



NUag Impact Snapshot Organizational Growth & Capacity Building



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 organizational growth and capacity building, focusing on relevance, response, and results.

Relevance

For community-based organizations to thrive, they require strong strategies for sustainability, including reliable funding, leadership development, and operational support. Many local initiatives face challenges securing stable resources, planning for the long term, and managing regulatory requirements. Organizational growth is mentioned 51 times and capacity building 5 times, highlighting their importance. Without these supports, urban agriculture projects struggle to scale and sustain impact. Strengthening these areas is essential to ensure long-term success and effectiveness in addressing local food and environmental challenges.

Response

Organizations like Sisters United for Education and Kansas City Urban Growers (KCUG) are prioritizing capacity building through cooperative models and leadership development. Sisters United has created infrastructure that helps smaller organizations access federal funding, offering mentorship and administrative support to promote sustainability. KCUG has launched mini-grant programs for urban farmers, providing essential financial support to expand their operations. Additionally, USDA-funded programs such as micro-grants and cooperative agreements are playing a growing role in supporting local urban agricultural initiatives.



Results

These initiatives have strengthened urban agriculture networks and improved the sustainability of local food production. Support from cooperative agreements has helped more small-scale farmers transition from subsistence to self-sustaining businesses. Sisters United has connected local growers with federal resources, increasing access to grant opportunities. KCUG's mini-grant program has directly supported emerging farmers, helping them expand. These organizations are promoting long-term agricultural and economic resilience in their communities.



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.