

National Immigrant Farming Initiative

Definitions & Criteria

What is an immigrant farmer?

Immigrant farmers are immigrants and refugees, including farmworkers, who aspire to have a farm business or are currently farming for the social and economic benefit of their family and community.

NIFI's Immigrant Farmer Matrix		
	Meets NIFI's Immigrant Farmer Definition	Must be determined on a case-by-case basis
Stage of Farming Career	<p>Aspiring farmers with a strong interest in farming or previous agricultural experience</p> <p>Beginning farmers</p> <p>Established farmers</p> <p>Youth involved in agriculture</p>	
Immigration Status and Generation	<p>First generation immigrants and refugees, including farmworkers, primarily from an agricultural background</p> <p>Second generation immigrants and refugees, including farmworkers, from an agricultural background</p>	<p>For example, individuals whose ancestors have been here for many generations and who are not considered immigrants, but who are engaged in farming and confronting cultural, language, social, and economic barriers as if an immigrant.</p> <p>For example, individuals who are not technically immigrants, but who live in a community that straddles the U.S. Mexico border and is predominantly Spanish-speaking.</p>
Farming Goals	<p>Full and part-time farmers who earn income through farming</p> <p>Producers who are farming land from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are sold, or would normally be sold, within one year</p> <p>Farmers and gardeners who earn supplemental income through food production, with the end goal of meeting the USDA definition of a farmer</p> <p>Producers who engage in production to improve their food security, or access to natural medicines or fibers, with the end goal of meeting the USDA definition of a farmer</p> <p>Multi-generational operations with potential to pass on land and knowledge</p>	
Other	Producers engaged in rural, suburban, or urban production	

What is an Immigrant Farming Project (IFP)?

- Immigrant farming projects have as their primary goal to help immigrants, refugees and/or farmworkers develop family farms that assure economic viability and sustainability of the family, community and the environment, and contribute to the local food system.
- Immigrant farming projects may be a) an organization whose primary mission is to support immigrant farming; b) an organization with several projects, at least one of which focuses on immigrant farming; or c) a group of immigrant farmers seeking to develop their own organization.
- Immigrant farming projects provide several of the following: training and technical assistance, marketing assistance, access to land and other farming infrastructure, succession planning support, connections to social services and the local community, and other services.
- Immigrant farming projects may work with immigrant groups representing one ethnicity or multiple ethnicities and/or nationalities. Some non-immigrant farmers may be involved, both as participating farmers or mentor farmers, but immigrant farming projects focus predominantly on building the success of immigrant farmers.
- Immigrant farming projects promote and practice sustainable farming.
- Immigrant farming projects have significant immigrant farmer involvement in project planning and implementation.
- Immigrant farming projects involve participants who meet NIFI's definition of an immigrant farmer.