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| Category | : International Rice Research Conference |
| Select Theme | : Social inclusion and gender equality |
| Endorsement email | : |
| Keyword 1 | : Farmers' perspectives |
| Keyword 2 | : Social innovation systems |
| Keyword 3 | : Structural barriers to social equity |
| Title of Entry | : Working with Refugee Farmers: A Rising Tide Lifts all Boats |
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| Co author 1 | : |
| Co author 2 | : |
| Affiliation presenting author | : |
| Affiliation 1 | : |
| Affiliation 2 | : |
| Select only one type of presentation | : 15 minute oral presentation |

Abstract : While working alongside Cambodian refugees as a boy, I quickly recognized farming and food as great equalizers. This awareness set into motion a series of events that lifted them and their communities from abuse and poverty to financial independence, while simultaneously setting me on course for a lifetime of advocacy and farmer training. Today my refugee friends run farm businesses of their own. They've come a long way from going hungry every day. Today too I still run my family's farm with help from the next generation of those same refugee families that I knew as a boy. We work together to help each other grow, both literally and figuratively, while enjoying friendships that rest squarely on decades of trust and mutual care. Now I look back and I can see clearly that this entire process began with a few bowls of rice and a meal not shared. I would like to share all of these experiences and how they came together to add strength and resiliency to families, farms, communities, and two very distinct food systems.

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