



NAAF Highlights Grassroot Level Grantees Exemplary Response to COVID-19

In the face of a global pandemic, with orders to socially distance, Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) grantees are initiating innovative solutions through adaptable leadership. While staying the course with their original missions to strengthen our Native food systems, grassroots efforts from all corners of Indian Country are mobilizing to support tribal communities, despite the Covid-19 shelter in place restrictions. This series intends to share these stories of resilience and illuminate the ingenuity of our collective food champions.

Flower Hill Institute Jemez Pueblo, NM



The Flower Hill Institute is committed to fostering strong, stable and self-determined tribal communities. Their primary goal as a NAAF grantee is to train, educate and provide outreach and technical assistance to Native American farmers and ranchers throughout New Mexico. Providing these services nurtures sustainable local food systems through combining traditional farming and ranching knowledge with scientific knowledge. By addressing and removing barriers to farming and ranching opportunities to create meaningful self-employment as well as the production of healthy natural foods.

Roger Fragua, Executive Director and project administrator shared this statement with NAAF: “The current COVID-19 pandemic has created great uncertainty and a greater demand for food throughout Indian Country. As a cultural preservation and agricultural organization, we have developed a plan to grow Tribal Resiliency Gardens throughout the United States by procuring a special blend of seeds and organic fertilizer that can be delivered to tribal communities in need.” This special blend of seeds produces fresh vegetables like squash, beans and corn in a span of 45 days. “Resiliency Gardens” couldn’t be a more fitting name!

Once again, we at NAAF are proud to stand with our grantees as they demonstrate resilience and perseverance, sourcing solutions during difficult times. NAAF has become eyewitnesses to the fortitude and resolve of our inaugural grantees. We are proud to share this testimony and hope it inspires others to continue enduring and seeking resolutions during this time.