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Mission & Programs

The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA’s mission is to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms.

Our Vision

• Family farmers have the power to earn a fair and dependable income.
• Everyone who labors in agriculture is respected, protected, and valued by society.
• Air, water, and soil are preserved for future generations.
• The land yields healthy and abundant food and fiber that is accessible to all members of society.
• The full diversity of seeds and breeds, the building blocks of agriculture, is reinvigorated and publicly protected.

Programs

Come to the Table

The mission of Come to the Table is to relieve hunger and strengthen just and sustainable agriculture in rural North Carolina. We do this by engaging and mobilizing people of faith, farmers, and communities.

Just Foods

Our Just Foods program promotes a systems-based approach to a more sustainable food and fiber system both nationally and internationally. The program is led by Michael Sligh, a long-time activist and farmer who has spent his career advancing the sustainable agriculture movement. The program takes a multi-pronged approach to the issues at hand, leveraging partnerships and coalitions to achieve greater results.
Programs

Farm Sustainability

We directly assist farmers, providing expert technical assistance in the areas of farm finance and risk management. We equip farmers to navigate federal farm programs and better manage risk. Our work side-by-side with farmers is the basis of what we do and guides all of our programs.

Agricultural Reinvestment Fund

The Agricultural Reinvestment Fund grant program assists farmers and rural communities in developing new sources of agricultural income through the provision of cost-share grants. The program awards grants of up to $8,000 to individual farmers, or $10,000 for collaborative projects in North Carolina.

Contract Agriculture Reform

RAFI works with contract livestock producers across the southeast to understand the good and bad experiences of contract farming. Drawing primarily from farmers’ experience with poultry production contracts, RAFI provides analysis of the long-term social, legal, and economic impacts of the contract agriculture system and possible viable alternatives. In collaboration with other national farm and community organizations, RAFI works for reforms to protect the family farmer who turns to contract production.
2016 By the Numbers

3,000,000,000+
More than 3 billion wildflower seeds planted on farms as part of our pollinator habitat initiative supported by Burt’s Bees.

9,626,000
Dollar value of assets saved and new loans or grants obtained on behalf of family farmers by our Farm Advocacy team.

120,000+
Dollars in new farm income generated by 2016 projects of our Agricultural Reinvestment Fund grant program.
63,000+
Signatures on a petition started by one of the contract poultry farmers we work with asking Congress to let the Agriculture Department write its final regulations for protecting growers in contracts with meat processing companies.

45,000+
Miles logged by RAFI staff to assist farmers across the U.S.
100
Number of jobs created by RAFI’s Agricultural Reinvestment Fund grantees. The grant program provides $8,000 to $10,000 grants to farmers or farmer groups to develop new entrepreneurial enterprises to replace lost tobacco income.

99
The number of farm families that our farm advocates served, providing emergency financial counseling and assistance with lender and agency negotiations, keeping them in their homes and on the land.
Farmers participated in RAFI’s Breeding for Organic Production Systems on-farm field trials, including sowing of pollinator plant seeds.

Projects funded through RAFI’s Agricultural Reinvestment Fund.

RAFI staff who did all of this.
Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Private Foundations & Public Funds
- Individual Contributions
- Service Contracts & Honoraria
- Corporate Contributions, Rental Income & All Other Support

(Percentage of Revenue by Source)
Revenue & Expenses Cont’d

Expenses

- Program Services: 91%
- General and Administrative: 7.5%
- Fundraising: 1.5%

(Percentage of Expenses by Source)
RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL-USA  
Statements of Activities  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Foundations and Public Funds</td>
<td>$481,699</td>
<td>$2,158,572</td>
<td>$2,640,271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Dues</td>
<td>202,475</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>204,785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>76,461</td>
<td>10,949</td>
<td>87,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Contracts and Honoraria</td>
<td>112,648</td>
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<td>112,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15,423</td>
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<td>15,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
<td>3,700</td>
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<td>3,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>8,846</td>
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<td>8,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events Income</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,290</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>27,089</td>
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<td>27,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>846</td>
<td></td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Value of Charitable Gift Annuity</td>
<td>(433)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(433)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>1,023,373</td>
<td>(1,023,373)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Support and Revenue</td>
<td>1,955,417</td>
<td>1,148,438</td>
<td>3,101,855</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES:

| Program Services                                  | $1,707,546   |              | $1,707,546 |
| Support Services                                  |              |              |           |
| General and Administrative                        | 140,335      |              | 140,335   |
| Fundraising                                       | 30,224       |              | 30,224    |
| Total Support Services                            | 170,559      |              | 170,559   |
| Total Expenses                                    | 1,878,105    |              | 1,878,105 |

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

|                             | 75,312       | 1,148,458    | 1,223,770 |

NET ASSETS--Beginning of Year

|                             | 563,227      | 1,239,485    | 1,802,712 |

NET ASSETS--End of Year

|                             | $638,539     | $2,387,943   | $3,026,482 |