

The Minnesota Project & Farmers' Legal Action Group

What: Partnership for the "Connecting Immigrant Farmers to Sustainable Markets Project," with the goal of increasing the income of Hmong immigrant farmers (most farming as a second or third job) by helping them find new markets. This will give them a steadier stream of income, and therefore the ability to purchase their own land and invest in it for the long term.

Keywords: Food system > Economic feasibility, Agricultural practices > Family farm, Agricultural practices > Local food, Food justice > Ethnic or racial dynamics, Distribution > Retail / sales opportunities

When/Where: Partnership began in 2011 for the "Connecting Immigrant Farmers to Sustainable Markets Project"
St. Paul

Who: The Minnesota Project (and their contacts with the buyers: chefs, university food service, etc.) and Farmers' Legal Action Group (and their contacts with farmers, particularly the Hmong community in this case)

Why: This project is an example of an effort to make connections between two areas of the food system that might not otherwise have easy channels of communication: local producers - particularly new immigrants dealing with a new language, culture, and food system - and buyers.

How: The MN Project and FLAG helped the farmers adjust their method of farming to better suit marketing to larger buyers, by planning ahead to fulfill the demand of the customer at a specific time, rather than just harvesting what happens to be ripe. They made connections between the producers and buyers, specifically to the University of St. Thomas and Macalester College.

<http://www.mnproject.org>