, and passion, Maria is a sought-after speaker, presenting at national and regional conferences and at local events. Maria, with her entrepreneurial spirit, vision, and energy, has benefitted generations of immigrant and refugee farmers through her tireless work for farmers, and her life and work set a strong example for all to follow on how to welcome people from diverse cultures.

World Farmers Staff



Maria Moreira, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Maria has mentored beginning farmers since 1984. A businesswoman, a farmer, a mother, a grandmother, an advocate, a fierce supporter of equity and justice, and everything in between, Maria has been a leading force in identifying and marketing ethnic foods in Massachusetts, making culturally appropriate crops more readily accessible to immigrant and refugee communities. **Full bio listed on previous page under World Farmers Executive Members**



Jessy Gill, Assistant Director, Jessy grew up on a subsistence farm in upstate New York. Prior to joining World Farmers, Jessy worked with a local NGO in Kenya to establish water catchments, and lived and worked on a farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont practicing sustainable agriculture and learning about local food marketing techniques. Jessy worked on federal, state, and local policy and movement-building efforts at the Community Food Justice Coalition in Oakland, California and is the resident expert on all policy-related issues that relate to farms and farming, making sense of complicated policy and how laws at the federal, state, and local level ultimately affect individual farmers. Jessy is as comfortable working on high-level policy issues and grant writing and reporting as she is staking out farm plots and spending time working at Flats Mentor Farm - and she is expert in both settings!



Pat Lanni, Markets and Wholesale Manager, Pasquale (Pat) Lanni grew up on a family farm in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, the son of an Italian immigrant farmer. Pat holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University and worked on his family's fruit and vegetable farm honing agricultural techniques and gaining knowledge of the markets and processes involved in bringing products to the consumer. Pat worked as a facility manager for an agricultural inputs supplier and in the food service industry as a franchisee for a national chain. Pat coordinates sales to restaurants, retail specialty markets, wholesalers, and the World Farmers' CSA (community supported agriculture) program. Pat assists farmers to market directly to customers at farmers' markets throughout the state and is a reliable small-machine operator, evidenced by the tilling and tractoring he does at the Flats. He's also known to carry a multitude of heavy CSA subscriptions up multiple flights of stairs to ensure on-time CSA deliveries.



Rituparna (Ritu) Raychowdhury, Farm Production and Sustainability Specialist. Ritu worked in agriculture and horticulture in India prior to moving to the US. She holds a Ph.D. in Horticultural Science and is a NOFA-accredited Organic Land Care Professional. She has practiced extension outreach with farmers, and she has conducted research on improved, sustainable production technologies. She works closely with the farmers at the Flats Mentor Farm addressing production challenges, encouraging farmers in their adopting new ethnic crops with strong market potential, providing training and technical support on sustainable farming practices, and ensuring optimal growing and safe handling of crops. Ritu participates in the UMASS-led pest walks on the Flats and manages a test-plot for new and existing crops. She doesn't mind smushing bugs to do her part for Integrated Pest Management on the Flats.



Keyna Thomas, Executive Assistant, Bringing valuable organization to World Farmers, Keyna lends great insight and rich experience to all aspects of the operations of the organization, including grant and financial management, communications, event planning, and serving a diverse clientele. A resident of Gardner, Keyna has made a strong positive impact on World Farmers since her joining the organization and has taken on the management and behind-the-scenes work that contributes to the success of this, the third annual Harvest Gala. She also lends a wonderful willingness to pitch in when needed. Keyna mastered the CSA process, and has taken on all aspects of the weekly CSA delivery from writing and editing the newsletter, managing the crop list, packing and delivering the CSA, and communicating to CSA subscribers. An accomplished singer and musician, Keyna can be found with her band at area venues entertaining the masses, singing and playing a mean guitar.



Maria Anthony, Program Development Specialist, Maria holds a BA in English literature from Auburn University, an MBA from Boston University, and an MA in Teaching from Simmons University. She worked for more than a decade in higher education administration in admissions and financial aid at Harvard University, and she recently retired from a fifteen-year teaching career in the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School English Department. She assists World Farmers in grant-writing, reporting, and management and is happy to share her bug spray with anyone on the Flats who deplores mosquitoes as much as she does.



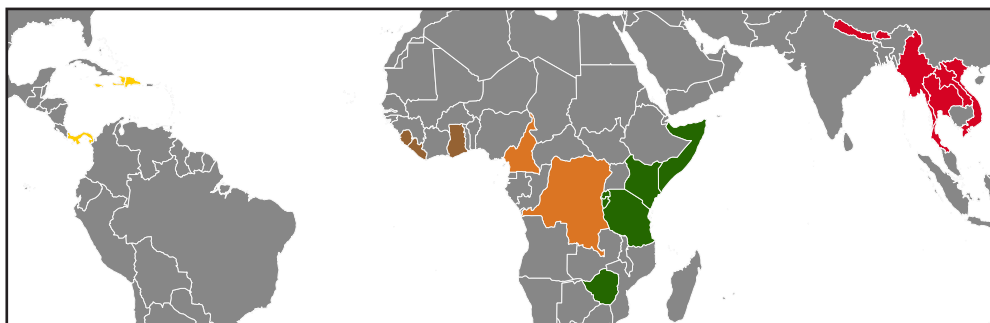
Morgan Healey, Communications Coordinator and Video Production Manager, Morgan holds dual degrees in computer graphic design and web design. Prior to joining World Farmers, Morgan worked at the Holden Landmark Corporation and was the Graphic Online Designer at Worcester Magazine. Morgan also has experience as a freelance designer and has developed campaign materials for a local city councilor, designed a logo and company branding for CrossFIT EXP, and volunteered her time at a local school to raise money for an animal shelter. At World Farmers, Morgan supports all aspects of marketing, branding, identity design, web design and outreach. A wonderful collaborator and artist, Morgan often encourages and motivates others with her familiar catch-phrase, "Go Team!"



Demographics

The farmers at Flats Mentor Farm are refugees and immigrants from many parts of the world who have come to this region to make New England their home.

These graphs depict the population of farmers at Flats Mentor Farm to give a visual representation of who they are, where they are from, and where they live now.

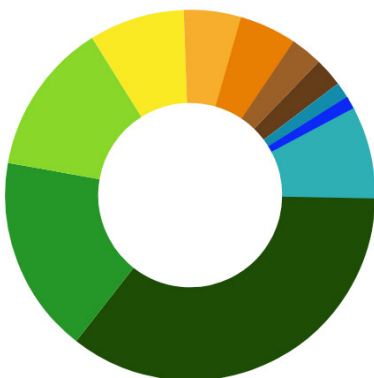


Farmer Origin



■ East Africa (69.42%) ■ South/Southeast Asia (7.72%) ■ West Africa (4.84%)
 ■ Central Africa (3.22%) ■ Central America/Caribbean (4.52%) ■ Unreported (10.28%)

Current Place of Residence



■ Worcester (35.55%) ■ Leominster (17.19%)
 ■ Providence (13.28%) ■ Fitchburg (8.20%) ■ Lowell (5.08%)
 ■ Nashua, NH (5.08%) ■ Clinton (2.73%) ■ Lancaster (2.34%)
 ■ Shrewsbury (1.56%) ■ Milbury (1.17%) ■ Other (7.81%)

Gender of Farmers



■ Female (58.74%) ■ Male (41.26%)

WORLD FARMERS AND FLATS MENTOR FARM

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



The farmers at Flats Mentor Farm come to this country from around the world, and populations at the farm often arrive from places experiencing political strife. Due to this dynamic, some of the farmers were not born in the country they call home but instead were raised in refugee camps in neighboring countries. Take a moment to read about some of our farmers' home countries and cultures.



Bhutan

A land-locked South Asian country in the eastern Himalayas, with China on its northern border and India to the south, Bhutan is home to just under 800,000 people. The country's name, which translates as "Land of the Thunder Dragon," reflects the violent storms that originate from the Himalayas and cause frequent landslides during the rainy season. For such a small country, Bhutan has incredible biodiversity due to drastic changes in elevation. Agriculture remains the primary livelihood for the people of Bhutan, and in 2013, the government proclaimed it would become the first country in the world with 100% organic farming. A June, 2018 study reported Bhutan was working to improve access to markets with price premiums for organic products to help lower the economic cost of the large-scale conversion and had made significant strides toward reaching the goal.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library • Feuerbacher et. al. journals.plos.org



Burundi

Located in east-central Africa, Burundi is a landlocked country that borders Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With about 11 million people in a country of 27,816 square kilometers, an area slightly smaller than Maryland, Burundi has one of the highest population densities in Africa. For over twenty years, Burundi has seen violence both within the country and in surrounding countries, causing refugees to seek refuge both in and out of the country. The three major ethnic groups in Burundi include the Hutu, the Tutsi, and the Twa. About 90% of the population of Burundi relies on subsistence agriculture, and agriculture accounts for 40% of GDP.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library



Cameroon

Cameroon, in Central Africa, borders Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria and has a population of approximately 24 million people. With the many ethnic groups living in Cameroon, there are over 24 African languages spoken, but English and French are recognized as official languages of the country. Agriculture makes up more than 70% of the jobs for Cameroon's population, including subsistence farming which comprises 20.6% of the country's land use. The largest crop grown is cocoa, followed by cotton and coffee beans.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in central Africa and is the second largest country in Africa. There are over 83,000,000 people living in the DRC, and over 200 ethnic groups - of which the majority are Bantu - make up the population. The four largest tribes include the Mongo, Luba, Kongo, and the Mangbetu-Azande. With the many ethnic groups, over 200 languages are spoken in the DRC. The most commonly spoken languages include Swahili, Tshiluba, Lingala, Kongo, and French. Abundant with valuable minerals, the country and its economy depend heavily on these resources; however, most of the population relies on agriculture as a source of employment.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica • flagpedia.net



Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic occupies two-thirds of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, bordering Haiti to the east. The Taino, indigenous inhabitants of Hispaniola prior to the arrival of the Europeans, divided the island into five chiefdoms and territories. Christopher Columbus claimed the island on his first voyage, making the island a springboard for the Spanish conquest of the Caribbean. 10.8 million people currently live in the Dominican Republic, most of whom speak Spanish as a first language. The Dominican Republic has a relatively moderate tropical climate. Sugarcane, coffee, cacao, and various tropical fruits make up the most prominent share of the agricultural output, and 14.4% of the labor force works in agriculture.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica • flagpedia.net • the world factbook/cia.gov/library

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS *continued*



Ghana

Ghana, a coastal West-African nation formed from the merger of the British colony of the Gold Coast and the Togoland trust territory, became the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence. Home to 27.5 million people of a wide variety of ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups, and bordering the Gulf of Guinea, it covers 238,533 square miles and has a tropical climate. 69.1% of its land is for agricultural use, but recurrent drought in the north severely affects agricultural activities. Agriculture accounts for about 20% of GDP and employs more than half of the workforce. Major crops include cocoa, rice, cassava, peanuts, corn, shea nuts, and bananas.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica • flagpedia.net • the world factbook/cia.gov/library



Haiti

Haiti is located on the western edge of the Island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea. The population is made up of many different cultures, collected throughout its history. Before the Spaniards arrived, the island was made up of the native Tainos, and soon after the arrival of the Spaniards, there were almost no Tainos left on the island as they were systematically exterminated by Spain's colonization. The French took control of Haiti from Spain, bringing along many slaves from Africa. In the late 18th century, the slaves revolted and took control of the country making Haiti the first post-colonial black-led nation in the world, declaring its independence in 1804. In recent years, Haiti has gone through many struggles politically and from natural disasters. Haiti was hit by a 7.0 earthquake in 2010 and was recently hit by a strong hurricane. Although there are many threats to Haiti by natural disasters, two fifths of its economy is from agriculture and subsistence farming.

Source: the world factbook/cia.gov/library • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica



Hmong Culture

The Hmong people are said to have originated in the southern area of China, migrating south into areas of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar. Although difficult to determine, there is an estimated population of over 4 million Hmong people living around the world, including about 170,000 who now live in the United States. The Hmong historically practiced shifting cultivation and grew unirrigated upland crops in high altitudes and low elevations, depending on where they re-located. The Hmong would move once the soil became less fertile. Because of conflicts in Southeast Asia, many Hmong began the journey of migration once more, this time as refugees in other countries, and then as residents and citizens.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica



Jamaica

Discovered by Columbus in 1494 and settled by the Spanish in the early 16th century, Jamaica was once the home of the indigenous Taino who were gradually exterminated and replaced by African slaves. England seized the island, the third largest in the Caribbean Sea after Cuba and Hispaniola, and established a plantation economy based on sugar, cocoa, and coffee. Slavery was abolished in 1834, and 250,000 slaves found their freedom, many of whom became small farmers. Jamaica became independent from the U.K. in 1962 but remains a member of the Commonwealth. A popular resort destination, Jamaica boasts a robust service industry that accounts for more than 70% of GDP.

Source: the world factbook/cia.gov/library • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica



- Bhutan
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- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Ghana
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GLOBAL CONNECTIONS *continued*



Kenya

Kenya is located on the east coast of Africa, with the equator running through the middle of the country. Kenya is bordered on the southwest by Lake Victoria, and on the southeast by the Indian Ocean, while Lake Turkana tops the northern portion of the Great Rift Valley. With a population of 47 million people, there is much diversity. Kenya has over 40 tribes, including the largest, Kikuyu, followed by the Luhya and Luo. Kenya shelters more than 300,000 Somali refugees as of April 2017. The Kenyan Highlands are known as one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa. With the fertile land, about 75% of the Kenyan population work at least part time in the agricultural sector, and agriculture accounts for one-third of GDP. *Source: flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library*



Liberia

Located on the west coast of Africa, Liberia was founded by a group of freed slaves from the United States in 1822. Currently, this country is made up of about 4 million people from over 16 different ethnic groups. Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was the first female to be elected president on the continent of Africa and hoped to build up the country after years of civil war and health outbreaks; however, Constitutional term limits barred her from running for re-election, and the 2017 presidential runoff election was won by former international soccer star, George Weah, who was sworn in January 22, 2018. Its tropical climate supports agriculture on 28.1% of its land.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • nytimes.com • the world factbook/cia.gov/library



Nepal

Nestled along the southern slopes of the Himalayan Mountains, Nepal is a land-locked country bordered by India and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. After a strong Maoist insurgency, 1996 saw the beginning of a ten-year civil war that dissolved the cabinet and parliament and saw the re-assumption of absolute power by the king in 2002. A nationwide Constituent Assembly election in 2008 dissolved the monarchy, and Nepal was declared a democratic republic. In 2017, the first local elections in 20 years occurred in two phases, and Khagda Prasad Sharma Oli was sworn in as Prime Minister. In terms of agricultural production, the cultivation of rice, corn, and wheat accounts for over half of the country's export earnings; however, because only a small percentage of Nepal's cultivated land is under irrigation, output depends on the fluctuations in weather. An area prone to erosion and landslides, Nepal has focused recent efforts on halting erosion and deforestation. *Source: flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library*



Panama

Panama, the southernmost country in Central America, is comprised of a narrow bridge of land that connects Central and South America. The country seceded from Colombia in 1903 and signed a treaty with the US allowing for the construction of a canal and for US sovereignty over a strip of land on either side of the structure (the Panama Canal Zone). The Panama Canal was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers between 1904 and 1914. The entire Panama Canal and the surrounding area and remaining US military bases were transferred to Panama by the end of 1999, and an expansion project to double the Canal's capacity was completed in 2016. Panama is home to 4 million people, half of whom live in the capital, Panama City. 82% of Panama's GDP is in the service sector, and only 2.4% is in agriculture.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library



Rwanda

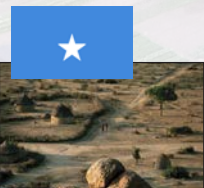
Rwanda is a landlocked country located in east-central Africa. With a population of about 13 million living in an area of only 10,169 square kilometers, Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa. The three major ethnic groups in Rwanda include the Hutu, the Tutsi, and the Twa. Because of years of political violence and a brutal genocide, approximately 2 million Hutu refugees fled to neighboring Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and former Zaire. Over 41% of the Rwandan population is under the age of 14, and the median age is 19. Rwanda is a rural country with about 90% of its population engaging in subsistence agriculture, and agriculture accounts for about 63% of export earnings. However, food production often does not keep pace with demand, requiring food imports. *Source: flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • the world factbook/cia.gov/library*



Sierra Leone

Once a British trade post in the 17th century established to move timber and ivory, the post at Sierra Leone expanded into trading slaves. Later, Sierra Leone became a destination for resettling black loyalists who had originally been resettled in Nova Scotia. After 1807, British crews delivered thousands of Africans liberated from illegal slave ships to Freetown, now the capital. Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961. More than 2 million were displaced during the civil war from 1991-2002, and the current government is focusing on furthering development and creating jobs. The country's name comes from "Serra Lyoa" (Lion Mountains) referring to the range of hills that surround the harbor of Freetown. There are about 18 ethnic groups that exhibit similar cultural features, such as secret societies, chieftaincy, patrilineal descent, and farming methods. More than three-fifths of the population engage in agricultural production that includes the practice of shifting agriculture, a system of cultivation that employs plot rotation in an effort to preserve soil fertility.

Source: • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • [the world factbook/cia.gov/library](http://the.worldfactbook/cia.gov/library)



Somalia

Somalia is located on the east coast of Africa in an area that is known as the Horn of Africa and has an estimated population of almost 11 million people. Somalia is in the midst of a protracted internal conflict, and as of 2016, more than 1.1 million Somali refugees were hosted in neighboring countries and more than 1 million Somalis were internally displaced, making Somalia the world's third highest source country for refugees, after Syria and Afghanistan. In the early 2010's Somalia's agricultural-based economy was hit hard by drought, which, intensified by civil unrest, caused one of the most severe famines in 25 years. Agriculture is the most important sector, with livestock accounting for approximately 40% of GDP and more than 50% of export earnings. Nomads and semi-pastoralists, dependent on livestock for their livelihood, make up a large portion of the population.

Source: flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • [the world factbook/cia.gov/library](http://the.worldfactbook/cia.gov/library)



Tanzania

Tanzania is located on the east coast of Africa and includes the island of Zanzibar, located in the Indian Ocean. With over 53 million people, Tanzania is the 27th most populated country in the world; however, Tanzania has the largest population in East Africa and the lowest population density. Tanzania has been Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, primarily receiving immigrant Burundians. With over 120 tribes in the country, the most populous group is Sukuma, of the Bantu ethnic community, while Zanzibar's population includes a mix of Arabs, Africans, and mixed race. Agriculture employs about 65% of the work force in Tanzania and accounts for just less than one quarter of the GDP.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • [the world factbook/cia.gov/library](http://the.worldfactbook/cia.gov/library)



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a landlocked tropical country in southeastern Africa with 16 official national languages of which Shona is the most widely spoken, reflecting its many cultural communities. The Zambezi River forms a natural boundary with Zambia, and Victoria Falls on the Zambezi forms the world's largest curtain of falling water. Zimbabwe's government-led land reform programs turned the country into a net-importer of agricultural products, while production of wheat, maize, and coffee dropped dramatically. Recently, small farmers started practicing conservation with plans and hopes for generating better soils in future years. Zimbabwe's economy relies heavily on its agriculture sector, which comprises 12.5% of its GDP, and primarily produces tobacco, corn, cotton, wheat, coffee, sugarcane, and peanuts.

Source: ABC-CLIO World Geography Database • flagpedia.net • Encyclopedia Britannica • [the world factbook/cia.gov/library](http://the.worldfactbook/cia.gov/library)



- Kenya
- Liberia
- Nepal
- Panama
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe



WORLD FARMERS INTERNATIONAL

DIRECTLY FROM FARMERS IN BRAZIL TO MARKETS IN THE USA

World Farmers International was established as the for-profit arm of World Farmers in 2017, continuing the organization's mission to support and advocate for small-scale sustainable farming enterprises for diverse producers seeking alternative marketing opportunities and fair prices.



World Farmers International follows the footsteps of its parent organization, World Farmers, and follows its mission to support small-scale farmers from farm to market both in this country and internationally. World Farmers surveys market demand for cultural products not available in the U.S. and for crops grown here that are not available in other countries. World Farmers has identified and developed markets from which U.S.-based and international farmers can benefit.



In 2017, two main crops were identified as viable trial with high market potential in the U.S.: bananas that cannot be grown in the U.S. and tioba, which can. World Farmers has also recently identified jiló and maxixi as viable crops for the international market. World Farmers International has begun assisting small farmers in Brazil by importing trial crops, marketed under the MUSE brand. Taioba is successfully grown by Flats Mentor Farm farmers, who sell to World Farmers International for distribution.



World Farmers International markets its products under the Muse brand, and the bright yellow and green Muse logo ensures a product that promises fair-trade practices, a quality product, and support of small farmers. Muse brand products can be found at Seabra Foods, Brother's Market, Meat Family, Super JC Market, Brazilian Meat Market, Terra Nossa, Casa de Carnes, and at many other stores where Brazilian products are sold.

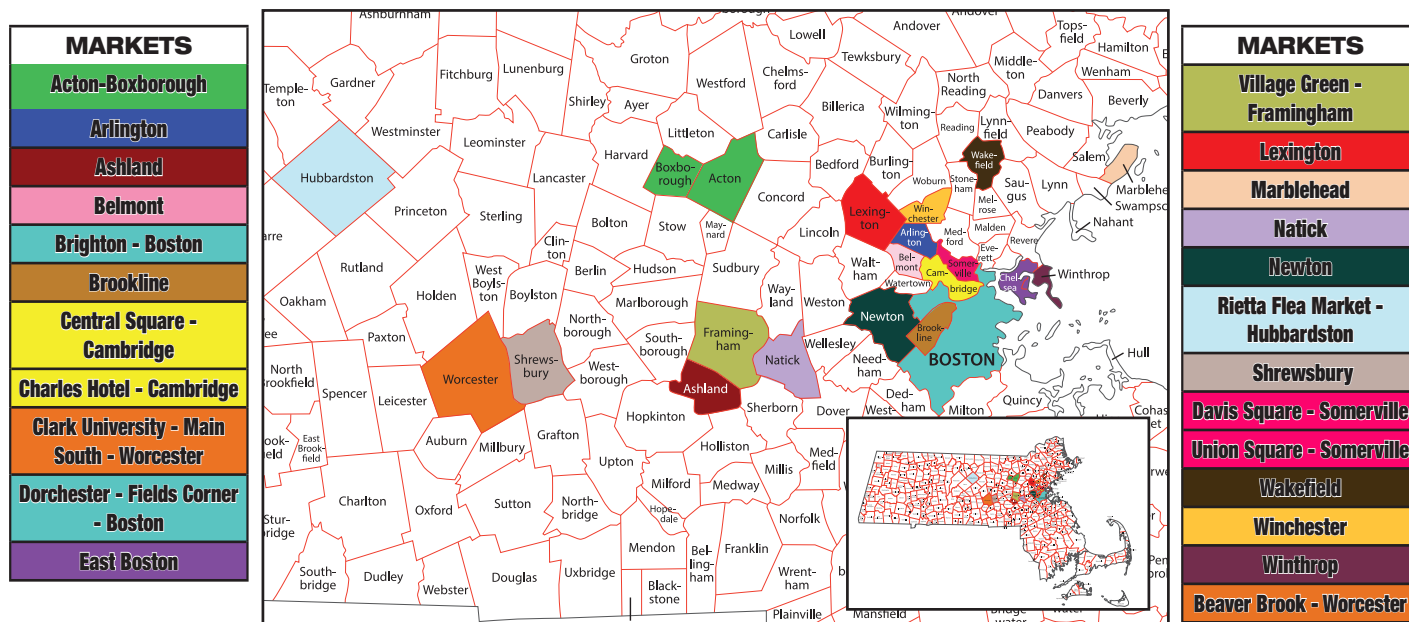


Collective Marketing



The farmers at Flats Mentor Farm engage in a unique collective Marketing System. Through wholesale, World Farmers aggregates crops and sells to ethnic grocers, mobile markets, schools, and others, and at farmers' markets all crops are sold under the Flats Mentor Farm banner, however the markets are run and managed by the individual farmer themselves.

In 2018, Flats Mentor Farm sold at 24 Markets across Massachusetts and at special events, including the Backyard Bolton Market and other community events.



In 2018, Flats Mentor Farm Cooperative sold weekly to 3-8 grocery and specialty stores in the Boston area, 2-4 mobile markets, the Worcester Regional Food Hub, 2 public schools, various restaurants and small shops, and to a growing number of subscribers to the workplace CSA.

"Outlets like Farmers' Markets and the Co-op have allowed us farmers to introduce ourselves and our culture to the community through the produce we grow. Over the years, the customers and vendors gradually learn more and more about the story behind us farmers, and how agriculture is intertwined with our roots and way of life. The connection is when we realize that all people and their ancestors were once farmers themselves. The appreciation and support we receive from the community make it possible for us to live our lives and to contribute and participate in society, which we believe we all should." - Flats Mentor Farm Farmer, 2016

Successes from the 2018 Season

Community Kitchen

2018 saw the completion of the MDAR grant-funded community kitchen in the Lancaster Community Center. After weather delays, renovation and construction came to an end, resulting in a gleaming example of a commercial kitchen where farmers and community members can create value-added products using state-of-the-art appliances, infrastructure, and utensils to begin or expand food-related business ventures.



Burgoyne Farm Acquisition

Through a generous arrangement with the Burgoyne family, World Farmers acquired the 12-acre Burgoyne Farm in Lancaster and celebrated at an event in May by hosting Thomas Burgoyne and his family, community members, state and local politicians, and farmers. Currently, African White Corn, pumpkin vines, and mushrooms are in cultivation on this land.



State Funding

A bipartisan effort spearheaded by Senator Dean Tran with Senator Jamie Eldridge, secured state funding for Flats Mentor Farm. Speaking about this funding, Senator Tran reported, "I have been a long-time supporter of farming as I believe farms are an integral part of any community. Farms not only play a vital role in our economy but also serve as a source of food and nourishment for many families. I am tremendously proud to be able to secure the funding for World Farmers and Flats Mentor Farm, which has never been done before, and I have no doubt the funds will be well utilized to further the importance of farming." We thank Senator Tran and Senator Eldridge for their efforts on behalf of farmers and farming.



CSA

Three new drop-off sites for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) were established, expanding the reach of our CSA and the the opportunity for farmers to sell. CSA shares, delivered weekly, included bountiful produce from our farmers, many of whom sold their crops for the first time. A special selling point of our CSA is the weekly inclusion of a featured ethnic crop with a corresponding recipe card. The CSA is successful in introducing our subscribers to new crops, and our subscribers look forward to their weekly share.



Successes from the 2018 Season

Farm Production

Market research helped World Farmers determine a significant demand for a new crop, gongura. World Farmers acquired and distributed seeds to farmers and provided production guidance for gongura. After ten weeks, farmers, ready to harvest, attended harvest and post-harvest trainings provided by World Farmers. India Market (Shrewsbury) purchased gongura, as did other Indian shops in Burlington and Framingham. The height of production saw farmers growing almost fifty pounds a week. Farmers found the crop to be little affected by torrential rain, resistant to insects, and a hardy crop overall.



Student Interns

World Farmers hosted six intelligent, delightful, and hard-working summer interns from Nashoba Regional High School. The group completed plot assessments, assisted in packing for CSA deliveries, and participated in pest identification and education, farmer outreach, media support, and general farm maintenance. They produced CSA newsletters and packed the CSA, and they streamlined data gathering and data entry. Interns braved heat, bugs, heavy rain, and rapidly shifting assignments due to the weather and were smiling and professional throughout their work.



Donations and Support

World Farmers received several in-kind donations and the support of many this year; we are thankful for all donations, and we acknowledge supporters here: Lunenburg High School helped us in maintaining Taioba transplants in their greenhouse, and Dawn Gearin, Science Teacher, supervised plant maintenance. Her students lent their help and strong backs in planting and loading plants for transport. We received significant seedling donations from Bigelow Nursery of Northborough, and ECHO, International, donated Cassava cuttings, thanks to Lydia Hoffman, Propagation Manager, who facilitated that acquisition.



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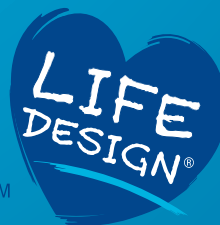
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World Farmers CSA

Community Supported Agriculture

With the CSA marketing model, World Farmers creates opportunity for even the smallest farmer to begin selling, assisting farmers who are working to build their capacity to grow for larger wholesale accounts. A unique program that includes farmers of all capacity and scale, the Flats Mentor Farm CSA aggregates produce from multiple refugee and immigrant farmers growing on the 70-acre farm in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

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2019 CSA

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Whether you are a business or workplace interested in hosting a pick-up location, or an individual who wants to learn more about our CSA rates, email us at sales@worldfarmers.org for more information.



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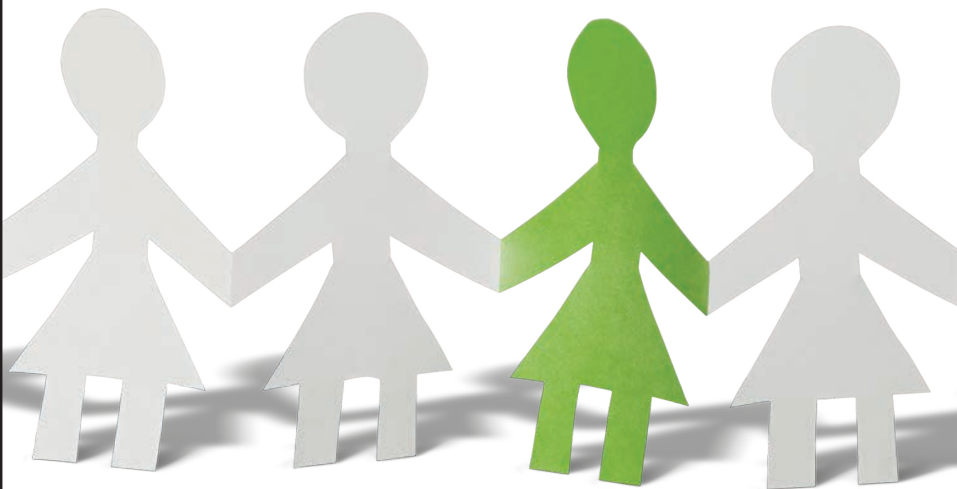
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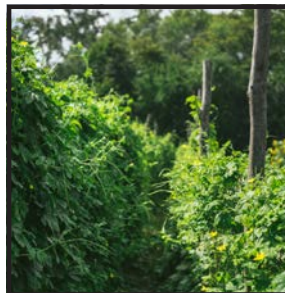
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Thank You

We sincerely thank all who have supported World Farmers over the years. All support, large and small, past and present, has made World Farmers possible.

This year, we were beneficiaries of many donations from seeds to farming materials and office supplies, we are thankful for all donations, both material and monetary.

And thank you to those who have made our Harvest Gala possible!

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NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant

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AMS Local Food Promotion Program

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As well as smaller partnership grants with Rural Coalition and UMass Amherst Extension

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