



NUag Impact Snapshot

Technical Assistance and Training



This impact snapshot is part of the National Urban Agriculture initiative and is based on interviews conducted at the NUag Conference, held August 4-6, 2024, in Detroit. Drawing from multiple participant interviews, we have crafted thematic snapshots to highlight key insights. Overall, 48 interviews were conducted across various participant groups. This particular snapshot amplifies perspectives on technical assistance and training, focusing on relevance, response, and results.

Relevance

Access to technical knowledge and training is crucial for urban farmers to stay competitive, especially with challenges like climate change, nutrient depletion, and water scarcity. Programs like the FSA's Conservation Stewardship Program and the Portland Hydroponics Project provide essential skills to adopt sustainable practices. Technical assistance and training is mentioned 11 times by the participants emphasizing the need. One farmer emphasized, "Without proper training, we can't compete." These initiatives help farmers transition to more efficient methods, ensuring long-term sustainability and empowering them to implement eco-friendly and resilient agricultural techniques.

Response

Cooperators are helping to address these needs by providing hands-on training in modern farming techniques. The Michael Branch collaboration demonstrates how targeted technical training can improve agricultural practices. Farmers in this program learn hydroponics, organic farming, and water conservation, increasing crop yields while reducing environmental impact. The Heal Oasis Project works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to merge traditional and modern farming practices, promoting sustainability. Additionally, the USDA offers workshops to teach farmers new technologies and best practices, ensuring they stay adaptable and sustainable.



Results

The success of technical training programs is reflected in the outcomes reported by participating farmers. In Portland, farmers in the Hydroponics Project saw increased crop yields and year-round production. One farmer noted, "Access to this knowledge allows us to stay competitive while also protecting the environment." These programs enhance productivity and profitability while fostering a community committed to sustainable farming practices. Farmers are now better equipped to tackle modern challenges and contribute to a resilient, environmentally conscious agricultural sector.



Disclaimer: This snapshot is provided for informational purposes only and reflects the perspectives of individual participants at the NUag Conference. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United States Department of Agriculture or any federal agency. This material is not intended to promote any specific policy or advocacy position and complies with Executive Order 14173 regarding merit-based and non-discriminatory federal program communications.