

FUTURE FARMERS



THE CHALLENGE OF
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FOR
**BLACK
FARMERS**
IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA



SETTLER COLONIALISM, WHITE SUPREMACY AND CAPITALISM



1.2
MILLION Black
Canadians
living in
Canada

HAVE CREATED AN OPPRESSIVE
SYSTEM FOR BLACK CANADIANS
IN ACHIEVING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.



52.4% Black
Canadians
live in Ontario



75.2% Black
Canadians
live in the GTA

Yet, there is still a major
lack of access to
healthy and cultural foods.



THE PROBLEM LANDSCAPE

PROBLEM 1:

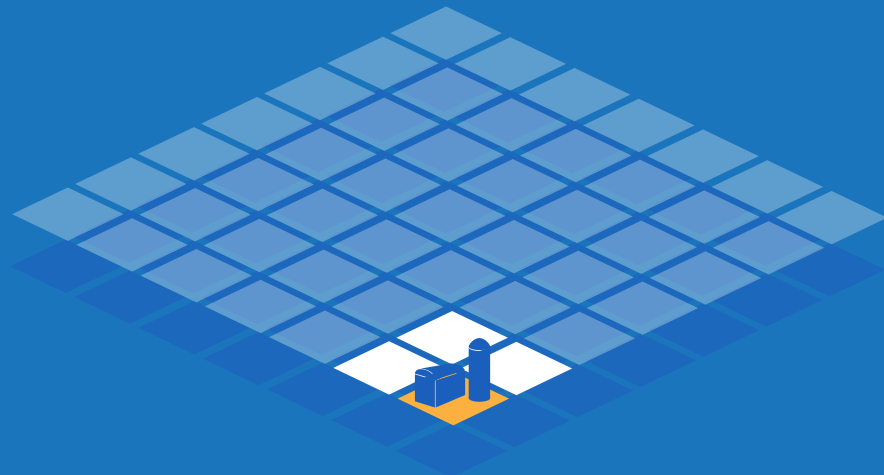
LAND OWNERSHIP & ACCESS

TO LAND IN THE GTA

- Currently no specific funding granted for new farm ventures in Ontario
- From 2011-2016 Ontario saw a 40% increase in \$/acre

BLACK CREEK COMMUNITY FARM

Only black-owned farm in the GTA,
3.2 hectares in size



AVERAGE FARM IN ONTARIO

As of 2016, avg. farm in Ontario
was 249 hectares in size



THE PROBLEM LANDSCAPE

PROBLEM 2:

HISTORICAL & PRESENT DAY EXPLOITATION

OF BLACK CANADIAN LABOUR
IN FOOD PRODUCTION



Intergenerational trauma caused by slavery contributes to a reluctance for Black Canadians to engage in farming

“

THE STARK GAPS IN HISTORY SPEAK TO HOW BLACK FARMERS ARE SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY POSITIONED AS MINORITY AMONG CANADIAN FARMERS AND THE LACK OF REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING.

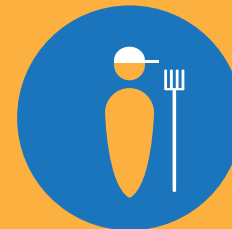
— ABENA OFFEH-GYIMAH, CEO OF ADDABLOOMS

”



Generally, there is a lack of representation among urban farmers in the GTA that reflect the identities of Black Canadians

...Rather...



Black Canadians are often employed within laborious and precarious roles in farming



THE PROBLEM LANDSCAPE

PROBLEM 3:

LACK OF ACCESS TO & PRODUCTION

OF ETHNO-CULTURAL VEGETABLES OR ECVs (EX; PAPAYA AND OKRA)

The current supply chain results in increased cost of ECVs:



The ideal supply chain would localize the production and minimize costs:



STATS

29.4% of Black Canadian households experience food insecurity (i.e. lack access to affordable and healthy foods).

However, Black Canadians living in the GTA spend an average of **\$7 MILLION** /month on ECVs

THE SOLUTIONS LANDSCAPE

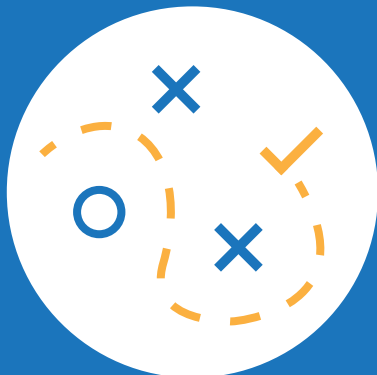
SOLUTION 1:

COLLABORATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING

WITH MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS



Educate, support local initiatives, enact policies, and develop programs that can shape the local food system and respond to the specific needs of their citizens.



Work on community food system planning: the integration of food system considerations into community project, planning process, and policy development, with the goal of improving a community's food system.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING PROJECTS

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE AND THE ONTARIO CSA DIRECTORY

A type of cooperative where community members buy a share in a farm's harvest, and may also be engaged in farm labour. In Ontario, there is an online directory that lists farmers who offer weekly, freshly picked farm-raised food boxes to members within their CSA.

THE SOLUTIONS LANDSCAPE

SOLUTION 2:

MOBILIZING BLACK CANADIANS

FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



Efforts to mobilize communities creates a commitment to build a collective movement for food sovereignty by forging alliances and extending solidarity.



The United Nations has declared 2014-2024 as the International Decade for the People of African Descent, as a way to provide a solid framework for actors to collaboratively take effective measures for the implementation of activities in the spirit of recognition and justice.

This recognition can be used as an opportunity to mobilize food sovereignty activists, and to honour heritage of the community as food producers.

EXAMPLE ADINKRA FARM

Adinkra Farm is led by community members and acts as a place to reclaim, build, and grow a sustainable community, and is based on the Adinkra symbol (Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo) that describes cooperation and interdependence as central to the formation of community. Community members are invited to participate in renovation and refurbishment projects to reclaim the existing property. Examples include building new indoor and outdoor spaces or cultivating the land to grow produce to support secure food sources.

GAPS & LEVERS FOR CHANGE

GAP	LEVER OF CHANGE	EXAMPLE
Financial and Legislative Support	Provincial government assistance in creating land ownership programs and funding opportunities	Allocating a part of the provincial budget to providing seed funding for Black farmers in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)
Acknowledgement and Research	Institutional research on the barriers and experiences of Black farmers in the GTA	Provide research funding for Black scholars to perform research on the number of Black farmers in the GTA

GAPS & LEVERS FOR CHANGE

GAP	LEVER OF CHANGE	EXAMPLE
Youth Development Programs	Designate funds to run farming programs for Black youth	Provide sustained funding for existing farming programs for Black youth in the GTA
Federal Action	Granting land from historically Black settlements to Black farmers in Ontario	Adhere to United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent declaration