Building Collaborative Networks for Food System Resilience

Michigan Food & Farming Systems
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Michigan GroupGAP Network
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Our mission:
Connecting beginning & historically underserved farmers to each other and to resource opportunities; ensuring social justice, environmental stewardship, and profitability.
- Veterans in Agriculture
- Women in Agriculture
- Red De Productores Hispanos
- Beginning & Underserved Farmers Network
• Experts in food safety, USDA Programs, environmental stewardship, etc
• Workshops, field days, conferences
• Field specialists
Recommendations for Building Culturally Appropriate Networks

- Work with and elevate local community leaders, empower them to drive the work and support them to become resource providers to their peers.

- LISTEN FIRST! The more you actively listen and encourage open conversation the more you will learn and the more trust you will build.

- Be very open, transparent and respectful.

- Meet people where they are at! Seek them out and don’t expect them to come to you. Sometimes this takes repeated encounters to build trust.

- Create a safe, inclusive and supportive environment that facilitates discussion.

- Let the network develop their own name and rules of engagement.

- Ask questions, let communities identify their unique needs and tailor programming to meet their needs at the local level in a culturally appropriate manner. Ask your leaders for guidance!

- Don’t make big promises you can’t keep, set realistic expectations and always follow through.

- Understand that there are very complex cultural relationships within peer to peer communities and tailor organizing to respect those dynamics.
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Please stay in touch!

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