

important basis for productive conversations between agricultural professionals and Hmong gardeners in the future. What is more, Hmong experiences in Thailand—perhaps more than their actual experiences in Laos—appear to have set the stage for their increasingly commercial vegetable production in Massachusetts. It is to this context that we should continue to look to gain further insights into the context for Hmong beliefs about gardens and entrepreneurship. Every agricultural professional seeking to provide services to immigrant farmers should engage in conversations about the farmers' previous experiences and beliefs. Only by doing so will we be able to develop a respectful and reciprocal exchange of information. As agricultural professionals seek to work with these farmers, they must take a critical stance towards their own knowledge and institutional context. It is important to respect the knowledge and experience of immigrant farmers, even when it is very different from American practices.

- Hmong farmers have sophisticated understandings of agricultural production and pest control. They would benefit from extremely specific safety information about the practices that they currently use, which are limited to using pesticides available retail. Hmong farmers would benefit from an approach to choosing pesticides that encourages them to seek information about active ingredients and well as specific crop recommendations. They would likely benefit from information about safely storing and transporting pesticides. As well, they would benefit from additional information about simple non-chemical pest management strategies, such as row cover, kaolin protectants, Bt, and crop rotation. This information was introduced to many farmers through the demonstration garden, but future demonstration gardens and assistance locating non-chemical pest management products would help.
- Land ownership should be encouraged in any way possible since this would provide incentives for Hmong farmers to practice land and water stewardship.