

New Entry
Sustainable Farming
Project

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

<<<3.19.07>>>>

For more information, please contact:

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
Kimberley Fitch, kfitch@comteam.org, 978-654-6745
World Peas Cooperative
Suliman Kamara, skamara@comteam.org, 978-654-6745
United Teen Equality Center, Fresh Roots Program
Derek Mitchell, dmitchell@utec-lowell.org, 978-441-9949

World Peas Cooperative CSA Extends its Deadline and Announces Collaboration with UTEC Fresh Roots Program to Serve the Greater Lowell Community

World Peas Cooperative extends its CSA deadline to April 15, 2007, allowing more time for residents to sign up to enjoy fresh locally grown produce throughout the growing season.

The World Peas Cooperative is a network of immigrant farmers who have completed an 18-week agricultural training course with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP). NESFP provides training and technical assistance, access to land, and connects farmers with markets for their produce. The farmers who participate in the World Peas Coop are mostly from Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America and they grow high quality produce at farms located in Dracut and Sutton, Massachusetts. The efforts of these immigrant farmers' help to promote food security and sustain the region's agriculture. World Peas Cooperative also collaborates with

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP), a non-profit organization based in Lowell, is the sponsor of World Peas Cooperative. NESFP fiscal sponsors are Community Team Work, Inc and Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

established farms in the greater Merrimack Valley to market farm products that compliment what the cooperatives' members produce (e.g, fruit, honey, eggs, locally raised meats, etc).

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a farmer-consumer partnership. CSA members make a commitment up front to a farmer (or farmers) for the entire growing season by buying a "share" in the season's harvest. In return, farmers provide members with a weekly supply of fresh vegetables and herbs throughout the growing season. What is unique about the World Peas CSA is the high quality and diversified ethnic produce it offers as well as traditional American varieties of vegetables that are fresh-picked, sustainably grown, and available to members the same day! This year, World Peas Coop's CSA is also offering a fruit share and a winter share.

In an effort to serve the greater Lowell community and its adjacent towns, UTEC joined forces with NESFP in partnership to further enhance the efforts of NESFP's World Peas Cooperative and UTEC's Fresh Roots Program. On Monday, March 12, 2007, the technical team of both programs agreed to collaborate as follows: NESFP farmers will serve as mentors to UTEC youth during this summer in nursery management, specialized crop cultivation, agricultural produce marketing and UTEC's Fresh Roots program will sell its surplus produce through World Peas Cooperative. Also, UTEC will make available its newly renovated commercial kitchen to NESFP farmers who will embark on a new initiative this summer to add value to their produce.

United Teen Quality Center (UTEC) is a safe-haven program for youth development and grass-roots organizing. UTEC is a multi-cultural place of belonging, which emphasizes the holistic development of Lowell's young people. Teens involved in the UTEC Fresh Roots Program

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP), a non-profit organization based in Lowell, is the sponsor of World Peas Cooperative. NESFP fiscal sponsors are Community Team Work, Inc and Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

grow and cook healthy food to feed and educate our community. This group manages a two-acre organic vegetable plot in Dracut and a commercial kitchen in downtown Lowell.

The World Peas Cooperative and UTEC's Fresh Roots collaboration will increase the capacity, diversity, and impact of the 2007 CSA program, thus increasing the value of CSA shares for all members. If you would like more information about the World Peas CSA program, please call: 978-654-6745.