



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation



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CTGrown.gov

**Connecticut Department of Agriculture Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Working Group
Market Access and Diversification**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 2,
2021
11:00-12:00 PM

Held virtually
Recording is available here:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/5z2D0k5k8eBdeQ0umsCl1EGrprZCDrjGw8NC8SR1RnODRW5xVUEGlxAfYrUSWea3.VCkpvIajKrPI7imi> Passcode: huGf+i7^

Members Present: Shana Smith, Vicheth Im, Brandon Blank, Tida Infahsaeng, Debbie Thomas-Sims, Yvonne ReneeDavis, John Filchak
Members Absent: Frankie Douglass, Mary Claire Whelan
DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 11:00AM by Deborah Sims and members shared how their Thanksgiving was.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. No old business
3. **New Business**
 - a. Continued conversation and further identify topics of focus
 - b. Cyrena gave an overview of Farm to School Programming in CT, DoAg's new grant opportunity and touched on information about the Farm to School Collaborative and their new steering committee.
 - c. The group discussed the importance of working with both schools and early childhood centers and how they can be a good market outlet for producers particularly when done with aggregation. Herb Virgo at the Keney Park Sustainability Project was pointed out as a good example of this work being done.
 - d. Much of the conversation shifted to the need for DoAg to have some measure of communicating the importance of not price discriminated or any other forms of discrimination against customers from producers. Suggestions were made such as including DEI training in farmer certification meetings, having a nondiscrimination clause for produce to agree to if they want to use the CT Grown logo.
4. **Public Comment- NONE**
5. **Next Steps-** DEI Core Working Group meeting January 25, 2022 from 1:30-3:00PM. Cyrena will send out year end summary and information about the CT Farm to School Collaborative.
6. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM by Vicheth Im

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR I, December

14, 2021

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