

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE &
FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS



Strengthened Food and Agro-ecological Systems Contributing to Community Health in Indian Country

Workshop at the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders 11th Annual Forum
Thursday, June 27, 2013
Providence, RI

Moderator: Mike Roberts, President, First Nations Development Institute

Panelists:

- Ventura Lovato (Kewa), program manager for the Intertribal Community Visioning for Healthy Foodways Project of Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, NM
- Samantha Honani (Hopi), program manager, Natwani Coalition, The Hopi Foundation, AZ
- Jeff Metoxen, Director, Tsyunhehkwa Agricultural Program of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin

Panel Organizer: Laura Monti, The Christensen Fund

- **First Nations' Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI)**
First Nations awards grants or assistance to Native American organizations (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) that are designed to increase food access, strengthen food security, improve the health and nutrition of Native children and families, build the capacity of individual Native farmers and ranchers, and increase the control over Native agriculture and food systems. The program is intended to help tribes and Native communities build sustainable food systems such as community gardens and greenhouses, food banks, food pantries, animal herds or flocks, and other agricultural projects related to Native food-systems control. In these projects, there are also elements of economic development, new business development, and renewing or maintaining of cultural traditions and practices. The organization also is driving the formation of the national Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, and recently launched the new Native Food Systems Resource Center website at www.NativeFoodSystems.org.
 - *Michael E. Roberts, President: mroberts@firstnations.org*
- **The Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health** is implementing an innovative and holistic initiative to promote access to nutritious foods and healthy development for

American Indian youth, families, and communities. Programming currently focuses on four main areas of work: 1) establishing edible school gardens and a school-based gardening curriculum in elementary schools; 2) creating community farms and local farmer coalitions to provide outreach and education; 3) establishing farmers markets and sustainable garden/farm-to-market systems to distribute foods in each community; 4) and developing and implementing a Mobile Grocery Store (MoGro) to increase access to healthy and affordable foods in rural Native communities. All program activities are guided by a Feast for the Future Community Visioning Board in each participating community.

- *Kristen Speakman, MPH, Program Coordinator: kspeakman@jhsph.edu; 505-400 6174*
- *Ventura Lovato, Program Manager: vlovato@jhsph.edu*
- *JHUCAIH Website: <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/center-for-american-indian-health/>*
- *MoGro Website: www.mogro.net*

- **Hopi Foundation Natwani Coalition** - <http://www.hopifoundation.org/programs>
We believe all food consists of a web of relationships and practices that should contribute to the renewal and preservation of Life. -Hopi

The Hopi Foundation/ Natwani Coalition exemplifies the Hopi teaching of "Itam naapyani," or doing the work ourselves. Established by local Hopis, we promote self-sufficiency, proactive community participation in our own destiny, self-reliance, and local self-determination. The Natwani Coalition is a collaboration between multiple Hopi organizations dedicated to the preservation and restoration of traditional Hopi food and farming practices. This project hosts the Hopi Food and Agricultural Symposium every two years, provides small grants and technical assistance to local farming projects, and recently launched a local traveling exhibit of historic farming photos.

- *Samantha H. Antone, Natwani Coalition Program Manager: samantha.honani@hopifoundation.org; 928-734-2380/2390*

- **Tsyunhehkwa Program of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin.**
Tsyunhehkwa[^], meaning "Life Sustenance" in the Oneida language, is an agricultural community and culturally-based program of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Our agricultural component is located at 139 Riverdale Drive, on a Certified Organic 83-acre site. Our program is founded on self-sustainability and service for the Oneida Nation and the community. Our entire operation and services are open to the public. We have three main components, agriculture, cannery, and retail. Our primary focus is on self-sustainability and food security. Our staff of 13 people works to meet our community's needs and our goals. However, we could not accomplish this without the support and help of the Oneida Nation, our community, and friends.
- *Jeff Metoxen, Director: jmetoxen@oneidanation.org; 920-869-2141*

Resources:

- **Addressing child hunger and obesity in Indian Country: Report to congress.** (2012, January).
 - Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/tribal/documents/IndianCountrySummary.pdf>
- **Wellness in Native America**
 - <http://www.doi.gov/letsmove/indiancountry/news/WINATraditional-Foods.cfm>
- **Native Foodways Magazine**
 - <http://www.tocaonline.org/native-foodways-magazine.html>
- **Leupp Family Farms**
 - <https://sites.google.com/site/leuppfarm/>
- **Indigenous Farm-to-School Manual**
 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/127218174/Indigenous-Farm-to-School-Manual-by-WELRP-and-Kaisa-Jackson>
- **Native Seeds Search**
 - <http://www.nativeseeds.org/>