

## NYSP21 Assists the Food Bank Association of NYS with Determining Statewide Produce Acquisition & Sharing Feasibility

The Food Bank Association of New York State (Association) is a member organization for New York State's (NYS) regional food banks. The current nine member food banks collectively distribute 180 million pounds of food annually. In 2004, the Association began serving a statewide presence, educating the public as to the needs of the food banks, and of New York's hungry. The Association feeds millions of people each year, through over 5,000 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit feeding programs.

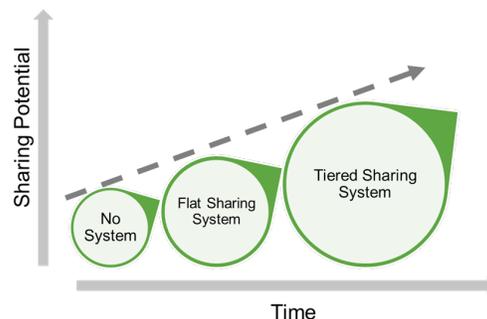
### Challenge

Approximately 23 percent of New York State's (NYS) land area, 7 million acres, is farmland. There are nearly 36,000 family farms and NYS ranks high among the major agriculture states in the nation, ranking in the top 10 in 30 commodities. The membership of the Association relies on donations from farmers and retail organizations as well as some purchases to feed the hungry in NYS. However, there is more product available in the farmers' fields which could potentially be retrieved and shared across the entire food bank network. With limited resources and no formal process, opportunities for additional acquisition and sharing are being missed.

### Solution

In support of this effort to obtain and distribute more NYS-grown produce across regions, the Association requested assistance from the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21) to determine if statewide produce acquisition and sharing was feasible. Through a supply chain sustainability assessment, NYSP21 benchmarked other produce acquisition and sharing programs in the United States, gathered data from the NYS food banks to set baseline for available produce. From this, NYSP21 created a supply chain model for produce acquisition and sharing, and identified barriers and opportunities for improvement.

- Goal setting
- Abundance culture
- Incentives & fee structure
- Forecasting
- Funding and capacity building



### CHALLENGE

- The Food Bank Association of New York State wanted to explore the potential for a "produce acquisition and sharing model" amongst NYS food banks

### SOLUTION

- NYSP21 conducted a supply chain sustainability assessment and benchmarked other produce acquisition and sharing programs in the United States
- NYSP21 gathered data from the NYS food banks to set baseline for available produce

### RESULTS

- NYSP21 determined that a produce acquisition and sharing model is feasible and in sight for NYS
- NYSP21 laid out short, medium and long-term solutions within five major categories: goal setting, abundance culture, incentives and fee structure, forecasting, and funding
- NYSP21 recommended several solutions that can be implemented within the current structure



## Results

Through the work performed in this project, NYSP2I determined that a produce acquisition and sharing model is feasible and in sight for NYS. NYSP2I laid out short, medium and long-term solutions within five major categories: goal setting, abundance culture, incentives and fee structure, forecasting, and funding. In the short term, NYSP2I identified several solutions that can be implemented within the current structure, to remove inefficiencies and improve availability of produce. From these solutions, NYSP2I developed a supply chain model that reveals how these implemented opportunities will help structure the organization for years to come.

## Testimonial

“The results NYSP2I was able to produce in a short period of time for our project was remarkable. They are a highly skilled team with excellent communication skills. Our project was very complex and difficult, it required an objective ear and agile team. They were able to gather information from our statewide network, compare successful National and seek input from the agriculture industry. We are now in possession of data and able to make decisions on our next steps. This statewide model has been sought after for many years. Thank you NYP2I for your effort and thank you NYSDEC for the funds to cover the expense.”

- Anita Paley, Executive Director  
Food Bank Association of NYS

## NYSP2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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