

Title:	"A New Generation of O`odham Farmers" will train future tribal farmers and help revitalize the Tohono O`odham agricultural economy.		
Sponsoring Agency	NIFA	Project Status	COMPLETE
Funding Source	Non Formula	Reporting Frequency	Annual
Accession No.	223514	Grants.gov No.	GRANT10576350
Project No.	ARZW-2010-03130	Proposal No.	2010-03130
Project Start Date	09/01/2010	Project End Date	08/31/2013
Reporting Period Start Date	09/01/2010	Reporting Period End Date	08/31/2013
Submitted By	Katarina Altshul	Date Submitted to NIFA	04/21/2014

Program Code: BFRDP

Program Name: Beginning Farmer and Rancher

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Recipient Organization

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Non-Technical Summary

The Tohono O'odham Nation sits in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, sixty miles west of Tucson, Arizona. Approximately 20,000 of the tribe's 28,000 members live on the main section of the Tohono O'odham Reservation. The community is American Indian, rural, and economically poor. In 2004, employment was found to be 24 percent lower than the Arizona state average, with 363 per 1,000 residents employed (CCPR-WPC 2008). The 2000 Census reports that 50.6% of Tohono O'odham households with children live below the poverty level (compared to the U.S. average of 13.6%). For over a thousand years, the Tohono O'odham were a self-sufficient farming society, producing all of their own food in the Sonoran desert. As late as the 1930s, traditional water harvesting techniques, known ak chin (monsoon flood plain) farming, enabled the cultivation of more than 20,000 acres. Traditional agriculture had dwindled to 2,500 acres by 1949. By 2000, this number was further reduced to fewer than 10 acres of traditional crops. The diagnosis of type-II Diabetes among the Tohono O'odham correlates with the demise of their traditional agriculture. In 1960, type-II diabetes was virtually unknown within the community. Today, more than 60% of adults suffer from the disease, the highest rate in the world. In the 1990's, the crisis intensified, with the childhood onset of type -II diabetes becoming common. Tohono O'odham children as young as six years old suffer from the disease. Currently 76% of Tohono O'odham 6th- 8th graders are overweight or obese (+85 %ile). Tepary beans and other traditional foods have been proven to regulate blood sugar levels and may delay the onset of type-II diabetes. Regaining food self- sufficiency -- producing local, nutritionally-appropriate crops in the community -- can help disrupt the diabetes epidemic. "A New Generation of O'odham Farmers" can support this effort through training that will increase access to traditional foods in the community. The "New Generation" program will implement two activities. 1) Training, Professional Development, and Capacity Building: Over three years, the "New Generation" program will provide multi-site internships, workforce training, and preparation for farming as a career. All 65 trainees will learn farming skills, conservation practices, crop technologies, and basic farm safety. The "New Generation" program has three training tracks to prepare a variety of beginning farmers: a) One-year Agriculture Apprenticeships - 3 per year/ 9 total; b) Professional Development for Agricultural Workers - 32 Tohono O'odham who are currently employed in low-level agriculture jobs will participate in multi-year, ongoing workforce development; and c) Summer Youth Internships - 8 high school students per summer: 24 total. 2) Establishing a Learning Center & Teaching Farm: A working traditional farm will become a center for training, education, outreach, and technical assistance. The Learning Center will enable recruitment, youth participation, and a setting for farmers-in-training to apply what they are learning. It also will provide a model for culturally- and environmentally- appropriate farming.

Accomplishments

Major goals of the project

Project Summary: "A New Generation of O'odham Farmers" "A New Generation of O'odham Farmers" will train 65 tribal farmers and revitalize the Tohono O'odham agricultural economy. The program will promote agriculture as a culturally, environmentally, and economically viable way of life on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Project Objectives: - Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships; - Culturally- and environmentally- appropriate curriculum materials; - Crop farming and safety; - Federal, state, and tribal resource/referral and technical assistance; - Entrepreneurship/ business and marketing training; - Sustainability of farmland for the next generation; - Climate change; - New technologies for crop production; - Food security and native food sovereignty; and - Production of safe, nutritious food. Project Approaches: Over three years, the "New Generation" program will provide multi-site internships, workforce training, and preparation for farming as a career. All 65 trainees will learn farming skills, conservation practices, crop technologies, and basic farm safety. The "New Generation" program has three training tracks to prepare a variety of beginning farmers: summer youth interns (24 high school students); full-time one-year apprenticeships (9 total); and professional development for Tohono O'odham currently employed as wage-labor agricultural workers (32 total). Project Outcomes: 1) First and foremost, a new generation of O'odham farmers. New farmers can continue, and in many cases renew, local farming and food production in remote villages of the Tohono O'odham Nation. 2) A second project outcome involves replacing the supervisors of local federal, tribal, and state agriculture agencies who are due to retire in the next decade. The "New Generation" program will create a pool of trained native agriculture professionals. 3) A third project outcome involves revitalizing the local agriculture economy. The range of positive long-term effects -- on Tohono O'odham health, the environment, and native food sovereignty -- are presented in section III (below).

What was accomplished under these goals?

The "New Generation of O'odham Farmers" Training Program exceeded our stated goals exponentially, reaching far more Tohono O'odham tribal members through training, education/awareness, outreach, and economic development. The "New Generation of O'odham Farmers" training program has the goal of long-term, sustainable revitalization of the collaboration in this rural Native American community. For this reason, a very positive development in 2012/2013 has been how our Farmer Trainees are taking ownership of the apprenticeship and internship programs. TOCA's empowerment philosophy encourages self determination and changes emerged from TOCA's responsiveness to trainees' goals and needs. We can expect high rates of long-term successful, economically-sustainable agricultural businesses and small farms on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - New Generation of O'odham Farmers Agriculture Apprenticeship:

POST-TRAINING JOB SUCCESS: The Apprenticeship was the most intensive and smallest of the "New Generation" programs. Graduates of the program have all gone on to work in agricultural areas. The summer-intern training -- designed for high school students -- became a program in its own right, the youth-initiated Project Oidag, and has generated enthusiasm at schools for agricultural careers.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION: "NEW GENERATION" TRAINING PROGRAM: The training program was designed to include education and training in agricultural basics, science, farm equipment, conservation practices and sustainable agricultural methods, as well as personal development skills such as public speaking and formal writing. In addition, a strong emphasis is given to O'odham history, food system and culture. The apprentices alternated between TOCA's Cowlic Learning Center and Teaching Farm and the non-flood-irrigated Papago Farms. Apprentices attended at least one workshop, field trip or work swap every weeks. They also closely mentored Project Oidag interns, working with them on and off the farm.

They worked on developing the IOBUSD school gardens, Senior Services garden, and Project Oidag community garden. They also are a driving force behind Youth Ag Day, and Harvest Festival. They also installed 5 new gardens/fields for community members. Under the mentoring of Cowlic Learning Center, they gave farm tours to visitors, approximately one per week. In cooperation with TO Credit and Finance Department, we designed a series of courses on financial literacy, marketing and small-scale farm accounting, which resulted in 8 sessions held in the spring and summer of 2013. In coordination with Cowlic Learning Center and Project Oidag, farm apprentices started a regular weekly farmers market, and held several fresh food sales on top of that. A weekly farm meeting was held with TOCA staff in order to follow up on their progress and obstacles, and help design their future learning opportunities. The apprentices and graduates also initiated traditional seed-saving program, whereby traditional crops seeds are collected, grown, shared and preserved among the participants, along with the sharing of work and knowledge. Previous apprentices and graduates to this day continue close relationships with the each other and the mentors, and share experiences, tips and vision for a healthier future of our community.

EVALUATION OF SKILLS COMPETENCY/AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE: In the program evaluations, which were conducted at the end of the apprenticeship programs in 2012 and 2013 respectively, 100% of the graduates stated that they would want to have their own farm one day, or work on some tribal or other farm. The baseline collected indicated that at the start of the program, they did not have even basic agricultural knowledge and job training, and doubted that farming could be a viable way of making a living on the TO Nation (beyond a summer job on a tribal farm). After the conclusion of the program, their self-evaluation as well as evaluation by their mentors indicated an incredible gain in knowledge, skills as well as confidence and familiarity with farming and O'odham culture, and 100% graduates see themselves as seeking a permanent employment on a farm or starting their own.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Summer Youth Internship (Project Oidag):

In the summer of 2012, we implemented a 7-week summer youth agriculture internship program, led by Cowlic Learning Center Coordinator. The program employed 8 young of O'odham as full-time paid interns to work on Cowlic Learning Center and Training Farm fields, Papago Farms, Project Oidag Community Garden, Senior Services garden, IOBUSD gardens, and backyard gardens. We related agricultural projects with learning about traditional and modern agricultural practices, food preparation, and Tohono O'odham traditional way of life through daily tasks, reflections, workshops and field trips designed in cooperation with the Tohono O'odham Farm and Food Group partners (including field trips to San Xavier Co-op Farm, Healthy O'odham Promotion Program and Himdag Ki: Cultural Center and Museum) and working other community projects such as, for example, a three-day saguaro fruit harvest. The interns also attended and presented at three Native youth focused conferences, i.e. Gila River Youth Conference, Young Men's Gathering, San Xavier, and Unity Conference, Phoenix. At the conclusion, we held a graduation event which was attended by 65 people (TOCA staff, family members and friends, community), held at the Himdag Ki: Cultural Center and Museum in Topawa. A handbook for the program was developed and finished, along with a complete Youth Crew Leaders Training curriculum.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**"New Generation of O'odham Farmers" Workshops and Training Programs Produced**

In year three of the BFR program, there were a total of 568 workshops developed and implemented, 50 farm trips coordinated, and 22 farm "swaps" held. In addition, several outreach and large public events were held to increase the knowledge in agriculture. As noted above, deliverables for a total of seven separate training and educational programs were developed, including five handbooks/curricula. A brand new training program for gardening/farming was developed by the youth program, with a handbook/curriculum. A new school gardening program for the community was developed. A new school gardening program for youth was developed.

- Advanced/Intensive Workshops For Farmers, Farmer Trainees & Advanced Gardeners

This was aimed at gardeners and community members with some preexisting knowledge from the workshops we conducted in 2011 and 2012, as well as at existing farm workers (working at Tohono O'odham Community Action, San Xavier Co-op Farm, Tohono O'odham Farming Authority, Tohono O'odham Community College Agricultural Extension), new New Generation of O'odham Farmers agricultural apprentices, new New Generation of O'odham Farmers agricultural interns (Project Oidag), the Cowlic Learning Center and Teaching Farm Coordinator, Tohono O'odham Community Action farm manager and Tohono O'odham Community College agricultural interns. In addition, Project Oidag developed their own GROW (Growing To Renew Our World) teaching module aimed at involving other youth into agriculture. In total, we developed and implemented 70 new workshops: fruit trees; soil and seed starting; nontraditional vegetable planting for winter; non-traditional vegetable planting for spring; traditional summer crops; flood irrigation methods; composting; pest control; irrigation systems; land leveling (2-day intensive); basic tractor skills and safety; organic/sustainable agriculture and traditional methods. We also held intensive business planning workshop series (4-part) for small farmers, and Navigating EQIP workshop. Workshops were held respectively at the Tohono O'odham Community College, Project Oidag's Community Garden at Indian Health Services Complex in Sells, AZ, Cowlic Learning Center, San Xavier Coop Farm, NRCS in Sells, Tucson Indian Center, University of Arizona American Research and Training Center, San Simon Health Center, and San Miguel Community Center. On average 15 people attended, of whom 5 were youth, with a total of 1050 participants, of whom 100% were socially disadvantaged, 85% limited resource, 400 farm workers, about 40% female, 20 currently farming.

- Leadership Development Workshops

The fourth stream was aimed at the same audience, and attempted to tackle skills we found often lacking in farm workers. We developed and conducted a total of 50 workshops under the title Leadership Development, which covered basic writing and communication skills, public speaking, basic financial literacy, basic O'odham language, priority setting, and food system, law and policy overview. We also developed a new Food Justice module, with a curriculum available upon request. 15 youth and 10 adults attended on average, with a total of 1250 participants, of whom 100% were socially disadvantaged, 85% limited resource, 100 farm workers, 60 % female, 20 currently farming. 100% of participants in all four streams reported a change in knowledge as well as a change in attitude – specifically towards farming, traditional agriculture, culture and foods.

- Farm field trips and "swaps"

We coordinated a total of 50 farm/garden field trips (to 5 farms on the reservation, 5 off the reservation and four school garden/community gardens in Gila River Crossing, Sacaton, Tucson and Ajo) We performed a total of 22 farm and work "swaps": 6 work exchanges with the San Xavier Co-op Farm, 2 with the Tohono O'odham Community College Agriculture Extension, 3 with O'odham farmer Bill Weyes, one with Crooked Sky Farms, Phoenix, and 10 with Menlo Family Farms, Tucson. On average 10 people attended, with a total of 770 participants, of whom 90% were socially disadvantaged, 85% limited resource, 100 farm workers, 30% female, 20 currently farming. 100% of participants reported a change in knowledge as well as change in attitude – specifically towards teamwork and understanding farming in detail.

- Youth Ag Day 2013:

In cooperation with Tohono O'odham Farm and Food Working Group, we designed, developed and implemented the third annual event dedicated to youth and agriculture – Youth Ag Day, and implemented 6 workshops specifically for the event geared towards middle school students and younger, and 4 geared towards high school students. The event was held at the San Xavier Coop Farm in Tucson. 100 people attended, of whom 65% were youth, from Indian Oasis Baboquivari Unified School District and Ha:san Preparatory and Leadership School, Tucson, of whom 95% were O'odham, 90% were socially disadvantaged, 75% limited resource, 6 farm workers, 60% female, 2 currently farming. 95% of participants reported a change in knowledge as well as change in attitude – specifically towards farming, traditional agriculture, culture and foods.

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

Beyond presentations and workshops, results have been disseminated in numerous ways, including print and online: Details of 2012/2013 Education and Awareness Outputs/Deliverables:

PRINT:

1. EDUCATIONAL PRINT: New Programs & Curricula (developed & implemented - available upon request): Seven separate training and education programs developed, including five handbooks/curricula. These include a Food Justice Curriculum (FFA/BHS), a New Generation of O'odham Farmers Training Handbook, an O'odham School Garden Curriculum, and an Agriculture Community Activities and Workshops Handbook.
2. NATIONAL PRINT: Native Foodways Magazine and online presence www.nativefoodways.org and magazine Facebook page): 10,000 copies distributed in Native communities. USDA programs were highlighted as resources and programs across "Indian Country" that had benefitted from USDA and/or OAO support were featured, including the "New Generation" training program.
3. STATE-WIDE PRINT: Newspaper Arizona Daily Star (Aug 2013): "A solution: Sowing the future for tribal youth- O'odham Farm Effort is a Link to Healthier Eating and Culture" Arizona Daily Star article on TOCA's BFR program as a solution to poverty: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/a-solution-sowing-the-future-for-tribal-youth/article_248e2a30-05b7-50ddb431-5e4d902e325f.html
4. LOCAL PRINT New Ed/Awareness Print Resources (text/print): Farmers' Market Newsletter (15 issues), TOCA Newsletter (1 issue), Papago Runner articles (5), program brochures (3), and 30 flyers/promotion of events posters. (Most fliers and the Farmers' Newsletters reprinted on Facebook pages of TOCA, Project Oidag, and Desert Rain cafe. Links are listed below.)

ONLINE A/V:

1. TRAINER/TRAINEE New Ed/Awareness Videos (avail. online):
 - A. Dec 2012 Why Hunger video : <http://vimeo.com/48821460>)
 - B. Nov 2012 "Squash Cycle Video" (trainee student video) - TOCA/Pan Left (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnKcL93zi3g>)
 - C. Fall 2012 "O'odham Corn -Tohono O'odham Youth" (trainee student video) - TOCA/Pan Left (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTQssl-Ukus&list=PLE9E9C508E90822B0&index=21>)
 - D. Fall 2012 "Attack of the Junk Food Zombies -Tohono O'odham Youth" (trainee student video) - TOCA/Pan Left (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sly_VnCwFmW&list=PLE9E9C508E90822B0)
 - E. Spring 2013 Video from 2nd Annual Tohono O'odham Youth Agriculture Day (<http://vimeo.com/75107279>)
 - F. Summer 2013 KOHN Bahidaj Camp trailer (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SrsHbDjhzE&feature=c4-overview&list=UUaJOqsApSGUGzruKBuNb0hA>) and full Bahidaj film <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3gPKEXXAgM>
2. NATIONAL ONLINE A/V
 - A. Nov. 21, 2013 USDA Google+ Hangout on Local and Regional Food Systems and #MyFarmBill - TOCA co-founder Tristan Reader part of 45-minute USDA discussion: (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnBI5VYRhOU>) - N.B. event took place after grant period ended.
3. NATIONAL ONLINE - TEXT & PHOTOS
 - A. American Indian Institute had an article on TOCA's BFR "New Generation" program and Traditional Foods in its "Wellness in Native America" blog - available online (since Sept 2012): americanindianinstitute.wordpress.com/2012/09/05/toca/
 - B. New TOCA-related Facebook Pages:
 - i. TOCA- Tohono O'odham Community Action (www.tocaonline.org)
 - ii. Project Oidag (co-farming/co-gardening youth program): (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Oidag/147395625341798>)
 - iii. Desert Rain Cafe (farm produce bought/sold): (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Rain-Cafe/229578393737714?fref=ts>)
 - iv. Native Foodways magazine: nativefoodways.org, the website of TOCA's new national magazine, Native Foodways, and the magazine's Facebook page, have become lively sites for discussions of how native farmers put native food sovereignty into action:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Native-Foodways-Magazine/507626735953002?fref=ts>

4. WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS (For schools and public -not the structured trainings for farmers, farmer trainees, and intensive gardeners)

- Alternative School Gardening Series – "Big Brothers and Sisters in the Garden" Project Oidag, a youth-designed and youth-run internship program designed and implemented a 16-part gardening mentoring programming with the Sells Alternative School, mentoring students ages 14-27 in installing and maintaining their own garden on the school campus while teaching the O'odham culture and history. They worked with on average 20 students, with a total of 360 participants, of whom 100% were socially disadvantaged, 95% limited resource, 0 farm workers, about 65% female, 0 currently farming. These sessions were held from September 2012 through May 2013.

- Community Gardening and Agricultural Workshops: In cooperation with Tohono O'odham Farm and Food Working Group, Cowlic Learning Center, Indian Health Services, Tohono O'odham Community College, Head Start, Healthy O'odham Promotion Program, Natural Resources and Conservation Services, Tohono O'odham Recreation Centers, Cultural Center and Museum, TO Senior Services and Indian Oasis Baboquivari Unified School District, we developed and implemented four new series of gardening and agricultural workshops, conducting a total of 388 workshops.

- School-site Workshops

The first stream was aimed at students and their parents and guardians at Head Start, Elementary and Middle School in Sells, San Simon, Santa Rosa, San Xavier and Tucson, as well as other interested community members. This stream was developed and implemented in cooperation with 2 FoodCorps service members and a traditional storyteller/singer. Workshops and presentations were held three times/week in the Elementary School garden, and four times/week at the Middle School Garden in Sells, from August 2012 through August 2013. In addition, individual workshops and presentations were held in the Head Start centers and schools on and off the TO Nation that service Tohono O'odham kids, with an average of one workshop/week. The curriculum/handbook is a work in progress, and is available upon request. A total of 330 hands-on workshops were conducted, with on average 20 children and 5 adults, with a total of 8250 participants, of whom 95% were socially disadvantaged, at least 75% limited resource, 20 farmworkers, about 70% female, 30 currently farming.

- Elders-site Workshops

In cooperation with Senior Services, AmeriCorp service members, Cowlic Learning Center and Project Oidag interns, 12 community hands-on workshops covering basic garden care were developed as a second stream. The workshops were held on a monthly basis at the TO Senior Services garden in Sells. On average 25 adults attended, of whom 15 were seniors, with a total of 300 participants, of whom 100% were socially disadvantaged, 85% limited resource, 10 farm workers, about 80% female, 10 currently farming.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

{Nothing to report}

Participants

{Nothing to report}

Target Audience

Target Audience was initially stated as members of the Tohono O'odham Nation, a rural reservation in Southern Arizona, who would seek training to become farmers and/or agriculture professionals. The program exceeded training, outreach, education, and collaboration goals. The "New Generation of Tohono O'odham Farmers" program offered intensive professional training to Tohono O'odham adults, summer internships to high school students, and workshops in schools and for the public in which participants ranged from elementary school to elderly. In Sum:

- Total Individuals Reached: 12,830 with the following demographic characteristics:

Native American 100%

Economically Disadvantaged 85%

Socially Disadvantaged 99%

Avg. % Female 62.5%

Total Currently Farming: 600 Tohono O'odham

Products

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2013	YES

Citation

Native Foodways Magazine: Celebrating Food, Culture, and Community

Other Products**Product Type**

Educational Aids or Curricula

Description

7 new program curricula (developed and implemented)

Product Type

Audio or Video

Description

6 Ed/Awareness videos (TOCA-produced videos, tribe-produced videos, and videos produced by National groups about "New Generation of O'odham Farmers") - all available online. (Links in Final Report.)

Product Type

Other

Description

Collaborations with new Native American agriculture/food groups with outreach to additional 6,000 individuals (90%+ Native American membership) see Final Report for Details

Changes/Problems**CHALLENGES**

Despite the many positive outcomes, some challenges have been identified and are being addressed as the project moves forward. The programs successes have been achieved, but lack of any available USDA BFR or OAO grants for FY 2013 (due to the lack of a new Farm Bill) does put incredible strain on the new farmers and on TOCA's ability to build upon our success stories:

Challenge #1: Difficulty changing the organizational culture of other programs, institutions or agencies to embrace an empowerment model of staffing, training and operating. Many of the tribe's larger agricultural operations have never previously engaged in substantive levels of staff training and development. Workers have been hired and trained for specific tasks, rather than trained in a more comprehensive way that allows for professional development leading to farming individually. Shifting the organizational culture of such operations is a slow process. However, the success of the New Generation apprenticeship and internship activities has demonstrated the benefits of such an empowerment model and some progress has been made in spreading this approach more broadly. TOCA's "train the trainer" model of mentoring/empowerment has demonstrated successes where approaches by other agencies have not. While the progress is slow, as a paradigm shift, it is contributing to a significant transformation in the agricultural economy and an increase in locally-farmed foods on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Challenge #2: Even when programs recognize the need for training and capacity building within their staff, managers/supervisors do not always have the skills necessary to shift from a supervisory role to a mentoring role. Running a farm and training farmers often require two different (but overlapping) skill sets. It is not enough to say to a farm manager, "Don't just tell your workers to do a specific task, teach them to do it on their own." Instead, managers and supervisors need to be taught how to teach. Providing guidance like "Explain the 'why' and 'how' of a task, not just the 'what' of a task," can help them become skilled mentors to a New Generation of O'odham Farmers. One of the exciting ways in which this challenge has been overcome can be seen in how the young people being trained in the program have taken up teaching, leading, and of ? growing. Unlike established professionals, who see the empowerment/mentoring model as different than the "learn-by-rote" form they have, farmers trained in the program see both the method and how to apply it with fresh eyes.

For this reason, TOCA's "train the trainer" approach has generated some immediate successes with our "get-up-and-go" interns and apprentices.

Challenge #3: Increased programming (both in terms of number of participants and duration of programming) has increased stress on infrastructure. With larger numbers of apprentices and longer training programs for interns than were originally proposed, there have been increased stresses on the program infrastructure. For example, additional use of farm equipment means increased repair and maintenance costs; youth who participate in the new year-round Project Oidag need access to tools, computers to make flyers and watch webinars, etc. Moreover, the fact that apprentices/interns are being trained on heavy equipment such as tractors means that there is greater room for mistakes that damage the equipment and require higher

levels of repair expenditures. Thus, the high levels of interest in and demand for this programming can place stresses on the organizational infrastructure. Creating a new generation of O'odham farmers requires more than simply providing people with training and then turning them loose to farm. Success requires support at all levels –from assistance gaining access to land to securing capital and equipment, from on-going technical support in their fields to help building and accessing markets. The success of the training program has led to the need to expand programming in other areas to support the success of new farmers within the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Challenge #4: There is a lot to learn, progress is sometimes slower than anticipated, additional time and resources are needed for forming a solid and sustainable farming foundation in the community. There are a lot of programs that offer services to the O'odham communities; the communities use the services, consider them to be provided by "outsiders", and when the program is finished, nothing remains to testify of its existence. TOCA is taking a different approach based on empowerment and sustainability, which often requires a wider scope of training, teaching and support than "mere" farming training, which in turn requires time (hence the extension of the apprenticeship program) and more resources. Our beginning farmers-to-be often lack basic skills that are not associated with farming per se (e.g. basic computer literacy). Also, since farming as a way of life disappeared for generations of parents and even grandparents long before our young apprentices and interns started on this path, they do not have many positive role models to look up to, and farmers and other experienced people are very few. Indeed, it has been a challenge to learn how to develop training programs that are uniquely suited to the O'odham culture, environmental factors (land,rain patterns), as well as to the food system infrastructure and expectations within the larger social context.

Challenge #5: The lack of a Farm Bill in 2013 severely undermines all of our work. To sustain small farmers for FY 2014 will be a major challenge while local farm-to-institution infrastructure is being developed. For the original BFR proposal, TOCA's 2010 logic model of new farmer development included developing additional supports for new farmers (e.g., building markets for their products in the schools), and TOCA has sought funding for expanding these supports beyond the activities that are a part of the BFR grant. We have been successful, but lack of USDA funding options for FY 2014 for beginning farmers programs means that a serious shortfall exists for the coming year. TOCA has helped farmers sell over 15,000 lbs of dried beans in the past year to restaurants on the reservation and across Arizona. TOCA has enabled farmers to sell fresh produce directly to local schools and supported farmers' expansion of sales at a new Farmers' Market in Sells, AZ. We have also worked on increasing institutional sales. For years, TOCA has been working to create guaranteed "farm to school food service provider" markets for small farmers on the Tohono O'odham Nation. This has been a slow process, and resources are needed during the interim to fully implement and institutionalize sales of native farm produce to local schools. With the stalled Farm Bill, the sequester, and the federal government "shutdown," BFR grant monies are ending at exactly the wrong time for our program. As 2014 begins, the lack of the Farm Bill can be identified as as substantially hindering the prospects of small farmers on the Tohono O'odham Nation.