



**Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference**  
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## **11th Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference Saturday and Sunday, January 30 & 31, 2016 in St. Paul, Minnesota**

**ST. PAUL, MN** — Minority and immigrant farmers are invited to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference (IMFC). The conference will be held on Saturday, January 30 & Sunday, January 31 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

**Immigrants and women are the fastest growing sector of farmers.** The conference supports these new and aspiring farmers and their contributions to building an adequate supply of local foods, local economic development and healthy communities. Hosted by a collaborative of farmers, volunteers, and government, nonprofit, and University of Minnesota personnel, the two-day conference provides education and resources to small farm operators, and fosters relationships between farmers and community partners.

The theme of the 2016 Conference is “Inspiring Confidence, Promoting Success.” The keynote presenter on Saturday, January 30 is May Lee, one of the first Hmong farmers in Minnesota to be certified organic. The keynote presenter on Sunday, January 31 is Robert Lor of Robert & See Moua’s Little Garden, a rising leader in the Hmong farming community in Minnesota.

The conference is free to farmers. **Language interpretation is available in Spanish, Hmong, Karen, Bhutanese, and Somali.** The cost for other interested people is \$60 for one day and \$100 for both days.

Registration is on-line at <http://2016imfc.eventbrite.com>, or by calling Hli Xyooj at 651-223-5400. Registration closes January 18, **but no farmers will be turned away.** Interested farmers and community-based members who have questions should contact Mai Pakou Yang or Hli Xyooj at Farmers’ Legal Action Group (FLAG), at 651-223-5400 or [imfconf@gmail.com](mailto:imfconf@gmail.com).

Major sponsors of the conference include AgriBank, AgStar Financial Services, USDA-Farm Service Agency, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farmers’ Legal Action Group, Hmong American Partnership, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Food Association, USDA-FSA, The Linda & Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, Mississippi Market, United FCS, and the University of Minnesota Extension.