Planting Pueblo Produce

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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
Questions?

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