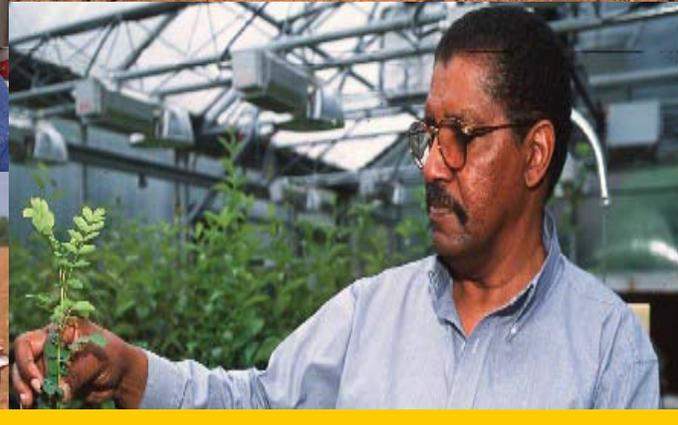


# Black History Month February 2010



## The History of Black Economic Empowerment



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider. All photos courtesy of USDA NRCS.

“The need for economic development has been a central element of black life. After centuries of unrequited toil as slaves, African Americans gained their freedom and found themselves in the struggle to make a living. Pushing against the odds, African Americans became landowners, skilled workers, small businessmen and women, professionals, and ministers.”

Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
[http://www.asalh.org/files/2010\\_Executive\\_Summary.doc](http://www.asalh.org/files/2010_Executive_Summary.doc)