

African Alliance of Rhode Island

2016

A value-added producer grant to support a feasibility study and marketing plan for ethnic African products made with “bitter ball” a



AARI manages five community garden sites in Providence, Rhode Island. The farmers are generally women refugees. They are not able to meet the demand for their produce. Each week, they sell out at the farmers market, and have restaurants and other customers waiting for them to scale up. The organization is hoping to secure additional parcels of land to support their scaling next season.

At the markets, the organization conducts health screenings and cooking demos. These successful programs engage shoppers with agricultural education.

Crops are sold at a summer and winter farmers' market, and a pop up market that they piloted in 2018. They also sell value-added relish made from a traditional African crop called "bitter ball" or "garden egg," which