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# Support Local Agriculture: Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

Strong local and regional food systems increase access to fresh foods in both rural and urban areas, reducing hunger (food insecurity) in at-risk communities. These food systems also create jobs throughout rural America, supporting small and mid-sized farmers and revitalizing rural economies. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) supports local food systems through four major programs that foster productive relationships between farmers and communities.

From January 2014 to April 2016, NIFA helped develop and strengthen local and regional food systems by funding: **131 PROJECTS / \$103M**

## CFP

**COMMUNITY FOODS PROJECTS** fund non-profit organizations to develop and lead projects that offer community-based solutions to food access issues, increasing the capacity of communities to have self-reliant food systems.

*Community in action: increasing access for low-income Latino farmers and consumers*

Non-profit organization **Adelante Mujeres** uses CFP funding to increase market access and income for low-income Latino farmers. From 2014-2015, participating farmers experienced a **60% INCREASE IN SALES**, compared to the prior year.

## BFRDP

**THE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** supports projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to the next generation of farmers.

*Direct marketing initiative in South Texas*

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley offers training, apprenticeships, and assistance in small-scale farming techniques, marketing, and management to new Hispanic farmers and ranchers. From 2012-2015, more than **90 FARMERS** were trained each year, resulting in **78% of the farmers IMPROVING PRODUCTION** practices and **21% BEGINNING DIRECT MARKETING**.

## SARE

**THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EDUCATION PROGRAM** advances ag innovation that promotes profitability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and communities.

*Research on the impact of farmer-consumer interactions on production practices*

**The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project** studies how local food systems affect ag sustainability. Gaining an understanding of how **FARMER-CONSUMER INTERACTIONS** shape farmers' production practices and consumers' choices will inform future production and marketing practices.

## AFRI

**THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE** Food Security Challenge Area funds research that will sustainably increase ag productivity and access to safe and nutritious food.

*Connecting local food suppliers to mainstream markets*

North Carolina State University's "North Carolina Growing Together" trains and fosters relationships among producers and buyers, helping to overcome challenges in the local-to-mainstream supply chain. This project has **INCREASED MAINSTREAM SALES** of locally produced eggs, dairy, and produce by small and mid-sized producers.