Join the **TC Metro Growers Network** for a **Grower Spotlight** …

**Naima Dhole and the Somali American Farmer’s Association**

Join in on the 14th to hear Naima Dhole’s story, a Somali-American certified organic farmer. She first started out growing herbs in the bathroom window of her apartment. She fell in love with farming and has been growing at Big River Farms. Naima and her husband are pursuing a loan through the FSA to purchase 20 acres of farmland! [naimasfarm.com](https://naimasfarm.com)

Naima also started the **Somali American Farmer’s Association** “to support Somali and immigrant farmers who focus on culturally specific and organic produce and indigenous African farming practices.”

--- *More about the SAFA* 🍃

Naima has over ten years’ experience working in education as a Program Manager with Hennepin County, and five years in the farming sector. Naima says she “has developed a strong professional network, experience, and skills relevant to equitable education and food disparities. Through my work with the County and with many farming organizations, I have developed a strong familiarity with the educational system and agriculture in Minnesota.”

**Friday August 14th, 6:00 to 7:30 PM - Online**

**ZOOM Link:** [https://umn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtdOusqDMiGNa9DDEAT5uxTjF7rpQJ2w_K](https://umn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtdOusqDMiGNa9DDEAT5uxTjF7rpQJ2w_K)

**ZOOM instructions:** [https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting)

**We are Networking at a distance this year. 😊 Fear not!**

**This IS networking, join in with your questions and experiences!**

Join us for this presentation of interest to all emerging farmers, especially people of color who have additional challenges on top of the already daunting task of getting a start in farming. Naima’s story and her experiences making a start as a farmer in Minnesota as part of the Somali diaspora is an inspiration to all who want to become successful growers!

**If you are an emerging farmer of color, please join in!**

The **TC Metro Growers Network** is a collaboration of the University of MN Extension and the **Sustainable Farming Association of MN**


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The purpose of the Somali American Farmer’s Association (SAFA) is to support Somali and immigrant farmers who focus on culturally specific and organic produce and indigenous African farming practices. We are addressing a major social issue that we witness in Minnesota. Minority and lower income communities have less access to fresh and organic produce and lack information on the benefits of consuming fresh and organic produce. They also lack the financial and technical resources to start farming themselves.

Due to the major disparity in the consumption of fresh produce and organic produce in lower income communities, these communities are also unaware of the opportunities for starting their own ventures regarding farming and agriculture because of the multiple barriers of entry.

The lack of awareness in these immigrant and low-income communities is twofold. First, there is a lack of awareness on the process of starting your own farm in Minnesota. Second, there is a lack of emphasis on the importance of culturally specific food.

Our organization addresses this by providing education and training to immigrant and low-income families about indigenous African farming practices and regenerative agricultural practices and food. We provide access to and awareness of these issues in a way that promotes environmental sustainability.

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