



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Planting Pueblo Produce

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Center of Southwest Culture
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Project Overview

- The Center targets underserved communities throughout New Mexico who are threatened by poverty and lack of economic opportunity, but have access to arable and water rights.
 - Native American and Hispanic communities with access to land & water
 - A cooperative business model that is culturally, environmentally and economically appropriate
 - The primary objective of this project was to incorporate two new organic farming co-ops comprised primarily of Native American Farmers



Project Accomplishments

- Introduced a new business model of sustainable agriculture that is more culturally, economically and environmentally appropriate for Native American farmers than current practices
- Incorporated two new organic farming cooperatives comprised solely of Pueblo farmers
- Converted 5 acres of arable land to the production of organic fruits and vegetables for distribution to local and regional markets in first season



Impacts and Evaluation

- Incorporated two new farming enterprises
- Created 10 new farming jobs in underserved Pueblo communities
- Increased income levels for farmers
- Converted 5 acres of arable land to the production of organic produce
- Increased the local production of organic fruits and vegetables



Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- We've learned that the best way to form successful cooperatives in rural communities is by starting farming co-ops built around one healthy extended family
- The most difficult aspect of forming farming co-ops in rural communities is the lack of human resources



Next Year & After

- Secure further funding in order to expand the capacity of the two emerging co-ops and recruit new farmers from underserved communities to create numerous new co-ops



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Questions?

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