LIFE Project

Legacy Innovation Farming Economics
Objectives

Enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under agriculture programs

Assist the Secretary of Agriculture in:

- **Reaching** current and prospective **socially disadvantaged** farmers or ranchers and **veteran farmers** in a linguistically appropriate manner; and,
- **Improving the participation** of those farmers and ranchers in **USDA programs**.

Photos by USDA - ARS
Program started in 1990

USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Socially Disadvantaged - African American, American Indian, Asian-American, and Latino farmers

Expanded to include veterans in 2014

Over $135 million in grants awarded
2501 Priorities

Assist socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches;

Improve participation among socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs;

Build relationships between current and prospective farmers and ranchers who are socially disadvantaged or veterans and USDA’s local, state, regional, and National offices;

Introduce agriculture-related information to socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers through innovative training and technical assistance techniques; and

Introduce agricultural education targeting socially disadvantaged youth, and/or socially disadvantaged beginning farmers and ranchers, in rural and persistent poverty communities.
Eligible Entities

- Community-based organizations, networks and coalitions
- Land Grant Institutions (1890, 1994, 1862)
- Indian Tribal Community Colleges
- Alaska Native Cooperative Colleges
- Hispanic Serving Institutions
- Tribal Governments and Organizations
- Other Institutions of Higher Education

“Organizations must have demonstrated expertise in working with underserved, socially disadvantaged and/or veteran farmer communities, and priority will be given to nongovernmental, community-based organizations serving these communities.”
2501 projects with AgrAbility partnership

Legacy Innovation Farming Economics (LIFE)
Cooperators:
• Peoples Foundation*
• Legacy Farming and Health Group
• National AgrAbility Project/Purdue University
Scope: National

Enhancing Participation through Outreach and Technical Assistance for USDA Programs in Wisconsin
Cooperators:
• Easter Seals of Wisconsin*
• Wisconsin AgrAbility
• University of Wisconsin Extension
Scope: Wisconsin

Springfield Community Gardens Veteran and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program in Greene and Webster Counties
Cooperators:
• Springfield Community Gardens*
• University of Missouri Extension
• Missouri AgrAbility
Scope: Greene & Webster Counties in MO
SRAP Opportunities

1. Strengthen existing programs
2. Expand client base
3. Build collaborations
BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIPS

• Increased network of staff and clients
• Increase in quality of work
BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen Existing Programs

- Increased funding
- Improved image
- Generates new ideas
- Increases exposure
BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIPS

- New audiences
- Multiplied impact

Expand Client Base
The Name

Legacy Innovation Farming Economics
The Problem
NAP’s Role

• 40 years of service to ag workers with disabilities
• Underserved populations outreach coordinator
• Veteran outreach coordinator
• Grant writing expertise
Benefits to the NAP

- Increased access to socially disadvantaged audiences
- Increase in socially disadvantaged farmers at NTW
- Increase in areas of expertise to offer clients
- Intangible benefits of partnership