



**THE CULTIVATING CONSERVATION IN**

# **INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE SUMMIT**

**APRIL 17TH | 18TH, 2024**



# **GUIDEBOOK**





The **Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF)** is proud to welcome you to the **Cultivating Conservation in Indigenous Agriculture Summit**.

This guidebook is designed as an essential companion to enhance your experience at our virtual summit. As you navigate through the diverse discussions on conservation practices and Indigenous agriculture, this resource serves not only as a tool for recording key insights but also as a strategic guide for actionable steps.

Each section corresponds to a panel presentation, including capital influence, policy implications, traditional ecological knowledge, federal programming, and the distinct opportunities and challenges in agricultural production and cultivating conservation in Indian country.

Use this guidebook to:

- **Take Notes:** Ample space is provided by each panel description for jotting down important details, innovative ideas, and questions that arise during presentations.
- **Capture Takeaways:** At the end of each section, there's a dedicated area for summarizing the key points that resonate with you, ensuring you retain the valuable knowledge shared.
- **Develop Action Steps:** Based on the discussions, outline practical steps you can take to apply what you've learned, either in your own work or within your community.

By actively engaging with this guidebook, you will be able to connect more deeply with the content, apply the insights from the summit, and contribute to sustainable conservation efforts on Native lands.



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## AGENDA

### Day 1 - Wednesday, April 17

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85453264043?pwd=boY4vYu86jPbaJRxc9tWyF9oLh7X8w.1>

**1:00 PM CT**

**Welcome:** Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, CEO, Native American Agriculture Fund

**1:05 PM CT**

**Keynote Speaker:** Kelsey Scott, Chief Strategy Officer, Intertribal Agriculture Council

**1:25 PM CT**

Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, NM

**Panel 1 - 1:40 PM CT**

Implementing NRCS Conservation Practices on Trust Lands

**Panel 2 - 1:40 PM CT**

Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) in USDA Conservation Practices

**Panel 3 - 2:45 PM CT**

Implementing NRCS Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFAs)

**Panel 4 - 2:45 PM CT**

Telling Their Story: Communicating the Impact of Conservation in Agriculture

**Panel 5 - 3:50 PM CT**

Climate Smart Agriculture: Growing and Marketing Local Foods

**Panel 6 - 3:50 PM CT**

Tribal Innovation in Conservation



# AGENDA

## Day 2 - Thursday, April 18

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88957145145?pwd=j5evlQanuqTvGFJqEjfxPO5lDyCG8h.1>

**1:00 PM CT**

**Welcome:** Whitney Sawney, Director of Communications and Policy, Native American Agriculture Fund

**1:05 PM CT**

**Main Stage Panel:** Acquiring and Utilizing Capital to Fund Conservation on Native Lands

**Panel 7 - 2:05 PM CT**

Using Data to Inform Decision Making for Producers and Decision-Makers

**Panel 8 - 2:05 PM CT**

Regenerating Our Lands: Perspectives from the Intertribal Agriculture Council

**Panel 9 - 3:15 PM CT**

How Extension Partnerships Yield On-the-Ground Conservation Results

**Panel 10 - 3:15 PM CT**

Youth and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: Conservation for the Next Generation

**4:15 PM CT**

Closeout and Final Thoughts







## **Panel 4: Telling Their Story: Communicating the Impact of Conservation in Agriculture**

Delve into the crucial realm of messaging and communication strategies to convey the impact of conservation in agriculture, specifically focusing on implementing Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). Learn more about the national poll results that reinforce the overwhelming support for expanding climate-friendly solutions. The survey indicates public support of implementation approaches that assist farmers and forest landowners in adopting climate-smart management practices in diverse ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, and coastal wetlands.

- Nathan Henry, US Nature4Climate
- Whitney Sawney, Communications and Policy Director, Native American Agriculture Fund

Use this area for summarizing the key points that resonate with you, ensuring you retain the valuable knowledge shared. You can use these guiding questions as a foundation, or outline your own questions or takeaways that you can take to apply either in your own work or within your community.

1. What are your thoughts on the key findings from the national poll regarding public perception of natural climate agricultural solutions?
2. As a reader or audience member, what type of messaging resonates most with you and makes you engage more? For example, positive narratives about successful projects or data driven reports.
3. What topic areas are you drawn to the most? For example, soil conservation or agroforestry?
4. What type of media platform do you prefer most? For example, social media, podcasts, newspaper, radio?

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## **Panel 8: Regenerating Our Lands: Perspectives from the Intertribal Agriculture Council**

Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) Stakeholder Services teams regularly lead comprehensive and Tribal producer-led conservation initiatives across Indian Country. Our panel will share insights, experiences, and success stories showcasing how the IAC's five Stakeholder Services departments play a vital role in promoting regenerative food systems, kinship with our land and natural systems, and conservation planning efforts that uplift Traditional Ecological Knowledge through diversified resource pursuits.

- Kelsey Scott, Chief Strategy Officer, Intertribal Agriculture Council [Moderator]
- Tikaan Galbreath, Technical Assistance Network Director
- Emily Luscombe, Natural Resource Director
- Latashia Redhouse, American Indian Foods Director
- Elaini Vargas, Youth Program Director
- Padgley Gonzales, Regenerative Economies Program Specialist

Use this area for summarizing the key points that resonate with you, ensuring you retain the valuable knowledge shared. You can use these guiding questions as a foundation, or outline your own questions or takeaways that you can take to apply either in your own work or within your community.

1. Have you connected with the Intertribal Agriculture Council staff for technical assistance in your region? What issues have you discussed and what other topics can you share with them?
2. What natural resources are available in your region and how are they being sustained?
3. What connections do you see between your region's natural resources and your local foods?
4. How are the youth in your community involved in the growth or protection of your natural resources and local foods?
5. Have you connected with the Intertribal Agriculture Council to discuss how their technical assistance can contribute to a regenerative economy in your community?

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