

Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMP Tool

Title: Harvesting Our Potential: Training Beginning Women Farmers Through Mentorship

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Affiliation: Women Food and Agriculture Network (wfan.org)

Funder: United States Department of Agriculture (usda.gov)

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Template: USDA-NIFA: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Project abstract:

Women are underserved and underrepresented in agriculture, which leads to ongoing barriers to accessing land, information, and crucial resources, and feeling isolated or unwelcome in agricultural networks and service offices. The goals for this project include 1.) providing opportunities for beginning and intermediate (under 10 years) women farmers in the Midwest (IA, WI, IL, MN, NE and OH), to access local mentorship relationships and resources needed to make best decisions for their future business plans and/or current operations, and 2.) giving aspiring women farmers connections that boost interest, confidence and commitment in choosing farming as a career. Ultimately this project will result in greater success rates for the sustainability of women's farming operations and an increase in start-ups of women-owned and operated farm businesses.

The Women, Food & Agriculture Network has been coordinating successful aspiring and beginning farmer programming for over 20 years, which has included facilitating one-on-one mentorships, mentor trainings, Learning Circles and other networking and training opportunities. In addition to these ongoing program offerings, this project will incorporate farm-sitting as a dynamic component, which will give aspiring and beginning women farmers valuable experience managing the day-to-day farm operations. Farm-sitting will also support experienced women farmers in leaving their farms to gain additional education and training opportunities.

Key activities include stipend-supported one-on-one mentorships, farm sitting and learning circles. 100% of total federal funds requested are allocated to NGOs/CBOs to serve socially disadvantaged audiences.

Start date: 09-15-2023

End date: 09-14-2026

Last modified: 07-08-2024

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Harvesting Our Potential: Training Beginning Women Farmers Through Mentorship

Expected Data Type

Describe the type of data (e.g. digital, non-digital), how it will be generated, and whether the data are primary or metadata.

- **Research examples include: lab work, field work and surveys.**
- **Education examples include: number of students enrolled/participated, degrees granted, curriculum, and training products.**
- **Extension examples include: outreach materials, number of stakeholders reached, number of activities, and assessment questionnaires.**

Please note that Women, Food & Agriculture Network (WFAN) is NOT applying for this funding as a Research or Educational grantee. However, WFAN is cognizant that all projects will generate data, and is committed to maintaining the integrity and security of that data.

Data will be both digital and non-digital and will include online program participant registrations, outreach materials, project activity tracking and assessment questionnaires.

Data are both primary - such as program participant registrations and feedback and metadata - and secondary as generated by the project evaluators.

Data Format

For scientific data to be readily accessible and usable it is critical to use an appropriate community-recognized standard and machine readable formats when they exist. If the data will be managed in domain-specific workspaces or submitted to public databases, indicate that their required formats will be followed. Regardless of the format used, the data set must contain enough information to allow independent use (understand, validate and use) of the data.

Data will be managed in domain-specific workspaces. Expected data management tools include cloud-based storage via Google Drive and within Google Docs, as well as on secured desktops utilizing Microsoft Office (.xls), Tableau (.jpg/.gif), and - as appropriate - other GIS mapping and/or data analysis tools. Program participant data will be stored in our secure cloud database, Powerbase. Formats and programs were selected with staff expertise (Google Docs/Office) and preference of open-source databases (Powerbase)

Data Storage and Preservation

Data must be stored in a safe environment with adequate measures taken for its long-term preservation. Applicants must describe plans for storing and preserving their data during and after the project and specify the data repositories, if they exist. Databases or data repositories for long-term preservation may be the same that are used to provide

Data Sharing and Public Access. Estimate how much data will be preserved and state the planned retention period. Include any strategies, tools, and contingency plans that will be used to avoid data loss, degradation, or damage.

WFAN anticipates that less than 1TB of data will be generated over the course of the project. As noted above, all data is securely stored in cloud-based repositories. Any data generated or manipulated on secured desktops is stored long-term in cloud-based repositories. No personally-identifying information (PID) such as social security numbers, birthdates, or banking/financial information for program participants will be collected nor stored. Program participant contact information will be housed in the secure cloud-based database program, Powerbase. Any downloads of participant contact information will be housed in the cloud-based repository (Google Drive) with limited, secure access.

Data Sharing and Public Access

Describe your data access and sharing procedures during and after the grant. Name specific repositories and catalogs as appropriate. include a statement, when applicable, of plans to protect confidentiality, personal privacy, proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights. Outline any restrictions such as copyright, confidentiality, patent, appropriate credit, disclaimers, or conditions for use of the data by other parties.

Program participant confidentiality will be maintained, and no data will be shared beyond WFAN members without express permission of program participants. Photo, recording, and written content releases are obtained for evaluative and outcome sharing.

Data will be shared by PD and Key Staff through password protected cloud-based accounts.

Roles and Responsibilities

Who will ensure DMP implementation? This is particularly important for multi-investigator and multi-institutional projects. Provide a contingency plan in case key personnel leave the project. Also, what resources will be needed for the DMP? If funds are needed, have they been added to the budget request and budget narrative? Projects must budget sufficient resources to develop and implement the proposed DMP.

Co-PD, Juliann Salinas - WFAN's Executive Director - will ensure DMP implementation in collaboration with PD Stephanie Enloe. She will also be responsible for dissemination of the DMP to all key staff and contributors. DMP policies and protocols will be shared with WFAN Executive Team staff, Key WFAN staff and WFAN's Board Governance Committee to ensure redundancy and accessibility in the unlikely event of Ms. Salinas' or Ms. Enloe's departure from the project. The funds necessary to develop and implement the DMP have been included in both this project's budget as well as overall agency planning budgets.
