

Re-Entry Scholarships

All educational incentives are aimed @ K-12 thru Ph D - ~~however~~ ^{re-entry training} these is nothing or no ~~more~~ ^{programs} ~~which are~~ for the ~~displaced worker~~ underemployed/unemployed who ~~have~~ heads of households. The ~~current~~ Information Age rendered ~~useless~~ the education + training programs ~~parts~~ of the industrial age. Global Companies added insult ~~further compound~~ to injury by forcing U.S. employees to train ~~the~~ ^{these} replacements → as companies closed down to U.S. plants ~~in foreign countries~~ ^{improve} profits. ~~cut costs + improve profits.~~

~~In this some way~~ ~~help~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~current~~ ~~programs~~ are aimed @ providing ~~low~~ ^{low} income housing which only perpetuates reliance on govt.

Not enough for heads of household
to have either educational funds
or unemployment. Need Scholarship
for ~~training~~ ^{the} ~~trainer~~ ^{program}
to provide living wage ~~these~~
during on-the-job training in
business cooperative so graduates
can share in the profits, ~~as well~~
^{and} ~~to~~ receive a living wage ~~to~~
~~train~~

Mondragon Cooperative (in
Spain) and
Cleveland Evergreen Cooperative

Executive Summary

URBAN FARMERS OF AMERICA – TUCSON

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Green technology and sustainable practices provide the potential to drive prosperity for the United States in the future. Controlled Environment Agriculture exemplifies the potential for green technology. Hydroponic greenhouses use 1/20th of the water and 1/10th of the land required by farmers in the production of fruits and vegetables. Since there is no seasonality, yield and profits can be predicted.

The mission of Urban Farmers of America Cooperative is to:

- a. Establish Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) hydroponic greenhouses in major urban areas across the United States and provide locally grown, nutritious fruits and vegetables to meet the annual demand of the local markets;**
- b. Provide training and jobs as farmers/growers for the underemployed/unemployed across the United States;**

PRODUCT OR SERVICE

Cooperatives of urban farmers growing fruits and vegetables in urban, controlled environment agriculture (CEA) /hydroponic greenhouses within 40 mile radius of metropolitan or urban areas.

OBJECTIVE:

- 1. Develop a certified training program in Urban Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). Utilize the Train the Trainer Concept to train underemployed/unemployed, developing their leadership skills to organize and manage the Cooperatives. Curriculum under development by Dr. Paul Bessey, PhD. (See attached notes)**

- 2. Develop a Cooperative Business Model to provide farmers/growers with a living wage, health and pension benefits, share in profits of cooperative, etc.**
- 3. Evaluate underutilized federal, state, county, city and tribal property located in/near large US cities or major urban areas. Develop a homestead program allocating appropriate acreage to provide food security for the citizens within a 40-mile area of the area.**
- 4. Establish criteria for SBA/Farm/Veteran's start-up loans to Urban Farmers of America Cooperative.**
- 5. Form Advisory Committee to provide guidance to Urban Farmers of America Cooperatives to:**
 - a. Develop bylaws promoting current sustainability concepts;**
 - b. Develop vision for future sustainability concepts (i.e., develop new sources of water, not just reallocate existing sources).**
 - c. Develop regulatory policies to ensure food safety commodity-specific best practices for growers.**
- 6. Encourage Cooperatives to develop divisions to manufacture/assemble greenhouses suitable to maximize production for their climate zone.**
- 7. All Cooperative greenhouses should include green technology to reduce costs, conserve water, and utilize alternative energy technology whenever possible.**

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A RESOLUTION

Relating to food security for Tucson and Southern Arizona Region; declaring support for the development of the Urban Farmers of America Cooperative to create jobs and train the underemployed/unemployed heads of household of Tucson in state-of-the-art technologies in controlled environment agriculture and other measures to spur economic development in food and food products and to ensure the nutritional health of Tucson citizens.

WHEREAS, while the population of the Southern Arizona region has increased 178% since 1969 (from 445,000 to 1.2 million), there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply; and

WHEREAS, Southern Arizona consumers spend \$3 billion each year buying food sourced outside the region, including \$1.9 billion for home use; and

WHEREAS, 75% of land in Arizona is managed by city, county, state, tribal, or federal governments; and

WHEREAS, 396,000 Southern Arizona residents (34%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines and spend \$800 million each year buying food sourced outside the region—including \$292 million of SNAP benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps) and additionally, WIC coupons (at this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced price lunches at school); and

WHEREAS, the region's 2,350 farmers receive an annual combined total of \$12 million in subsidies (2009), mostly to raise crops such as cotton, wheat, or rice that are sold as commodities, not to feed southern Arizona residents; and

WHEREAS, 75% of Arizona residents reported in 2009 that they do not eat five or more servings of fruit or vegetables each day—a key indicator of health, since proper fruit and vegetable consumption has been connected to prevention of diabetes, obesity, and heart conditions; and

WHEREAS, hydroponic greenhouses:

- use 1/20th of the water;
- use 1/10th of the land required by dirt farmers;
- as controlled environments, can ensure 12-month crop production (no seasonality);
- allow for predictability of yield and profit

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Tucson Mayor and City Council / (Pima County Board of Supervisors) shall convene a community-wide collaborative of stakeholders :

- 1) to evaluate our current food status;
- 2) to create a comprehensive plan to ensure Tucson has a sustainable, safe, affordable, and secure food supply;
- 3) to identify barriers and opportunities to implement this plan; and
- 4) to create a taskforce of stakeholders (business, government, educational, religious and community clusters) that will develop implementation strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the Mayor and Council shall urge Southern Arizona representatives to lobby Congress for \$12M subsidy allocated by the Senate for the production of fruits and vegetables.

* Local governments will need to identify local institutions that will provide investments in local food systems, and will invest government funds in these local institutions.



Text below is from a flier distributed by Controlled Environment Agricultural Center, University of Arizona, announcing Vertical Farming Workshop at University of Maryland on September 26, 2012:

"By the year 2050, expectations are that the human population will increase to 9 billion and to be further concentrated in urban centers. An estimated billion hectares of new land will be needed to grow enough food to feed the Earth. At present, over 80% of the land suitable for raising crops is already in use. Further, if trends in climate change persist, the amount of land available for farming will decrease. Since crops consume 87% of all water used globally, an increase in water usage is not possible. Finally, while the need is for 50% higher yield by the year 2050 to maintain the status quo, expectation is for agricultural productivity to decline significantly across the world, especially in densely-populated areas. There is an urgent need for high-yield agriculture that decreases the use of water and carbon-based inputs per unit of product, while simultaneously reducing vulnerability of crops to natural environmental conditions. Vertical farming (using controlled environments for urban agriculture) will reduce transportation energy required from the distant outdoor farms. Recent implementations have shown high yields in the production of vegetables in controlled environments. Water usage has been significantly reduced compared to traditional outdoor farming, and crops are