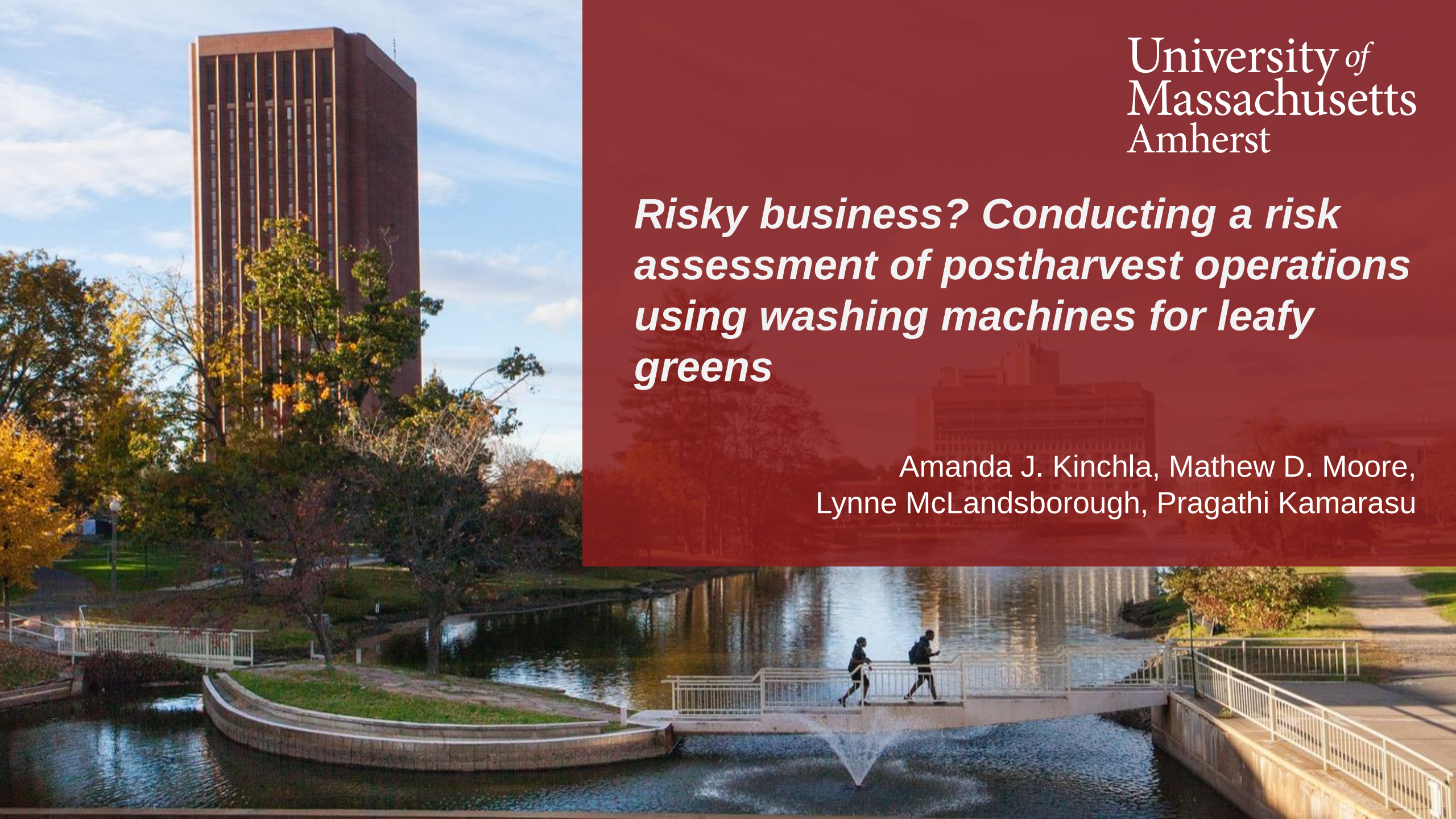

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Risky business? Conducting a risk assessment of postharvest operations using washing machines for leafy greens

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Lynne McLandsborough, Pragathi Kamarasu

The Problem

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- Post-Harvest: Washing machines for spinning greens is a very common practice
- No established research to inform growers on the development of specific best practices

Figure. Image of a field site of a postharvest processing that dries leafy greens. Image sourced from https://tinyfarmblog.com/spin-cycle/ .

NECAFS NETWORK

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NECAFS
The Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety

- 2019 NECAFS Steering Committee
  - Regulators
  - Extension agents
  - Producers and buyers
- Discussion –
  - Challenges with sanitation design and management.
  - DIY converted washing machines

Project Objectives

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- **Objective 1:** Identify, source and build converted washing machines for drying leafy greens using the “DIY” resources provided from industry that are applicable for small scale leafy green operations.

- **Objective 2:** Conduct a science-based risk hazard identification assessment that will investigate the harborage and sanitation risks of using DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens.

- **Objective 3:** Develop and design a mixed-media portfolio of extension-based tools, which will focus on the principles of cleaning and sanitation, sanitation design and sanitation management.

Objective 1: Identify, source and build "DIY" washing machines

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- Activity: Investigate available resources for DIY converted washing machines
- Activity: Source and build DIY washing machines converted greens spinners.

Objective 2: Conduct a science-based risk hazard identification assessment

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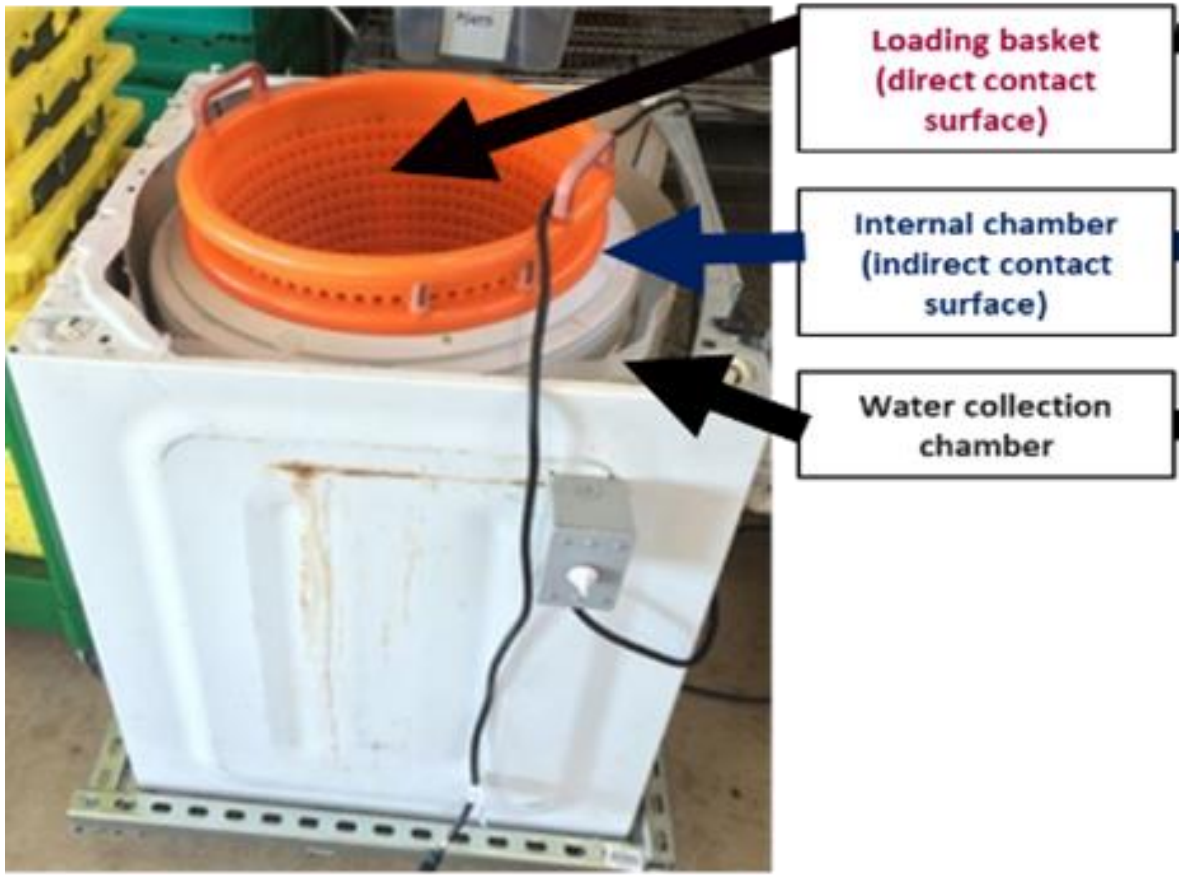
- What is the overall contamination risk of using DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens?
- Can DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens be cleaned and sanitized to effectively manage microbial risk?



Objective 3: Develop and deploy extension-based tools

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Activity: Extension programming may include-

- Brief video tutorials
- Downloadable pdf Fact Sheets
- Face-to-face workshops/speaking events
- Real-time (and recorded) webinars

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Current Status

- **Objective 1: COMPLETE**
  - UVM Extension – Washing Machines Greens Spinner Workshop – November 2019
  - Assembled 4 Units at UMASS
  - Purchase – Industry leafy green dryer
- **Objective 2: In-Process**

Building Washing Machines
Greens Spinner

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Building Washing Machines Greens Spinner

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- Department of Food Science

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