Refugee farmers face a number of barriers to professional success, including lack of access to capital; poor or no credit upon arrival to the U.S.; lack of knowledge on how to to buy or lease land; a need to develop a brand and expand markets; and affordability of insurance, annual inputs, organic certification and equipment/infrastructure.

The Organization for Refugee & Immigrant Success (ORIS) used its SARE grant to build off the successes of participants in its New American Sustainable Agriculture Project (NASAP), which assists refugees in New Hampshire in building sustainable farm enterprises that are consistent with their culture and lifestyle aspirations, and that strengthen regional sustainable food systems. Since 2011, 20 refugee farmers have developed farm businesses by accessing individual plots at a seven-acre “incubator farm” site in Dunbarton, N.H.

The NASAP farmers wanted to take over management of the farm site that they had committed their time and resources into, so ORIS coordinated advanced trainings to prepare them for independent management, including one-on-one support. The training pushed the refugees forward in transitioning from the incubator to independent businesses, and ORIS began looking for a new site for its NASAP incubator program.

With ORIS’s help, nine farmers developed an independent cooperative, which is functioning as its own entity and establishing long-term land tenure, and thirteen farmers attended financial literacy training workshops.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number ONE14-200.
SARE Grants in New Hampshire

SARE has awarded a total of 84 grants in New Hampshire since 1988.

- 40 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 12 Research & Education Grants
- 11 On-Farm Research Grants
- 9 Graduate Student Grants
- 8 Community Innovation Grants
- 4 Professional Development Grants

SARE’s Impact

- 53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.
- 79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.
- 64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

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SARE is funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to www.SARE.org