

WHAT IS THE CO-OP/ Why would I want to buy from this co-op?

What is a Cooperative?

According to a definition by the United States Department of Agriculture (USAD): "A cooperative is a user-owned, user-controlled business that distributes benefits on the basis of use." Typically co-op members, who join an agricultural cooperative business, contribute yearly or monthly fees to help run and manage the farm in return for a supply of fresh produce.



Why Join a Cooperative?

- **Better Prices:** Cooperatives cut the middle-man out, allowing consumers to get the better prices.
- **Better Produce:** Cooperative partnerships between farmers and consumers guarantee that the consumer will get best produce available.
- **Better Nutrition:** In joining an agricultural cooperative members have a dependable supply of organic produce that will promote a healthy diet.
- **Supporting Local Agriculture:** In joining an agricultural cooperative members are supporting the sustainability of our local farming community.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUR PRODUCE?

Gila Farms

Hours Vary (Actual site of the Farmer's Cooperative
— Old Hwy 93
Sacaton, AZ 85247)

Mesa Community Farmer's Market

Fridays, 9am-1pm (In Carefree on the corner of Easy St. and HoHum Way at the Amphitheater Gardens)

Old Town Farmer's Market

Saturdays, 8:30am-1pm (In Scottsdale, Located in the city parking lot at the corner of Brown and 1st Street)

Ahwatukee Farmer's Market

Sundays, 9am-1pm (In SE Phoenix, Ahwatukee Swim & Tennis Center parking lot—4700 E. Warner Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85044)

Phoenix Public Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. October - April
8 a.m. - Noon May - September Wednesdays
Saturdays 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(721 N. Central Phoenix, AZ)
[AZ FMNP*](#) , [Food Stamps*](#)

Gila Farm Cooperative

Contact Information — How to Get Involved:

Jessica Woiderski
T 602 433 2440 x198
Jessica.Woiderski@rescue.org

Connecting people through community supported agriculture.



Gila Farm Cooperative

Groups of Farmers:

Somali-Bantu

Togolese

Uzbekistan

Iraqi

Connecting people through community supported agriculture.

GET TO KNOW YOUR FARMERS

Who Are We?

Where & What do we farm?

Somali-Bantu

The Somali Bantu are a minority ethnic group from southern Somalia. Descendants of African tribes in Eastern Africa, Somali Bantus, have endured marginalization because of their ethnic, physical and cultural distinctions from Somalis. As the Somali Civil War broke out in 1991, the oppression and violence against the Somali Bantu escalated and many were forced to relocate to refugee camps in the neighboring country of Kenya. Many Somali Bantus were resettled into the United States in over 50 cities of 38 states.



“I am happy to be a farmer and would rather be at the farm than work...If we can get bigger markets... I would move to the farm so I can work even harder”. - Somali Bantu Farmer

Uzbek

The majority of the Uzbeki refugees that came to the United States in 2005 fled their home-country of Uzbekistan after the major political demonstration, the Andijan Uprising, created danger for many of them. This uprising has separated families and created new communities of Uzbeks in the United States. Few of the refugees have been able to return home. Escaping this socio-political turmoil of their homeland they have brought the experience of traditional, organic farming to the fields of Arizona.



“It is important to work in a team ... it’s good to share with all of us and to listen to who is going to say what ... and that is the important thing to work with the team.”

- Uzbek Farmer



Togolese

Seeking asylum from the political upheaval of their homeland many Togolese have come to the United States, specifically Arizona with its promise of available farmland. However farming is hard for the Togolese

“What harms the farmer is competition between themselves ... in a cooperative you would have the same quality of produce.” - Togo Farmer

refugees, most of who are holding second jobs and must travel many miles weekly to tend to their crops. Nonetheless agriculture is their passion and the Togolese support each other, taking pride and special care in what they produce. Through providing healthy and delicious produce these individuals hope to establish a meaningful role in their new American community.