

Agriculture in Native American Communities

Native American communities have been intimately tied to the land throughout their history. Today there is a growing emphasis on locally produced, sustainable and organic agriculture as part of an increasing backlash against corporate farms. Combined with a current interest of returning to heritage and ancient species of edible plants, native communities are well-placed to take advantage of these trends. Cho Zii Industries can assist communities in creating a customized and sustainable agriculture operation on native lands.

The Potential for Agriculture on Native Lands

In many cases there are tribes with tracks of land that are not currently being utilized but are suitable for



agriculture and in many cases have sufficient water to produce crops. Currently, there are some tribes that are being quite successful with this. There are opportunities to be on the culinary forefront with greenhouse grown plants ranging from expensive row crops to citrus and other exotics grown locally to supply the restaurants and other establishments. The benefit is that these will be harvested at the desired times, minimal transportation and reduced harvest losses.

Another route is that certain ancient crops are coming back into favor in culinary circles as well as for specialized diets. This is particularly true in the case of grains that over time have fallen out of favor for less expensive to produce alternatives. Currently, the volumes desired are quite small compared to traditional wheat varieties making it difficult for the large producers to separate them out in their operations.



Even before the United States was founded there has been many foreign species of plants brought in for food and ornamental purposes, while native species were displaced. With the current issues of water and the overtaking of indigenous habitats by these plants (e.g. Kudzu, Scotch Broom etc) many areas are now starting to severely limit and require native species in landscaping, but few are set up to rear these plants in a commercial environment.

Local Jobs:

Phase 1: Create a custom plan through consultation with local group, based upon local growing conditions and potential nearby clients

Phase 2: Build-out of infrastructure (greenhouse, land prep etc) and customized training of local staff to run program; identify buyers for products

Phase 3: Production and distribution, with hand-off to local staff and off-site continuing support by Cho Zii as needed

Native American Owned: Much of our knowledge stems from the fact that our management team is composed both of Native Americans and individuals who have extensive prior experience working with Native communities.



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