



Utilizing Unique Cultural Crops

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Experiences & Guidelines



Vision for a vibrant Native Agriculture

- ▶ Preserving Traditional Varieties and growing systems
- ▶ Value added products
- ▶ Growing methods and small scale and processing equipment



Sovereign Tribal Nation Food Production & Impact on Organic/Natural Producers

Native American Artisanal Food Products being sold at a conference in Minnesota, U.S.A.

Purpose

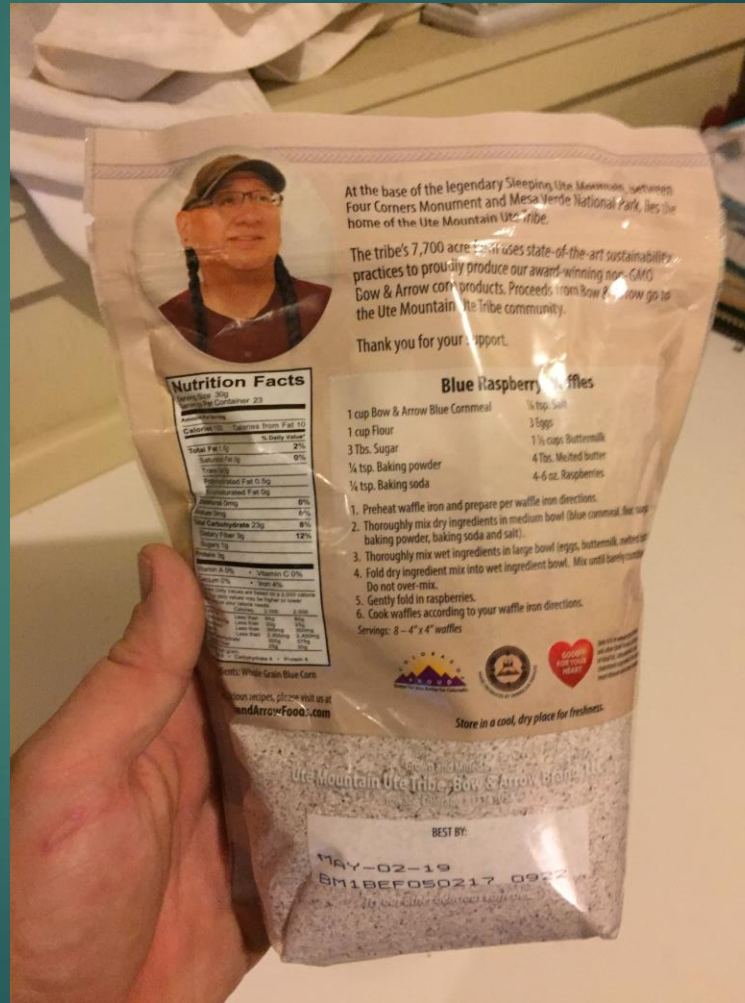
- ▶ Cultural
 - ▶ Religious/Ceremonial purposes
- ▶ Nutrition
 - ▶ Healthier living
 - ▶ Federal Feeding Programs
 - ▶ Farm to School
- ▶ Economic
 - ▶ Driver for economic dev.



Sovereign Tribal Native American

Foods

This is an example of traditional crops being grown and marketed in an artisanal agriculture manner. The emphasis is on quality with an expectation of high sales price. Notice the story on the bag that connects producer to consumer.



Sovereign Tribal Native American Foods

This is an example of traditional crops being grown and marketed in an artisanal agriculture manner. The emphasis is on quality with an expectation of high profit. This product is turkey and buffalo with Cranberries which are all traditional Native American animals and plant.



Sovereign Tribal Native American Foods

This is an example of traditional crops being grown and marketed in an artisanal agriculture manner. The emphasis is on quality with an expectation of high profit. This product is wild rice. Note the high price!



Is there a role for non-native producers?

Sovereignty Issues

- ▶ Ojibwe Wild Rice Example
- ▶ Who owns it?
- ▶ What boundaries are there?
- ▶ Plant Material Transfer Agreements with State Institutions
- ▶ Understanding boundaries and respecting traditional cultural boundaries
- ▶ Respecting Cultural boundaries and Tribal Sovereignty

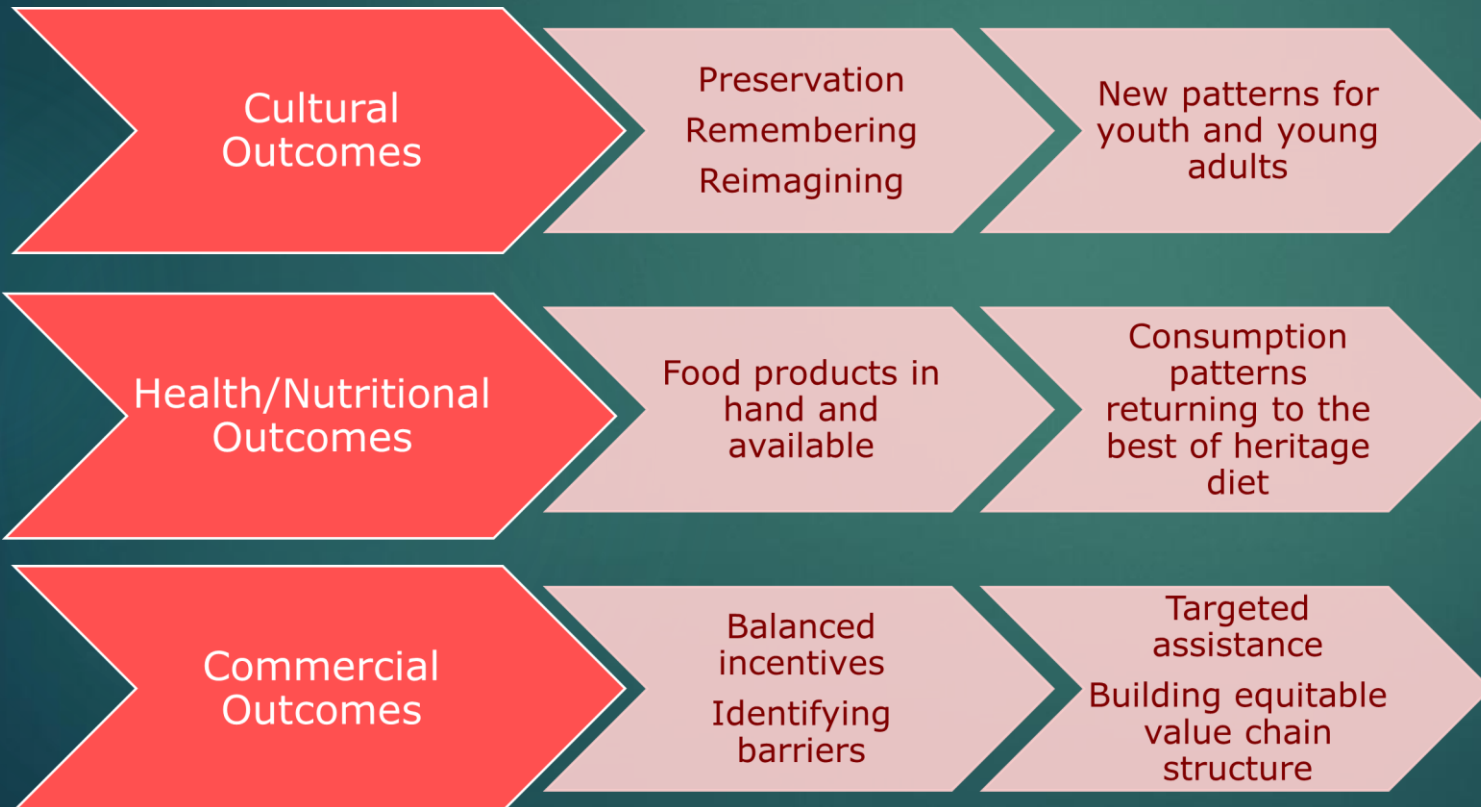
Minnesota Wild Rice



MPR News, Dan Gunderson, Aug. 27, 2015,
Retrieved from
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/08/27/ojibwe-rice-harvest>

Conceptualizing, Building, and Evaluating more Resilient and Inclusive Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chains: Conceptual Model

Joshua Ringer, Justin Quetone Moss, Lynn Brandenberger, Jim Shrefler, Dave Shideler, Elizabeth Payne: Oklahoma State University, Kent Sanmann: Cherokee Nation Member

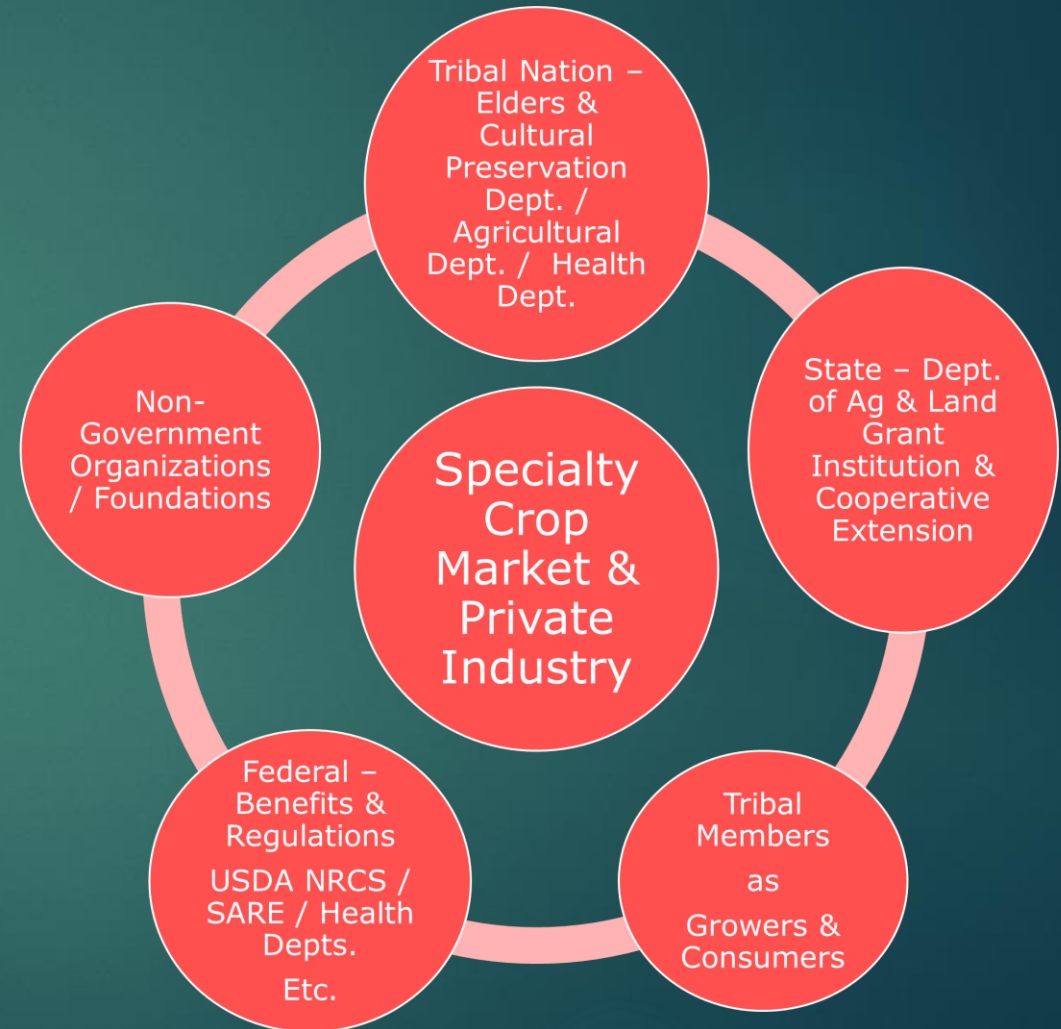


Conceptualizing Tribal Heritage crops are a unique resource that must be carefully managed by the tribal nation and tribal members in order to realize tribal sovereignty. The conceptual model reflects that decisions of how these crops are utilized must be a conscious decision. Health and nutrition outcomes should be also tied into growing and marketing traditional crops. Commercial utilization of the crop, with appropriate safeguards, can be a mechanism for achieving both cultural and Health / Nutrition outcomes. Without increasing tribal member growers, the specialty crop value chain does not become more resilient and more inclusive.

Conceptualizing, Building, and Evaluating more Resilient and Inclusive Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chains: Value Chain Ecosystem

Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chain Ecosystem

Awareness of the production and market ecosystem is vital for developing a valid conceptual model and understanding the landscape for building up macro and micro level capacity. The ecosystem helps reveal the roles of each entity. The tensions between each component should be revealed in order to breakthrough barriers and resolve inconsistencies between program offerings. Land grant university researchers and extension educators can provide assistance to fill gaps between different gov't. and non-government entities. Tribal government agricultural outreach staff can emphasize a coordinating / moderating role.



Conceptualizing, Building, and Evaluating more Resilient and Inclusive Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chains

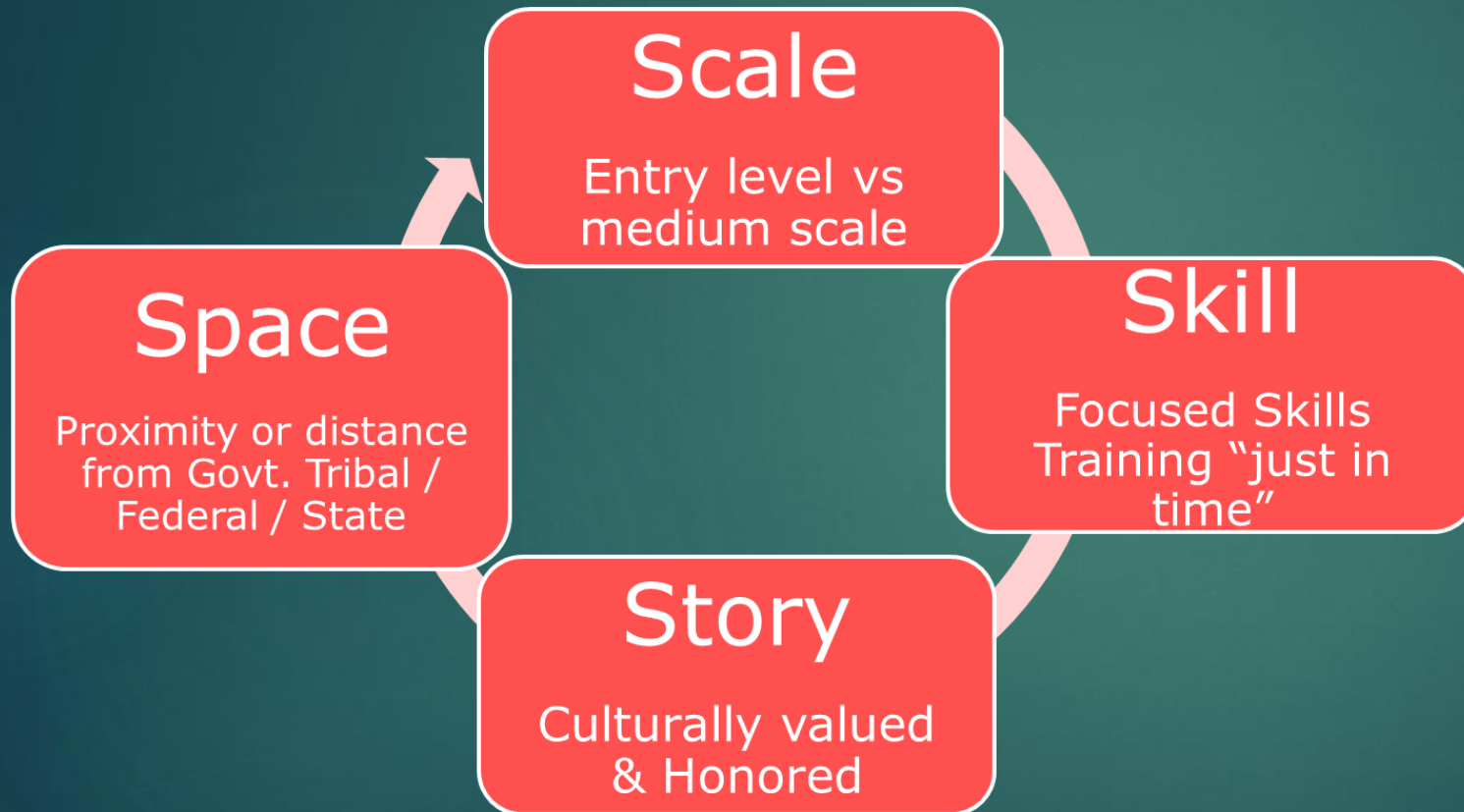
Building – Macro Level



Building – Macro Level

Tribal Nation leadership and members decide how tribal heritage crops are utilized. This usually includes ceremonial use, nutritional or medicinal use, and/or commercial production for internal tribal use and for external marketing sales. Researchers and Cooperative Extension educators can provide valuable training resources and facilitate coordination for growers that is also applicable for non tribal specialty crop growers. Development evaluation practices should be utilized to assist tribal leaders and agricultural/nutritional outreach personnel in identifying and alleviating production choke points.

Conceptualizing, Building, and Evaluating more Resilient and Inclusive Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chains: Building – Micro level

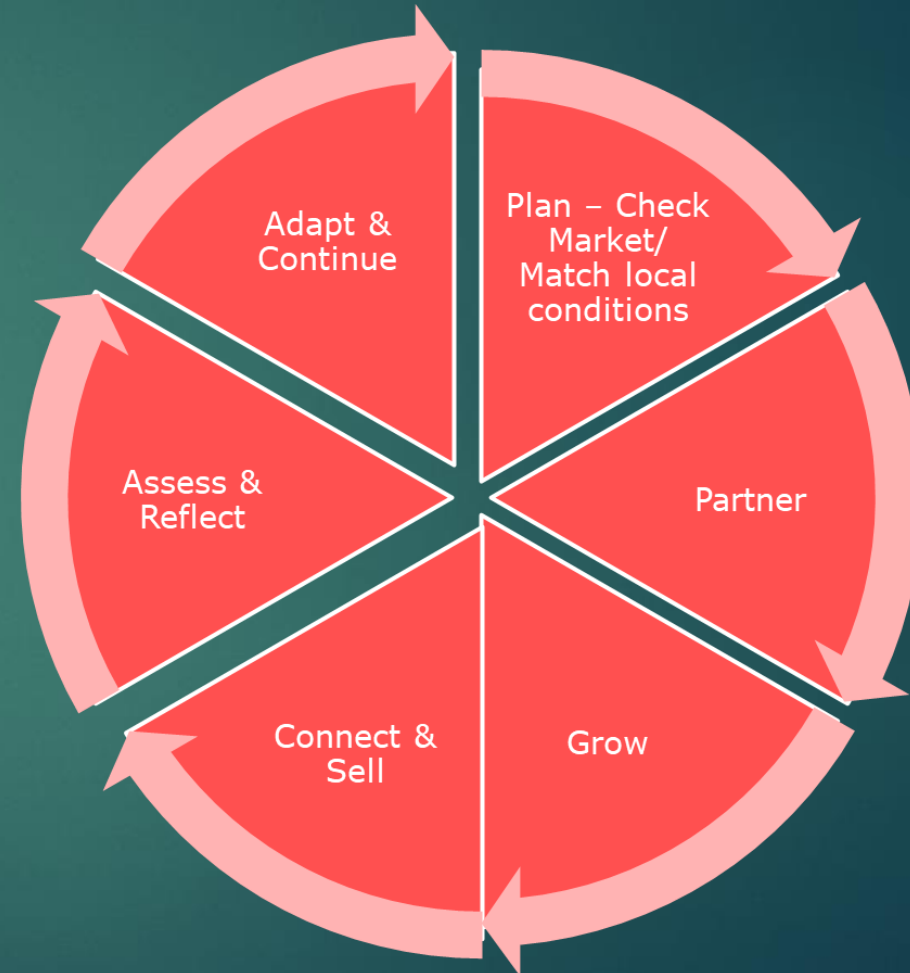


Building – Micro Level
Two micro level structures help identify producer needs and the production cycle. Producer needs and production cycle should be tested with producers because these will guide educational programming and evaluation.

Conceptualizing, Building, and Evaluating more Resilient and Inclusive Sovereign Tribal Nation Specialty Crop Value Chains: Building - Micro Level

Building – Micro Level

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Niche in artisanal/local food

- ▶ Unique food
- ▶ Adding variety
- ▶ Something new but connected to the past and has a “story”



Three Sister's Production System

Corn

Beans

Squash



Problems Encountered

- Pests
- Weeds
- Late Planting
- Lack of grain fill
- Harvesting



Choctaw



Pawnee



Eastern Shawnee



African-American



Hispanic



Asian - Hmong



Asian - Hmong



Agritourism – Examples from Southeast Asia



Seed Saving group Activity

- Organizational structure
- Technical expertise
- Building capacity
 - Selection
- Branding and marketing
- Tie in activities with K –
12



Ideas for Native and Non-Native Growers

- ▶ Developing mutually beneficial partnerships with Native American Nations and Growers
- ▶ Working together in small groups of growers.
- ▶ Start with small test production areas.



Role in Food Security

Traditional Crops & Food Security

- ▶ Reestablishing food sovereignty by rediscovering and reimagining Native American Food Systems.
- ▶ Greater food system resiliency
- ▶ Greater dietary variety

International Aspect

“Development of seed and planting stock programs, *focused on locally adapted and market-demanded varieties*, will lead to greater yields and higher market values. ... *traditional knowledge and native horticultural varieties* must be identified, characterized and conserved.” (Global Horticulture Assessment, 2005, pg.2) in Bates (2014)

Questions/Thoughts/Recommendations

- ▶ How are producers currently utilizing traditional and indigenous Crops?
- ▶ What technical needs are there?
- ▶ What research needs are there?
- ▶ What partnerships with research and educational institutions would be beneficial?



Acknowledgements:

- Lynn Brandenberger – OSU Horticulture Vegetable Production
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