



## Northeast Incubator Farm Training Initiative Field School

May 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Portland, ME

Brought to you by



In partnership with



With generous support from





Abundant thanks to the many organizations and individuals that came together to make this Field School possible. In particular, the New Entry Sustainable Farming project would like to thank:

NE SARE for generous funding in support of professional development opportunities for Incubator Farm Project staff.

[www.nesare.org](http://www.nesare.org)

Our new fiscal sponsor, Third Sector New England.

[tsne.org](http://tsne.org)

Cultivating Community, for serving as a local host, supporting the planning and implementation of this Field School, and for exemplary work in the field of beginning farmer training.

[cultivatingcommunity.org](http://cultivatingcommunity.org)

Local Sprouts Cooperative for their assistance in planning and crafting a delicious lunch, and their commitment to local, fresh and organic products.

[localsproutSCOOPERATIVE.COM](http://localsproutSCOOPERATIVE.COM)

Aurora Provisions for donating a beautiful and tasty breakfast.

[auroraprovisions.com](http://auroraprovisions.com)

Rosemont Bakery for donating scrumptious snacks.

[rosemontmarket.com](http://rosemontmarket.com)



## Agenda

<b>May 7</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
10:00	Registration, Light Breakfast by Aurora Provisions	AVESTA: 409 Cumberland Ave
10:30	Welcome & Introductions	
11:00	Speaker   Claude Rwaganje, Community Financial Literacy	
12:00	Lunch by Local Sprouts	
1:00	Speaker/Workshop   Julia Shanks	
3:00	Break   Snack by Aurora Provisions	
3:15	Panel   Linzee Weld, Dan Pullman, Jon Jaffe	
5:00	Break	
5:15	Workshop M&E	
6:45	Conclude & Return to Hotel	
7:30	Dinner at Flatbread Pizza	Hyatt Place: 433 Fore St Flatbread: 72 Commercial St
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:00	Breakfast	Hyatt Place: 433 Fore St
9:00	Depart for Lewiston	
9:45	Greeting	Cultivating Community Incubator
10:00	Incubator Site Tour	1 King Rd, Lisbon, ME
11:45	Travel to B Street Community Center	B Street Community Center
12:00	Farmer Panel & Lunch	57 Birch St, Lewiston, ME
2:00	Tie Up M&E Work	
4:00	Brainstorm Next Steps, Evaluations	
5:00	Closing & Farewell	



## About the Speakers

**Claude Rwaganje** is the founder and Executive Director of Community Financial Literacy. He was born in the Democratic Rep of the Congo and became a refugee in Central Africa in the early 1990s. Claude Rwaganje is a recipient of the 2013 Harvard Center Community Partner Award for Outstanding New Initiative given by Bates College and the 2012 Spirit of Service award in recognition of exceptional service for the benefit of society given by Bowdoin College and the Joseph McKeen Center for common Good. He has also a member of the Financial Literacy Advisory Council since December 2010 a Council lead by Financial Authority of Maine.

**Julia Shanks** – chef and entrepreneur – consults with food businesses and farms, helping them maximize profits and streamline operations through business planning, feasibility studies and operational audits. Clients include Life Alive, Cuisine en Locale, The Elephant Walk, The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and City Growers. She lectures on sustainable food systems and restaurant accounting. She sits on the advisory board of Future Chefs and is the regional leader of Slow Money Boston.

**Dan Pullman** is a Managing Partner of Fresh Source Capital, LLC, a Boston-based sustainable food and agriculture investment firm focused on the work with Board positions for organizations addressing vital issues around food, health and the environment. These include: Food and Environment Reporting Network, Civil Eats, The Carrot Project, Yale's Sustainable Food Project and Food Tank.

**Linzee Weld** is on the Steering Committee of Slow Money Maine and is the President of No Small Potatoes Investment Club, two organizations which connect local farms and food businesses with financing and technical assistance. She consults with several farms and food businesses on their financial and business assistance needs. Linzee was the Business Manager at the Merriconeag Waldorf School. She was a Project Manager for the Community Builders and the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston.

**Jon Jaffe** is the Vice President and a Farm Business Consultant/Farm Tax Specialist at Farm Credit East, ACA. Jon was born and raised on a 60 cow dairy farm in upstate New York. After graduating from Cornell University in 1980, he operated his own dairy operation for a few years. Jon has worked for Farm Credit for over 30 years. During that time his responsibilities included work as a loan officer, assistant branch manager, tax specialist, appraiser, credit reviewer and farm business consultant. He has worked with a wide range of farm businesses in southern New England and New York.

**Hussein Muktar** is from Somalia and has been farming since 2009. In addition to working on the farm, Hussein serves as the Outreach Coordinator for NASAP.

**Asli Hassan** is from Somalia and has been farming since 2014. Asli worked for many years on her mom's farm in the program before taking on her own operation.

**John Yanga** is from South Sudan and has been farming for almost 10 years. John successfully sells his produce to Deering Oaks Farmers' Market.



## Maps & Directions



**To the Cultivating Community Incubator Site: 1 King Rd, Lisbon, ME**

Via I-295, take exit 31 for ME-196 W [Other mid-Coast residents, ME-196 W is accessed at the Topsham Fair Mall]. Travel West on ME-196 for 10.5 miles, then turn Right onto Littlefield Road. The sign for Littlefield Road can be easy to miss, but there is also a sign for the Packard Farm Stand and a business called BME at this intersection. Travel up the hill for 0.5 miles until you see King Road on your right. Instead of turning on King Road, at the same intersection, turn left onto an unmarked dirt driveway for the farm.

**Northeast Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI) – SARE Professional Development Project:  
Improving the Viability of Beginning Farm Enterprises by Strengthening Northeast Farm Incubator Projects**

**Project Activities and Timeline  
October 2014 – October 2016**

**Performance target: 40 staff of 20 Farm Incubator Programs (FIPs) develop standardized performance metrics, evaluation tools and data collection methodology related to key program educational components, and use these tools to improve the quality/quantity of educational programs and resources provided to 250 farmers. 20 staff from 10 FIPs use the new tools and methods to document the progress towards independence of 100 farmers via established benchmarks re: sustainable practices, yields, incomes, and access to capital, infrastructure and farmland.**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Date completed</b>
Participants receive notices about initiative 2-year activity timetables	June and October 2014
Program application, acceptance, and signed agreements to participate in 2-year program, including field schools, web meetings; implementation; consistent tracking, evaluation & reporting	October 2014
Project orientation meeting at NESAWG Conference	November 2014
Four in-person field schools over 2 years that address farmer transition (financial literacy, access to credit, access to land) and incubator and farmer metrics and evaluation. Hosted at various incubator sites throughout the Northeast (ME, VT, PA, NY)	Winter 2015; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Spring 2016
Use NIFTI and participant developed tracking materials to establish baseline metrics on multiple project elements (programs, admin., farmer outcomes)	January, 2015
Develop farming transition goals and developmental benchmarks with farmers to track over project period & beyond	January - March 2015
Participate in web forums and technical assistance exchanges, to help implement multiple tracking metrics and farmer transition planning steps.	Ongoing
Use organized online and informal meetings and communications for shared learning and peer-based networking (Community of Practice)	Ongoing
Contribute content to be posted to centralized resources clearinghouse	Ongoing
Access and use downloadable manuals and toolkits, interactive forums, webinar recordings, and FAQs organized by topic area	Ongoing
Apply tools, skills, and other shared experiences to incubator and farmer development activities	Ongoing
Projects complete and submit tracking data and project reports on agreed-to schedules that show progress in multiple domains	Quarterly after Jan. 2015
Develop and circulate case studies and success stories demonstrating qualitative changes to projects and farmers' transitions' to independence	Sept. 2015 - Oct 2016
NIFTI collects final evaluation data and creates reports summarizing metrics and outcomes	Oct 2016 – March 2017