NIFTI Outcomes – 2012-2013

The National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI) is a program of the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, which has trained and assisted the next generation of beginning farmers in Massachusetts since 1998. NIFTI provides comprehensive one-on-one consulting, educational resources, and professional development opportunities for dozens of organizations that run land-based beginning farmer training programs throughout North America.

- ***Recruit clients and engage national partners TA and community of practice (CoP) efforts.***

  - Compiled and continuously update database of incubator projects throughout U.S. **105 known incubator projects** or organizations starting incubator projects in the near future **up from 45 at the start of 2012**.
  - Created incubator project list serve (158 subscribers) and targeted newsletter updates and email lists (238 subscribers).
  - One-on-one contact including project intake surveys and TA referrals with over **80 organizations in 35 states**.
  - Mapped all **115 incubator projects throughout North America**. Map has been made available to multiple audiences at conferences, on both our wiki and website, and to multiple farmer advocacy organizations.
  - Developed TA protocols in areas of Agricultural Business Planning Training, Strategic Planning, Fundraising for Incubator Programs, and Working with Limited Resource Farmers.
  - TA tools have been collected and distributed through one-on-one TA, the NIFTI Wiki, packets created for Incubator Field School participants, and will also become part of a **comprehensive Farm Incubator Toolkit set for release in Sept. 2013.**

- ***Establish a national TA request and referral system.***

  - Developed streamlined protocols for referral and provision of technical assistance including intake forms, provider and recipient evaluations, and hours and outcomes tracking.
  - New Entry, along with our five NIFTI partners have **provided over 120 hours of technical assistance to 43 incubator projects since May of 2012.**

- ***Develop a national webinar series on incubator farm program topics.***

  - Recruited partners and facilitated development of presentations and delivery of **seven webinars.**
  - Received a total of **598 registrations from 331 distinct organizations in 47 states.**
  - 80 percent of attendees who filled out a webinar evaluation said they found the webinars to be "very" or "extremely" useful and interesting.
  - Webinars have received **over 600 views on YouTube** to date, and are accessible both from the New Entry website and the NIFTI Wiki for ongoing access.

- ***Develop a web-based national clearinghouse for farm incubator resources and support.***

  - Created the "NIFTI Wiki" an online repository for farm incubator resources which contains **150 individual documents from over a dozen organizations** on a broad range of topics and in multiple languages.
  - Created a section of the existing New Entry website which explains our program and services. This site has received an average of **327 unique page views per month in the past year, reaching a peak of 485 page views in March 2013.**

- ***Develop case studies, success stories, and best practices reflecting effective organizational development by farm incubators.***

  - Created a series of documents reflecting New Entry's experiences with various aspects of incubator project operation.
  - Supervised a survey of all incubator projects nationwide.
  - **Eight case studies of farm incubator projects** at various stages of program development and in all major U.S. geographic regions **will be completed by September 2013.**

- ***Organize a multi-day Incubator Farm School and CoP national meetings.***

  - The First Annual NIFTI Incubator Field School in October 2012 was attended by over **35 participants from 24 organizations in 18 states.**
  - Event evaluations show 77 – 96% of participants rating presentations as good or excellent, and 85 – 100% of participants rating site visits as good or excellent.
  - The Second Annual NIFTI Incubator Field School will take place in Marine on St. Croix, MN, in September 2013. The collaborative planning process for this conference reflects greater involvement and ownership of program on behalf of more incubator projects. We project an **estimated 43 participants** at this event from as many organizations.

For more information on the National Incubator Farm Training Initiative, visit: http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu/resources/nta.html or contact Eva Agudelo Winther: eagudelo@comteam.org.