

# Eastern District Funding for Innovative Programs

## Application Form

**Project Title:** Organic Methods and Certification Education for Hmong Clients

**Project Timeline:** April-August, 2005

**Funding Requested:** \$1,205

**Project Lead/Grant Applicant:** Judy Knudsen, Family Living Agent/Department Head (lead)  
Bill Wright, Community Garden Coordinator

**Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable):** M.O.S.E.S. (Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service)

### Situation Statement:

While nationwide the market for certified organic products is growing 18-20% annually, there still is a great deal of confusion as to what organic means and what is required for growers to be certified organic. The Brown County UW-Extension Community Gardens Program has encouraged organic methods for many years. However, the Community Garden site located on Hwy. 54 in Brown County is owned by the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and carries the stipulation that gardeners must use organic methods on this site.

### Project Description:

M.O.S.E.S (Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service) received a grant to conduct seminars at four locations in the state to educate market growers about organic production and the basics of certification. In discussions with M.O.S.E.S, they agreed to conduct one of the grant-funded sessions in Northeast Wisconsin and then on the same day at that location conduct a session for Hmong gardeners and growers with the use of an interpreter. During the two-hour Hmong presentation, participants will also be instructed in the use of floating row covers and given 12-foot pieces to use in their own gardens. In addition to the two-hour session, participants will each receive a follow-up visit during the growing season at their site to answer any questions that they may have about organic techniques.

### Goals:

The primary goal of this project will be to give Hmong growers a better understanding of what organic agriculture is and help them to utilize the techniques and receive feedback in the field. The secondary goal would be to provide an opportunity to those who are selling at market to better understand what steps must be taken to become a certified organic vegetable grower.

**Expected Outcomes:**

We expect that 20 gardeners will take part in the training and the majority will utilize the floating row cover material in their garden.

**Evaluation Plan:**

The project will be evaluated by examining the following factors:

- How many gardeners participated in the training.
- What percentage of the participants used the row cover material.
- What percentage of participants used the row cover material properly (i.e. edges securely fastened so insects cannot enter; was fabric removed for pollination; were plants given enough room to grow under the fabric; was fabric applied at the proper time).
- What percentage of those utilizing the floating row cover would use it again.

**Budget Breakdown:**

\$ 180 Floating Row Cover Material  
\$ 500 Interpreter; \$25/hour x 20 hours  
\$ 375 Garden Coordinator; \$15/hour x 25 hours  
\$ 150 Mileage  
\$1,205 Total

Speaker costs for time, travel and handouts will be covered by M.O.S.E.S

**Previous Resource Management Funds**

The Resource Management Team has funded several projects in the past. Season Extension Trials Using an Unheated Hoop House was funded in 2003 and again in 2004. This research project showed that unheated hoop houses could be used in our area to almost double the growing season for cool weather crops. In addition, we also gained a better understanding of insect problems that are faced in a closed environment. These results were shared during two field days (one included a Hmong interpreter) and led to discussion with the Green Bay Area Public Schools as to how they could incorporate a hoop house into their curriculum.

The Resource Management Team also funded the Oriental Vegetable Trial Project in 2003. This research project helped to determine sources for Asian vegetable seeds, demonstrated the variety of Asian vegetables which can be grown in our area, and involved Hmong gardeners in the trialing of several varieties of mustard greens. This information was shared in a field day (with a Hmong interpreter present), through a presentation to the Green Bay Garden Club, and also the taping of a segment for Wisconsin Public Television's Wisconsin Gardener program. The episode featuring the Asian vegetable trial information was aired three times in 2004.

This proposal is in no way related to the previous projects.