

National Black Church Initiative

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National Black Church Initiative Congratulates Black Farmers for Receiving Justice

NBCI President Calls for National Black Farm Policy

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) www.naltblackchurch.com, a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans dedicated to the eradication of racial disparities around the world, is urging all religious communities to join together to support African American agriculture. Our Black leadership partners - 66,000 churches nationwide – are called upon to use the full force of our combined 100,000 churches to support Black farmers in providing fresh produce to our youth.

After a contentious 15 year struggle, Black farmers have achieved victory in the form of a \$1.25 billion settlement as compensation for the decades-long pattern of institutional discrimination that they suffered at the hands of the United States Department of Agriculture, a public organization that worked against the interests of the African American community. USDA refused to provide credit worthy Black farmers with loans while liberally granting financial assistance to White farmers. They were therefore forced to sell their farms or foreclosed upon.

We are proud of the leadership and determination demonstrated by John Boyd, the founder of the National Black Farmers Association, who led the fight against the systemic discrimination of the USDA. Nonetheless, this victory will be a pyrrhic one unless the Black community mobilizes to provide consistent support for our Black farmers by implementing a National Black Farm Policy that will foster the development of food security, healthy eating and agricultural development within the African American.

As the Reverend Anthony Evans, President of NBCI has noted, “Finally, we have received justice for our farmers. Now is the time to create a national policy for Black farms strictly targeted for the African-American community. In the coming weeks, we will spell out what this new policy is about. We want African-American scientists and farmers experts to create a national system in terms of technology to promote the growth of Black farmland and how they should be focused on delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to a new generation of African-American youth.”

We must work to make sure that we are never again so dependent upon largess from potentially hostile institutions that they gain the sway over our communities that enabled USDA to devastate Black farmers in this country. Join us in this struggle!

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.