The goal of this project was to provide education on food storage for farmers and processors to increase postharvest competency and capacity in the region and ultimately improved product quality and farm viability.

Outcomes:

- **Development and delivery of a food storage curriculum** for farmers and processors focused on produce. Topics: crop physiology, optimal storage conditions (temperature and humidity), storage infrastructure (cold rooms, equipment, structure and materials), and controls and monitoring.

- **337 participants attended in-person workshops** totaling 1600 contact hours of educational programming.

- **1122 participants and 2200 contact hours** including meeting and conference presentations combined with webinars.

- **A web-based clearinghouse** of related resources was also developed (go.uvm.edu/cropstorage). The site hosts workshop materials, developed under the project, but also collects other existing resources with relevance to the topic. This site has had 18,000 page views over 3 years.

Impact:

- **Evaluation indicated strong, relevant knowledge development** with improved understanding of topic and related resources noted among 97% of workshop participants.

- The project has also increased awareness of the need for additional work in the postharvest arena leading to several other funded initiatives that will have lasting benefit to the region.

- This project coincided with and supported improved direct consultations with 660 producers over 3 years.