In the 1980s, Lucious Abrams of Abrams and Sons Farm took part in an agricultural deal light years ahead of its time.
Takano Foods, one of the largest food companies in Japan, had an interest in Black farmers and specifically in Abrams.
Takano Foods gave Abrams a letter of credit for a quarter million dollars ($250,000) to grow edible soybeans and ship to Japan.
Based on the research conducted by the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University on edible soybeans, Abrams along with 10-15 other local farmers grew edible soybeans in Georgia.
Abrams along with other local farmers grew 10,000 bushels but the local processing plant sabotaged their collective efforts by allowing the soybeans to rot in the bins, halting their success.
So, Abrams sought to obtain more land to control the process and use the rail line to send the soybeans by train to Savannah’s ports, then ship to Japan.

This new plot of land would require a $40,000 loan but...
...even with a letter of credit for $250k, the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office denied him the loan.
After so many instances of racial sabotage, the deal with Takano Foods couldn’t be fulfilled and was ultimately terminated.

To make up for the funds lost in the failed deal, Abrams again requested a loan from the local FSA. FSA denied him assistance, which pushed Abrams and his farm further into debt.
Due to the racist actions of USDA, Abrams’ debt ballooned to $1.3 million.

Abrams was a lead plaintiff in the Pigford v. Glickman lawsuit.

He worked tirelessly to pass federal legislation to extend the statue limitations in order for the lawsuit to proceed and provide economic redress to Black farmers.

Due to the abandonment of his attorneys, Abrams never received an evidentiary hearing as mandated by the Consent Decree. He never received a dime from the lawsuit.

🌟 The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 would cancel Abrams’ debt, freeing his farm from USDA after twenty years of trauma and economic ruin.

#CANCELPIGFORDDEBT