Farming for the Dharma: 
An Update from the CTIB Organic Farm

BY THIEN HUU NGUYEN

Several people who visit us here at the Organic Farm ask us, "What is your vision?" Our response: Our vision is to provide high-quality organic vegetables for all the living beings at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) and to promote vegetarianism and a healthy, virtuous lifestyle. Following Venerable Master Hua's Dharma teachings and the leadership of the Abbot and Dharma Masters, and working closely with the CTTB community, the Organic Farm is working hard to bring us closer to this vision.

Years ago the Venerable Master Hua left instructions for the creation of an organic farm here at CTTB. Since then, the Organic Farm has become a reality. It has grown into a 10-acre certified organic farm that operates according to the Buddhist principles of reverence for life and generosity to all living beings. Following and maintaining the 1st Precept to the best of our ability, we strive to minimize the destruction of life and promote reverence for life. We use no herbicides, pesticides, animal products, and other chemicals that are harmful to living beings and the environment. Also, we not only share the rich variety of food we grow with the residents and guests of CTTB, we also share this food with all the wildlife in the area.

Over the past two years, the Organic Farm has experienced a lot of growth and progress. We have made many mistakes, learned from those mistakes, listened to the community's ideas and suggestions, and have tried to improve how we do our work. This includes everything from planning and management, to planting, composting, irrigation and harvesting. As a result of this progress, this harvesting season will be the biggest one yet. From August through November, we will be busy harvesting squash, tomatoes, potatoes, basil, watermelon, eggplant, carrots, beets, cabbage, and corn, along with many other delicious and nutritious vegetables!

One of the keys to our success and productivity has been our volunteers. As we grow and expand, we are attracting more volunteers. We are committed to building a great team of great
子、胡蘿蔔、甜菜，甘藍菜和玉米，以及許多其他營養可口的蔬菜。

義工是有機農場成功與豐收的要素之一。在成長和擴充時，我們吸引了更多的義工來參與。我們決心要建立一個偉大的義工團，為有機農場付出有意義的貢獻，也感受到大家的感謝與支持。我們希望能建立一個好環境，讓人們能來此地做義工和修行，一個自在以外能有益於有機農場與萬佛聖城的家，而義工也能因爲在此工作的經驗而有所受益。對許多人而言，此地是教育他們認識環境，學習新技術，以及修行和實踐佛法的一個平和和理想的地方。我們的希望是來此做義工的人，就算只是一天，可以享受愉快和有益的經驗，做為對有機農場福社的一個投資。

有機農場是萬佛聖城推廣佛法，利益眾生任績的一部分。作為修行人，我們理解我們在社區的角色是要提供好的有機食物，讓大家食用此類食物以滋養大眾的健康。我們也視有機農場是一個健康自然的地方，促進健康、有德行和素食的生活方式。我們衷心希望這樣做，能對萬佛聖城有所貢獻。但願眾生因佛法、修行與自然的生機食物而普皆受益！

The Organic Farm is part of CTTB's mission of promoting the Buddhadharma and the welfare and happiness of living beings. As cultivators, we see our role as working with the community to make good organic food available and nourishing the health of everyone and everything that eats this food. We also see the Organic Farm as a healthy and natural place that encourages people to live healthy, virtuous and vegetarian lifestyles. Our hope is that by doing this, we are able to benefit the CTTB community. May all living beings benefit from the Buddhadharma, from cultivation, and from good natural organic food!