



Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program FRTEP

Tracy Morgan
Kalispel Tribal Extension Office
Washington State University

Reparation of Disparities

- Prior to FRTEP, County extension offices were not serving reservations and tribal communities
- FRTEP was initially created in the **1990** Farm Bill to address the inequities in agricultural extension offered to Native American farmers and ranchers.
- Agricultural Extension support in Indian Country is a result of a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship.
- Thirty years later, the FRTEP has never been appropriated the funding or staffing it was originally authorized and intended.



Overview

The main priorities of the FRTEP include but are not limited to:

1. Positive youth development programs, including 4-H for tribal youth
2. Native Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management
3. Native Community Development:
 - a. Economic and Workforce Development
 - b. Food Systems, Farm and Community Markets, and Food Sovereignty
 - c. Natural Resource Conservation and Adaptation to Environmental Changes
 - d. Human Nutrition and Reduction of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity
 - e. Native Language and Culture Preservation
 - f. Traditional Ecological Knowledge sharing and learning, or knowledge held by indigenous cultures about the environment or cultural practices. .

Climate

Extreme water shortages, drought or flooding

are already impacting food production most of western states

Soil integrity and loss

is a national issue imperiling all current agriculture in the United States

Inconsistent LOGS, first and last frost

Have been observed and impact crops in many areas

Livestock disease and expense

Climate change can exacerbate disease in livestock, and some diseases are especially sensitive to climate change

Climate changes will disproportionately impact Native American lands, reservations, and communities



Regenerative Agriculture

Indigenous cultures have long been privy to the innate knowledge of many of regenerative agriculture's techniques. These practices have existed for centuries. They include a robust environmental ethic which promotes sustainability.

At present most of these activities are done on a small and localized scale.

Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge can help shift practices toward more sustainable production nationwide



Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Examples of ITEK Agricultural practices from pre-colonial food production

- Multiple Cropping
- No-till farming
- Companion planting
- Fallowing fields,
- Staggering the times of plantings
- Maintaining separate plantings of different varieties
- Polycultures

Kalispel Projects involving Ag Innovation

- Cover crop utilizing varieties that also benefit specific local pollinator species and fit to soil types, indigenous plants
- Hydroponic outdoor system (hybrid) to grow edible perennials for transplant, seed programs
- Forest Garden Project



Agriculture as Healing

FRTEP installs agriculture programs that empower reservations and surrounding communities to grow food, restore tribal traditions and culture while building community.



Farmer & Rancher

Delivering science-based, culturally relevant production, marketing and financial management information to help Indian producers becoming economically successful and help build Native Nation food security.



Adaptation to Climate Change

Climate change is already affecting our environment. Certain regions of the U.S. will be disproportionately impacted by climate change, and these regions also often have large Tribal populations. Adaptation to climate change requires funds, innovation, and action.



Community

Providing outreach programs to safeguard water quality, food system development, certify pesticide applicators, preserve traditional plants and facilitate community engagement and leadership.

Conclusion

NRCS: “Rooted in Indigenous wisdom, **regenerative farming** is an alternative decision-making framework that offers a set of principles and practices to grow food in harmony with nature and heal the land from degradation.”

The 35 Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs serving Native American communities are assisting in providing food security for select tribes across the country. If expended, these programs have potential to serve all reservations where food insecurity is high.

It is imperative that agricultural systems change and adapt as climate changes. ITEK practices can contribute.



Questions & answers

Refer questions to
Tracy.morgan@wsu.edu

Resources

- [Beyond Extension: Strengthening the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program \(FRTEP\) \(iltf.org\)](#)
- [Home - Tribal Extension](#)
- [Advocating for the Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program » Congressional Hunger Center](#)
- [https://tribalextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FRTEP_Indian-CountryExtensionCommissionRecs_Final_LowRes.pdf](#)
- [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_rm/rm_gtr272/rm_gtr272_181_188.pdf](#)
- [https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=3ad47f0b2229950fJmltdHM9MTY5NDQ3NjgwMCZpZ3VpZD0wZTBIMzVhNS1hOWM2LTlyZTktMzYzMy0yNmRmYTg3NTYzOGUm aW5zaWQ9NTIzOQ&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=0e0e35a5-a9c6-62e9-3633-26dfa875638e&psq=climate+and+livestock+diseases&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly91bmZjY2MuaW50L2ZpbGVzL2RvY3VtZW50YXRpb24vc3VibWlzc2lvbnNfZnJvbV9ub24tcGFydHlfc3Rha2Vob2xkZXJzL2FwcGxpY2F0aW9uL3BkZi81MTYucGRm&ntb=1](#)
- [https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-length-growing-season](#)
- [Advancing Racial Justice through Food Distributions on Indian Reservations | USDA](#)
- [https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/National%20Projections%20Brief_3.9.2021_0.pdf](#)
- [https://nfu.org/2020/10/12/the-indigenous-origins-of-regenerative-agriculture/](#)