

Submitter: Lakshmi Tata  
On Behalf Of: Edible Stories  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Lakshmi Tata. I own and manage Edible Stories Market Garden in Hillsboro, OR. Over approximately 1/3 of an acre, we cultivate vegetables that hold cultural significance in Asian cuisine.

We received a partial Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience grant in 2024 for purchasing a greenhouse fan and building a shade structure.

We grow our own vegetables starts from seed in our greenhouse. Many of the vegetables we grow are late summer crops, and cannot be transplanted until the weather has warmed up outside. They remain in our greenhouse until mid-late June before going into the ground. To provide optimal growing conditions, a greenhouse fan to help air circulation is necessary. Installing the fan has eliminated loss of seedlings due to excess heat and lack of air circulation. Much of our growing area is inside high, and frequent cultivation is necessary during the growing season. When temperatures are high it gets uncomfortable for the farm crew to spend long hours in the high tunnels even with the sides rolled up. Having a permanent shade structure close to the high tunnels provides the crew relief from the heat and prevents heat-related illnesses. This is especially beneficial during the hot summer days when harvesting on time becomes very crucial.

Receiving this grant has been very valuable for our farm. We have been able to transplant healthier vegetable starts without losing a lot of them to the heat. Also, our crew can take more breaks in the shade structure, and keep up with the harvest schedule.

Please support HB 2979 to renew funding for this valuable program.

Thank you,

Lakshmi Tata  
Edible Stories Market Garden