



National Minority Supplier
Development Council

Advancing Economic
Equity Together

Acres

Cultivating Equity in Black Agriculture



Today, according to [McKinsey & Company](#), just 1.4% of farmers identify as Black or mixed race, a significant decline from about 14% a century ago. Moreover, these farmers currently represent less than 0.5% of total U.S. farm sales, highlighting the extreme inequity in the U.S. agricultural industry. To address this disparity, NMSDC in partnership with our corporate funders, designed a program aimed at building generational wealth, achieving parity in agriculture, and advancing agricultural supply chain access for Black farmers.

Program Goals

We are working together across our corporate network to:

- Achieve NMSDC's mission of eliminating the racial wealth gap by increasing the number of certified Black farmers in the U.S. agricultural industry.
- Increase opportunities for access to capital, access to new markets and access to technology as we assist in leading in the next-generation Black farmers into agriculture.
- Create a pathway for emerging Black farmers to achieve parity in the agriculture industry.

Program Structure

- **Learning Program** - Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center provides a 12-week focused curriculum to enhance participant capacity to pursue national contracts with NMSDC corporate members.
- **Strategic Business Support** - Participants receive strategic business support, including assistance with NMSDC certification and covered certification fees. They also gain access to growth-oriented capital opportunities tailored for program farmers.
- **Acres Alumni Society** - Fosters professional growth, camaraderie, and strengthens bonds among Acres graduates, helping them deepen relationships and scale their businesses.
- **Mentorship** - Participants have the opportunity for mentorship through NMSDC's network of over 700 national and 1,000 local corporate members. Mentoring is a transformative experience, empowering both mentor and mentee to guide, inspire, and shape their businesses.



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Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Contact Maureen Simonette at maureen.simonette@nmsdc.org.

Questions regarding Acres? Contact our Programs Team at acres@nmsdc.org.