2019 World Farmers 4th Annual Harvest Gala and Cultural Tasting
World Farmers advocates for and supports immigrant, refugee, and historically under-served farmers from farm to market. Started in 1984, our Flats Mentor Farm Program provides access to land, farming infrastructure, and technical assistance in the agricultural production and marketing necessary for small-scale diversified farmers to grow and market their produce. Currently supporting over 300 farmers from more than 20 countries, World Farmers works to cultivate a climate where cross-cultural farmer co-learning and mentorship thrive.

Our largest and original farm site is a 70-acre parcel located in Lancaster, Massachusetts along the bank of the Nashua River. Participating farmers are skilled producers from 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, the Flats Mentor Farm program enables participating farmers to improve their farming and production techniques by learning from each other.”

The mission of World Farmers is to honor the dignity and passion of immigrant and refugee farmers to grow food important to their culture and our communities, and to provide support to each farmer in their endeavors to do so. Since its origin, Flats Mentor Farm has been a place where newly-arrived immigrants and refugees from agrarian backgrounds find the opportunity to enhance their agricultural production knowledge and evaluate the sustainability of farming as a way of life for themselves and their families.

www.worldfarmers.org
Evening’s Events

Friday, November 15, 2019

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

5:00 - 6:30
Red Carpet Arrival and Photographs
Farm to Table Cultural Tasting

6:30 - 7:00
Opening Remarks
Senator Dean A. Tran

Announcement of World Farmers 2019 Awardees
John Pacheco, Board Treasurer, World Farmers
Farmer Friend of the Year, Shon Rainford
Supporter of the Year, Thomas Burgoyne

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

7:00
Portuguese-Themed Buffet

8:00
Cultural Celebrations

8:30
Silent Auction Closes

9:00
Silent Auction Winners Announced

10:00
Closing
One of just a handful of Americans who are of Vietnamese descent to be elected to public office in the United States, Senator Tran is the first Vietnamese-American to hold an elected office in Massachusetts. He was born in Saigon, Vietnam and immigrated with his family to the United States at the age of 4. A son of an army soldier and a successful business family in Vietnam. His family sacrificed every possession they had in order to flee from the communist country and achieve freedom. After fleeing Vietnam, Senator Tran’s family spent 2 years in a refugee camp while waiting for their application for green cards to be approved. In 1980, he and his family were sponsored by a Catholic priest in Clinton, Massachusetts which is where he called his first real home. He is a graduate of Fitchburg High School and Brandeis University.

In 2005, Senator Tran became the first person of color to be elected to the City Council in Fitchburg, MA. After 12 years as a City Councilor At-Large, in a 2017 special election he became the first Vietnamese-American elected to the Massachusetts Legislature and the first person of color elected in his district to the State Senate. In the November, 2018 general election, Senator Tran was convincingly re-elected to the Massachusetts State Senate.

Senator Tran serves as the Assistant Minority Whip and sits on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, Joint Committee on Transportation, Joint Committee on Higher Education, Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy, and Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. He is married to Kerry and they have four beautiful children, Isabelle, 21, Olivia, 16, Madelyn, 10, and Dean 7.
Shon Rainford

As Director for the Worcester Regional Food Hub, Shon Rainford provides strategic leadership, as well as day-to-day oversight of all aspects of the Food Hub’s core operations. Shon also provides business consultation and food safety training to food entrepreneurs.

Shon teaches ServSafe Food Safety Manager courses and proctors the exams. He is also trained in HACCP and Better Process Control School to assist entrepreneurs in the creation and monitoring of their food safety plans as well as prepare for municipal or state food permits.

Shon joined the Food Hub in February 2018 after leading teams at Heifer International, an organization that works with small farmers around the world to end hunger and poverty, as well as Middleton Place, a National Historic Landmark in Charleston, South Carolina. Prior to joining the non-profit world, Shon owned and operated a small retail business.

Shon is passionate about local, healthy food and supporting small farmers and businesses. He lives with his wife and four children on a small farm in Rutland, Massachusetts.

Thomas Burgoyne

Tom Burgoyne, a native of Lancaster, MA, graduated from St. Anselm College in 1963 with a B.A. in History, graduated from the FBI Academy at Quantico in 1965; and served 33 years in the FBI as a Special Agent in five different field offices across the country. Tom was the chairman of the Director of the FBI’s Special Agent Advisory Committee representing 10,000 Special Agents worldwide, and in many other law enforcement capacities to date. He was twice named the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and most recently is the co-coordinator of the Ohio Valley Cold Case Initiative, a licensed private investigator, and serves on numerous Boards.

Tom and the Langan-Burgoyne family sold their 12-acre plot of land in Lancaster to World Farmers in 2018, marking the first piece of farmland owned by World Farmers. Through this generous offer, World Farmers has been able to provide land expansion to six farmers for the past two years, increasing the farmers’ capacity to grow their business. Tom was married to the former Kathryn Oliver of Wheeling for 48 years before Kathy passed away in 2018. Kathy was just as ardent in her love of the land as Tom is. Tom has three children and seven grandchildren.
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 - 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 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.
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.

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.

Maria Moreira - Ex-Officio Board Member 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**

John Mark, Development and Data Coordinator, John joined the World Farmers team in July 2019, where he manages donor relationships and spearheads the organization’s fundraising efforts. John assists in several other areas such as database development, communications and messaging, and event planning. Previously, John worked for New York City government for 13 years—streamlining business processes, designing software, and evaluating public assistance programs—before becoming a freelance graphic designer and database consultant.

Morgan Healey, Design and Communications Coordinator, 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 and State Senator. At World Farmers, Morgan supports all aspects of marketing, branding, design, and outreach.

Fabia Santos, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator of World Farmers International, Fabia has been involved in sales and relationship building within the Brazilian community for the past 25 years. Joining the team in 2017, Fabia takes on logistics coordination, marketing and promotions execution, and buyer relationship development. Prior to World Farmers International, Fabia was an Elementary School teacher.

Jessy Gill, Assistant Director, Jessy is responsible for program management and development, facilitating partnerships, and all advocacy efforts. Jessy works closely with Flats Mentor farmers to refine all programs and services to fit individual needs, ensuring each farmer is fully supported in their goals. Prior to joining World Farmers Jessy worked with a local NGO in Kenya, lived and worked on a farm in Vermont, and led policy efforts for the Community Food and Justice Coalition in California.

Gustavo Costa de Almeida, Vice President of World Farmers International, Gustavo has been building relationships between farmers and their customers for 15 years. He has served as an agronomic engineer, as a Professor of post harvest handling of an agronomist college in Brazil, and as CFO at CeasaMinas. Gustavo joined World Farmers International in 2016 where he plays a critical role in its development, and facilitates farmer capacity building efforts to prepare farmers to export their product to US markets.

Lúcia Da Cruz, Executive Assistant, Lúcia is originally from Brazil, and came to this country 20 years ago. A graduate of Hudson high school, Lucia studied nursing in college and worked in the Medical profession for 11 years. Lucia is also a certified medical interpreter. She has working for companies in marketing, administration, and billing, and takes on small jobs as a decorator in her spare time. Growing up in a family of eight children, Lucia loves to take on the role of caretaker, and help others in any way she can.

Mukaji Ambila, Farmer Outreach and Production Coordinator, Mukaji is an urban farmer, political organizer, and Congolese immigrant dedicated to land access and economic equity. Mukaji is a graduate of the Urban Farming Institute of Boston, has worked for the Trustees of Reservations, and for The Food Project, co-created The Black Youth House Project, and has organized on issues of labor, jobs equity, and youth leadership development. Most recently, Mukaji joined a Woman of Color farming and housing cooperative called Global Village Inc. Mukaji graduated from Temple University with a BA in African American Studies.

For more information about World Farmers International see page: 13
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 the region their home.

These charts give a visual representation of the population of farmers at Flats Mentor Farm: who they are, where they're from, and where they live now.

Farmer Origin

Current Place of Residence

Gender of Farmers

- East Africa (60.88%)
- South/Southeast Asia (9.86%)
- West Africa (6.80%)
- Central Africa (5.44%)
- Central America/Caribbean (5.10%)
- South Africa (2.72%)
- Unreported (9.18%)

- Worcester (34.35%)
- Leominster (14.97%)
- Providence (9.52%)
- Lowell (4.42%)
- Fitchburg (4.08%)
- Clinton (3.06%)
- Lancaster (2.38%)
- Other (11.90%)
- Unreported (15.31%)

- Women (58.92%)
- Men (35.35%)
- Unreported (5.73%)
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.

**Afghanistan**

Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a mountainous, landlocked country in South-Central Asia. Slightly smaller than Texas, Afghanistan has a population of 26.5 million people. Its official languages are Afghan Persian or Dari (50%), and Pashto (35%). In addition to occasionally violent political jockeying and ongoing military action, the country suffers from the resulting extreme poverty and crumbling infrastructure. Afghanistan is essentially a pastoral country. Only about one-eighth of the total land area is arable, and only about half of the arable acreage is cultivated annually. Much of the arable area consists of fallow cultivated land or steppes and mountains that serve as pastureland. Since much of the land is arid or semiarid, about half of the cultivated land is irrigated. Traditionally, as much as 85 percent of the population drew its livelihood from a rural economy, mostly as farmers.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Congo-Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo)**

Republic of the Congo is a country situated astride the equator in west-central Africa. As a whole it is sparsely inhabited, with more than half of its population living in the cities. The most populous city is the capital, Brazzaville, which is located in the southeastern corner of the country and is a major inland port on the Congo River. Slightly smaller than Montana, Congo-Brazzaville has a population of about 4 million people. A brief civil war in 1997 ushered in a period of ethnic unrest. Southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in March 2003, but the calm is tenuous and refugees continue to present a humanitarian crisis. For the most part, agriculture, which occupies more than one-third of the workforce, is subsistence in nature. In the savanna, land is cleared by burning, and women work the fields with hand tools. Cassava is the basic food crop everywhere but in the south, where bananas and plantains are prevalent. Rice is grown in the Niari valley and in the north around Djambala.
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.

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.

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 late18th 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.

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.

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.
**Global Connections**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Puerto Rico**
Puerto Rico, officially Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, is a self-governing island commonwealth of the West Indies, associated with the US. Puerto Ricans Puertorriqueños have an intermingled Spanish, U.S., and Afro-Caribbean culture. Puerto Rico’s economy, now based on services and manufacturing, was dominated by agriculture until the mid-20th century. In 2017, Puerto Rico was hammered by Hurricane Maria—the damage was estimated at more than $90 billion.
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, sugar cane, and peanuts.

Senegal

Located at the westernmost point of the continent and served by multiple air and maritime travel routes, Senegal is known as the “Gateway to Africa.” The country lies at an ecological boundary where semiarid grassland, oceanfront, and tropical rainforest converge; this diverse environment has endowed Senegal with a wide variety of plant and animal life. Some 39 languages are spoken in Senegal, including French (the official language), Arabic, Wolof, Serer, Fula, Diola, Bambara, Malinke, and Soninke. Agriculture occupies about two-thirds of the economically active population and provides the basis for industry as well. The most important crop has been the peanut, but, beginning in the 1980s, agriculture has been diversified.

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.

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.

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

WFI continually conducts research to identify hard-to-find ethnic crops that might garner high demand within immigrant communities in the U.S. We then work with small-scale farmers in other countries who grow those crops, and introduce them to these U.S. markets with an eye to maximizing profit for the growers, as well as filling culinary gaps in U.S. immigrant food culture.

WFI is not like other produce import companies—our primary focus is the profitability of the farmers we partner with. Because we work so closely with them, we are keenly aware of what prices will sustain their businesses. We are also instrumental in ensuring that there is reliable, year-round supply to meet demand in immigrant communities in the U.S. We do this by facilitating knowledge-sharing between our international producer partners and World Farmers program participants in New England, who can grow the same products locally during what is their off-season abroad. Notable past successes in this regard include taíoba, jiló and maxixe.

In 2017 WFI established the Muse brand, which promises a high-quality product that directly supports small-scale growers locally and internationally. Muse 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

Flats Mentor farmers engage in a unique collective marketing system, providing support for and access to both wholesale and retail markets. Retail markets are run and managed by the individual farmer with support and guidance offered by World Farmers upon request. All farmers sell under the Flats Mentor Farm banner to facilitate familiarity within the farmers’ market- and church-going customer base. Wholesale markets are managed by World Farmers staff, who aggregate crops and sell to grocers, mobile markets, schools, and restaurants. World Farmers also runs a CSA to support even the smallest-scale grower in their efforts to become a commercial grower.

FARMERS’ MARKETS

In 2019, Flats Mentor Farm sold at 24 markets across Massachusetts and also at special events, such as the Backyard Bolton Community Market.

WHOLESALE

In the 2019 summer season, produce from Flats Mentor Farm was sold weekly to eight grocery and specialty stores in the Boston area, two mobile markets, the Worcester Regional Food Hub, one public school, and various restaurants and small shops. World Farmers also aggregated produce for its 16-week CSA delivery service.
Successes from the 2019 Season

New Farm Sites
In 2018, World Farmers acquired the 12-acre Burgoyne Farm in Lancaster, which has been in use for its third consecutive season, with African White Corn, pumpkin greens, and several winter squash varieties in cultivation. Additionally, this year World Farmers secured leases with two other properties, a small parcel in Lancaster, and 10-acre-plus parcel in Sutton, MA. We were thrilled to be able to offer more land to every farmer who wanted to expand, allowing more farmers than ever to scale up in their business endeavors.

Soil Health
Sustainable farming practices are a priority at Flats Mentor Farm. Farmers incorporated organic fertilizer and lime into the soil at the start of the season, with the highest numbers of farmers incorporating soil health supplements to date. Throughout the season, farmers reduced tillage significantly and participated in a NOFA-MA workshop to better understand what it takes to build soil health. Over the month of October, dozens of farmers opted to plant cover crop on their land and on neighbors' land to promote long-term soil health and reduce erosion from spring flooding.

Pest Management
Throughout the season, UMass Extension visited the farm every other week for pest identification walks with farmers to promote integrated pest-management strategies among farmers across the farm. Some of the strategies farmers used this year included row cover, organic pesticides, and releasing beneficial wasps to combat pest pressure. Summer interns assisted World Farmers staff and Flats Mentor farmers in pest scouting efforts throughout the summer, particularly in the weeks UMass Extension could not visit the farm.

Wholesale
Flats Mentor farmers increased production of key cultural crops in demand in wholesale markets throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. World Farmers maintained key relationships with cultural grocers in Brockton, Roxbury, Watertown, Shrewsbury, and Framingham, selling thousands of pounds of cultural crops consistently week-to-week. Other important buyers were mobile markets in Worcester and Somerville, our local school district, the Worcester Regional Food Hub, and local restaurants.
Successes from the 2019 Season

Commercial Kitchen
2019 was the inaugural year of our MDAR grant-funded community kitchen in the Lancaster Community Center. We are pleased to say that we have acquired a commercial kitchen certification and a statewide wholesalers permit, so that we could successfully launch our first value-added product: peeled and diced winter squash. We have introduced this product to the local Nashoba Regional School District, selling up to 150 pounds per week.

CSA
In our third season of our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), World Farmers expanded the reach of our CSA program by adding a Partial Share option. This enabled us to serve smaller households, as well as those looking for a less expensive subscription. We enrolled our highest number of subscribers yet, and therefore increased the opportunity for farmers to sell. Shares are jam-packed with produce from our farmers—in fact for some, the CSA is their first sales outlet. The CSA introduces our subscribers to new crops, who look forward to their weekly inclusion of a featured cultural crop with a corresponding recipe card.

Student Interns
World Farmers hosted five intelligent, delightful, and hard-working summer interns from nearby high schools. The group completed plot assessments, assisted in packing for CSA deliveries, spearheaded CSA communications, and participated in pest identification and education, farmer outreach, media support, and general farm maintenance. Their CSA newsletters received rave reviews from our subscribers. Interns braved the heat, bugs, and weather to support the Flats Mentor farmers on multiple farm sites, all with a smile.
Caring for our Communities

We are proud to know that through supporting World Farmers, we are helping to create a strong foundation for all of us.

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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 the beneficiary 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!

All our Sponsors - featured throughout the program
- World Farmers Board Members
- Flats Mentor Farmers
- The Portuguese Club
- Our Entertainment Providers

Contributors to our Silent Auction:
- Boston Bruins
- Central Rock Gym, Worcester
- Longfellow Club, Natick & Wayland
- Lowell Spinners
- Southwick’s Zoo
- Karen Nunley (Featured Artist)
- Jane Parsons (Featured Artist)
- Peter Wise (Featured Artist)
- Flats Mentor Farmers

World Farmers was funded by various grant programs for Fiscal Year 2019:
- USDA NIFA-Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Grant
- USDA-AMS Local Food Promotion Program
- USDA-OPPE Outreach & Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged & Veteran Farmers & Ranchers
- The Health Foundation’s Activation Fund
- And smaller partnership grants with - Rural Coalition, UMass Amherst Extension, and Regional Environmental Council.

World Farmers
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Enjoy local produce
Support immigrant & refugee farmers in MA

World Farmers CSA

A unique program that includes farmers at every level of experience, the World Farmers CSA program aggregates produce from multiple refugee and immigrant farmers growing on the 70-acre Flats Mentor Farm in Lancaster, MA. Our CSA program creates an opportunity for even the smallest-scale farmers to start selling their crops, and helps them to build capacity toward larger, wholesale markets. Unlike other CSAs, we feature a cultural crop each week, highlighting the unique vegetables grown at the Flats and introducing our members to new vegetables and cuisines.

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