Generation Indigenous Food: Preparing Beginning Farmers and Ranchers for Success and Resiliency

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Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Development  
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Project Audience

• Native youth, high school and early-college aged beginning farmers and ranchers
  – Where are they: national, intertribal, from every region
  – Who are they: socially disadvantaged producers, American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian young and beginning farmers and ranchers
  – Type of farming/ranching/forest management: livestock, fruits and vegetables, grain, traditional foods, forest owners, fishers, wild game, etc.
  – Stage of farming: exploring, start-up, first 10 years, in business with their families already
Partners/Collaborators

• Who are the key people on your team?
  – Erin Shirl, IFAI, Co-PD
  – Intertribal Agriculture Council (Ross Racine, Zach Ducheneaux, Donita Fisher and all IAC Technical Assistance Specialists and staff)
  – FFA (Ben Meyer and all FFA chapters with Native students)
  – Farm Credit Council (Gary Matteson and all FCC associations and leadership)
  – The entire University College of Agriculture faculty
  – The Southern Region Extension Risk Management team
  – Tribal governments such as Coushatta Tribe of LA, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Quapaw Nation, etc.
  – A-dae Romero and Vicki Karhu, consultants to IFAI
Key Approach(es)

- Our focus is on critical skills development among Native youth involved or passionate or entering food and agriculture during an annual Summit
- Continued interface with students post-Summit
- In-classroom education and training & Career Skills Improvement course
- 10-day+ on-site annual on-campus classroom training (Summer); field trips; experiential learning; research exposure
- Fellowships, mentorships and internships
- Ongoing Regionally-based Technical assistance
Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

• 375-400 new students by end of the project period; continued rolling incorporation of all participants; all socially disadvantaged, will start a farm, ranch or food business or take over significant new roles in their families’ or tribes’ food operations

• 375-400 new students by end of the project period; continued rolling incorporation of all participants; all socially disadvantaged, will continue to improve their skills through pre- and post (and ongoing) assessment and evaluations.
What do you have to share?

• Curriculum focusing on Ag Business Development in Indian Country, tested to Youth Audiences
• Curriculum focusing on Indian Land Tenure and Landownership issues, tested to Youth Audiences
• Curriculum focusing on Ag and Food Law Issues, tested to Youth Audiences
What do you hope to learn from other projects?

• Resources and curriculum that is tested in Indian Country and with youth and young adult audiences
• Business management, financial management and risk management for youth and young adult audiences
• Career Skills Development
• Farm Financial Skills Development
Keep in touch!

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