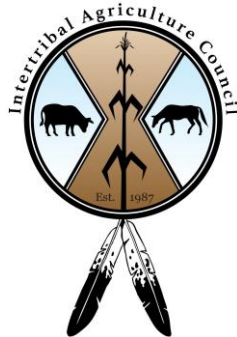


# Drought-Smart Indigenous Agriculture Project

FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (USDA NRCS)



Southwest Climate Hub  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Linking Pueblo Producer Needs with Engagement

Maddie Goebel, NDMC



# Interviews

- 17 farmers (Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, and Cochiti)
  - In-person and over Zoom
- Goals
  - Learn about the operation
  - Discuss past experience with drought
  - Identify challenges and opportunities
  - Consider improvement projects





# Drought insights

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Water shortages  
and rotation  
schedules

“Use it or lose it”

Conflict over  
water usage

Soil infiltration  
(heavy rain events  
+ drought + lack of  
precip)

Traditional vs.  
modern farming  
and irrigation

The  
spiritual/cultural  
aspect of  
agriculture

# Potential projects mentioned by interviewees

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- Fencing (smaller) fields for livestock grazing and/or crop integration
- Water pressure/efficiency and effectiveness of irrigation water that's available
- Solar pump to improve water pressure to reach all parts of field
- Soil health practices + soil testing
- Farm equipment
- Raised garden beds/fences in home scale gardens
- Garden-scale drip irrigation and/or rainwater catchment
- Ways to test public compost site so people can be more confident in using it
- Land for expanding subsistence gardening – community garden area? With a place for prayers/dancing?
- Tribal youth/agriculture involvement

## Grant Project Training Topics Suggested

Where to find technical assistance to implement climate-smart agricultural projects

Drought, climate, and conservation planning

How to apply for NRCS and other grants

# Interview Training Needs Discussed

## Soil fertility

- soil health
- composting/fertilizing
- raised garden beds
- testing and how to use results

## Soil moisture retention and irrigation

- irrigation techniques
- rainwater capture and drip irrigation
- timing and efficiency enhancements

## Pest control (alternatives to chemical)

## Stocking rates and grazing management

## Tribal youth and agriculture