

Project #3 Rebel Earth Farms

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

AWARD YEARS 2016 FORWARD

A Final Performance Report must be received within 90 days after the end of the grant agreement. You are required to report on the administration of the agreement and each project approved within the agreement. The completed Final Performance Report will be posted to the AMS website.

GRANT INFORMATION

AGREEMENT

AMS Agreement Number:	Enter Agreement Number (e.g., 16SCBGPXX####).			
Period of Performance:	Start Date:	9/29/2021	End Date:	9/29/2021
Award Amount:				

RECIPIENT

Recipient Organization Name:	Patricia Hammond, Rebel Earth Farms
Recipient's Point of Contact	
Name:	Patricia Hammond
Phone:	605-858-8185
Email:	Patrisha_h@yahoo.com

REPORT

Report Type:	Final
Date Report is Submitted:	4/27/2022

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

If funds were used for grant administration, indicate the amount of funding expended from the beginning of the grant to the end of the reporting period covered by this report. Also, indicate the amount charged as indirect expenses versus the amount charged as direct expenses.

Amount Requested	Direct and/or Indirect Expended to Date
\$40,000	\$40,000

FINAL PROJECT REPORT TEMPLATE

Final Performance Reports must illustrate the completion of each project within the grant agreement. Each project shall be outlined as separate project profiles. You will report on projects in the same order they were submitted in the approved application and subsequent amendments.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Rebel Earth Farms' Value-Added, Direct Marketing Lakota Herbal Tea High-tunnel Production		
Recipient Organization Name:	Patricia Hammond, Rebel Earth Farms		
Period of Performance:	Start Date:	1/1/2018	End Date: 12/31/2021
Recipient's Project Contact			
Name:	Patricia Hammond		
Phone:	605-858-8185		
Email:	Patrisha_h@yahoo.com		

PERFORMANCE NARRATIVE

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Provide enough information for the reader to understand the importance or context of the project. This section may draw from the background and justification contained in the approved project proposal.

Rebel Earth Farms is about creating a new way of life for my Lakota people. A sustainable life where there is no hunger, where the community comes together to learn, build, grow and to improve quality of life. Specialty crops, traditional foods and high-tunnels are the building blocks of this new life. We need a greater use of sustainable and holistic practices in specialty crop production and we need to build capacity in our small acreage farmers. Inspiring a new generation of small *local Lakota* farmers, my farm will use agro-ecological/permaculture practices that are culturally appropriate while making use of improved high-tunnel materials, production and conservation practices. Increasing yields and reducing inputs. I believe these things will increase my triple bottom line: plant, people and profit. Creating new and profitable, *tribal* specialty crops based off our traditional foods. Many Lakota don't own land or have easy access to it. My farm will become an incubator to both new landless farmers and land-owners. I will work with SDSU to guide new farmers through the process of getting a high-tunnel. Other topics covered will include: high-tunnel production, food safety and handling (GAP and GHP), field packing, drip irrigation and the production of traditional foods and other specialty crops. The targeted audience of my incubator will be Lakota who want to become sustainable specialty crop high-tunnel farmers. My project's participants will be socially-economically disadvantaged and limited-resource new and beginning farmers who will come together to address food insecurity.

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

Address the below sections as they relate to the entire project's period of performance.

OBJECTIVES

Provide the approved project's objectives.

#	Objective	Completed?	
		Yes	No*

1	Create new specialty crops based off of our traditional Lakota wild gathered plant foods.	Yes	
2	Use high-tunnels to extend the growing season, increase yields, provide protection from the weather and elements and train my fellow Lakota on how to use these systems to not just grow our traditional foods, but other specialty crops such as vegetables and fruits, especially but not limited to, our native species	Yes	
3	Increase knowledge & awareness of Farm to School/cafeteria procurement regulations, Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Farm to School grants (planning, training, & implementation) amongst my fellow Lakota new farmers. This will be coordinated with two other planned incubator-Hubs in the Central and Western part of the reservation. This grant is directed only at my site, the Eastern Hub, but participants from the other two hubs will be invited to trainings at my site	Yes	
4	Create 2-3 seasonal part-time contracted workers (up to 20 hrs./week each) to assist erecting the high-tunnels on site, care and maintenance of the high-tunnels and crops inside (from planting to harvesting). These two trained high-tunnel farm workers will become experienced in high-tunnel production, GAP, GHP, field packing, drip irrigation and the production of traditional native foods and other specialty crops.	Yes	
5	New Specialty crops produced in my 4 high-tunnels will be: traditional foods- 1 high-tunnel will be entirely <i>Mentha Arvensis</i> wild field mint, which my people call <i>Ceyaka</i> . This first high-tunnel is partially covered by a NCR-SARE grant. The other three high-tunnels as covered in this SCBGP proposal are as follows: the 2 nd high-tunnel will produce <i>Agastache-foeniculum</i> , Anise Hyssop, <i>Wahpe Yatapi</i> alongside cultivated wild native raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i> and native strawberries <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> . As well as wild onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i> . The 3 rd and 4 th high-tunnels will teach/highlight sequential planting and companion planting strategies for the following: peppers (hot pepper varieties in one high-tunnel and bell pepper varieties in the other); culinary herbs in both high-tunnels; heirloom tomatoes (determinate and in-determinate) varieties; medicinal herbs; vegetable varieties such as: lettuce, greens/micro-greens, spinach, annual vegetable and flower plants), potted native ornamental grass (potted herbaceous perennials) and cut flowers.	Yes	
6	Help 3-5 additional socially-disadvantaged and beginning Lakota farmers start specialty crop farming either inside a high-tunnel or upon the incubator acreage (provided free of charge) on one of the three incubators.	Yes	
7	Provide the following agricultural production and produce safety trainings in the grant period: specialty crop production, high-tunnel	Yes	

<p>production, organic production, GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) & GHP (Good Handling Practices), 3 High-tunnel build (how-to) classes, and 5 additional permaculture, specialty crop production design classes.</p>		
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**If no is selected for any of the listed objectives, you must expand upon this in the challenges and lessons learned sections.*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

List your accomplishments for the project's period of performance, including the impact they had on the project's beneficiaries, and indicate how these accomplishments assist in the fulfillment of your project's objective(s), outcome(s), and/or indicator(s).

#	Accomplishment or Impact	Relevance to Objective, Outcome, and/or Indicator
1	<p>Objective 1: Create new specialty crops based off of our traditional Lakota wild gathered plant foods.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>We identified and cultivated 5 main target traditional plants, traditionally wild gathered by Lakota, which have potential to become both a raw and a value-added Native American agricultural crops: 1) <i>Mentha Arvensis</i> (wild field mint) which we call <i>Ceyaka</i>, 2) <i>Agastache-foeniculum</i> (Anise Hyssop), which we call <i>Wahpe Yatapi</i> alongside cultivated 3) wild native raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i>, which we call, <i>thakhanhecala hu</i> and 4) native strawberries <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>, which we call, <i>wazusteca</i>. As well as 5) wild onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i>, which we call <i>psin sicamna</i>. We did not grow, but identified 6) wild hops (or common hops) as another potential specialty cash crop that could be produced. Our people called it, <i>chaniyuwe wahpe onaphoye</i>.</p> <p>In addition to these, we believe that is a significant number of culturally significant plants to the Lakota Oyate listed in https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/Hydrocarb onPipeline/2014/HP14-001/testimony/betest.pdf Native American ethnobotanist, Linda Black Elk's work that could be successfully cultivated on small regenerative tribal farms. Plants, fruit trees, and edible mushrooms could form the basis of a new Lakota Regenerative Agriculture on the Northern Great Plains. Many of these species we are growing currently on Rebel Earth Farms, other's we're researching their viability for growth inside high-tunnels or outdoors.</p>	<p>We not only identified the target of creating new specialty crop varieties based off of traditionally gathered culturally significant plants to my Lakota people, we also planted these varieties, harvested seed for future plantings, worked with new tribal small farmers to recruit them as specialty crop farmers, but we identified research by a Native American ethnobotanist that is allowing us to expand both the number of traditional plants as potential specialty crops, but to share this, along with our own experience cultivating these species to the general public, other tribal growers as well as with a Tribal Farm to School program.</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk's listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 4: new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops:</p> <p>School Programs: 1 Farm to School food program at Little Wound School is now planning to introduce Lakota Traditional Plants as specialty crops to be produced inside their high-tunnel.</p> <p>Whole Sale Markets: Lakota Made LLC. is now officially interested in purchasing from Rebel Earth Farms, from the 18 small tribal farmers mentioned above and even from the Farm to School program if they wish. In addition, the local tribal farmers market has encouraged Rebel Earth and our partnering farmers to</p>

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		sell at their farmers markets. The Black Hills Area Farmers Market in Rapid City has also encouraged us to set up a booth there.
2	<p>Objective 2: Use high-tunnels to extend the growing season, increase yields, provide protection from the weather and elements and train my fellow Lakota on how to use these systems to not just grow our traditional foods, but other specialty crops such as vegetables and fruits, especially but not limited to, our native species.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>New specialty crops (based off our traditionally used, native species) produced in the 4 incubator-specialty crop high-tunnels were: traditional foods- 1 high-tunnel will be entirely <i>Mentha Arvensis</i> wild field mint, which our people call <i>Ceyaka</i>. The other three high-tunnels as covered in this SCBGP proposal produced as follows: the 2nd high-tunnel produced <i>Agastache-foeniculum</i>, Anise Hyssop, <i>Wahpe Yatapi</i> alongside cultivated wild native raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i> and native strawberries <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>. As well as wild onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i>. The 3rd and 4th high-tunnels will highlighted sequential planting and companion planting strategies for the following: peppers (hot pepper varieties in one high-tunnel and bell pepper varieties in the other); culinary herbs in both high-tunnels; heirloom tomatoes (determinate and indeterminate) varieties; medicinal herbs; vegetable varieties such as: lettuce, greens/micro-greens, spinach, annual vegetable and flower plants), potted native ornamental grass (potted herbaceous perennials) and cut flowers. The fourth high-tunnel will be operated and managed entirely by incubator-farmers and the interns.</p> <p>Tea Produced as listed in the grant both inside and outside of a 30'x100' high-tunnel on Rebel Earth Farms; sent off for testing to Bam Packing, Inc. Tea received back and is in the process of being hand-bagged. The tea has now been bagged and samples were sent off to a new market that has both a brick and mortar store and online store. Lakota Made LLC out of Mankato, MN is a native owned company interested in buying not just my herbal traditional teas, but other traditional herbal plant raw products from my farm. I believe that these traditional herbal teas represent probably the</p>	<p>With climate change here (not coming) on the Northern Great Plains, our weather is becoming even more challenging to grow food. High-tunnels and hoop houses are quickly becoming a prime way to grow food and reduce crop loss due to wind, hail, frost and flooding damage that is coming with climate change. These events pose challenges for high-tunnel structures and so together with SDSU Extension's Tribal Local Foods program and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, we're also researching and experimenting with cost-effective ways to harden high-tunnels and hoop houses for climate change. We're also looking at ways to extend even further the growing season inside high-tunnels.</p> <p>The traditional plants gathered by my people are mostly perennial. So they're already a tougher plant. But, inside a high-tunnel's growing environment, they are growing bigger and stronger and producing more yield. We're currently also looking at ways to research the microbiology of these plants growing in the wild and to see if we can also cultivate this micro-biology to replicate it under production inside high-tunnels, thus hopefully maintaining the potency of these traditional wild foods. Some research suggests that under cultivation and protection, some wild plants may grow less potent. We don't want that to happen, thus our expanding and continuing research. We hope to identify by the end of 2025, which traditional plants can be cultivated, which should remain wild, which can be cultivated inside a high-tunnel and which should be grown outside.</p> <p>These species we've tested so far represent the single greatest potential for marketable crops as herbal teas, raspberries, strawberries and onions are known commodities for most American market shoppers and commercial kitchens.</p> <p>These accomplishments meet the following outcomes and indicators:</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption: Outcome 2, Indicator 1: Of the estimated 75 children/youth reached: 166 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops 166 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops.</p>

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	<p>highest potential for cultivation, production and marketing of a specialty crop and cash crop for new tribal farmers.</p> <p>In regards to training my fellow Lakota, Tea Produced as listed in the grant both inside and outside of a 30’x100’ high-tunnel on Rebel Earth Farms; sent off for testing to Bam Packing, Inc. Tea received back and is in the process of being hand-bagged. The tea has now been bagged and samples were sent off to a new market that has both a brick and mortar store and online store. Lakota Made LLC out of Mankato, MN is a native owned company interested in buying not just my herbal traditional teas, but other traditional herbal plant raw products from my farm.</p> <p>In regards to spreading awareness of these new specialty crops from traditionally gathered, culturally significant plants, we attended an in person two day sales event at Lakota LLC in Mankato, MN in March to showcase our products. Over the two days of the event, 163 adults attended and 47 youth stopped by our table. In addition to the general public, 17 potential wholesale buyers from businesses such as retail, restaurants, one school and one farmers market stopped by. Samples of our herbal teas were made available for people to try. In addition they were given a list of other specialty crop products we produce, in addition to the herbal teas, people were able to sample wild onions and raspberries and strawberries (frozen from previous year).</p> <p>Through our partnership with our co-Incubator-Hub, Remember’s Feather Two Farms, and with SDSU Extension on Pine Ridge and their Tribal Local Foods and AgrAbility program, we recruited 18 disabled tribal new farmers and their small regenerative agriculture focused farms, to start producing specialty-crops based off of our own Lakota Traditional Plants. One of these producers, applied for an NRCS EQIP grant and has a high-tunnel up. These new farmers were all able to sample these traditional plants as produced at my site and have begun to produce on their own sites, those that they selected. Herbal teas seems to be the most popular, although the raspberries and strawberries are second in popularity alongside an interest in growing fruits such as wild plum and raspberry.</p> <p>In addition, 119 tribal students at Little Wound School’s Extension school’s new Farm to School</p>	<p>166 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad.or non-traditional)</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 2: Of the estimated 25 adults reached: 181 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops 181 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops. 181 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad. or non-traditional) 18 reported eating more specialty crops.</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk’s listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 1: Of the 100 general consumers and 6 wholesale buyers reached: a. 181 gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. b.181 reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. c. 181 reported they will be trying hard to supplement their diets with specialty crops that they produced, preserved/obtained/prepared.</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 4: new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops: School Programs: 1 Farm to School food program at Little Wound School is now planning to introduce Lakota Traditional Plants as specialty crops to be produced inside their high-tunnel.</p> <p>Whole Sale Markets: Lakota Made LLC. is now officially interested in purchasing from Rebel Earth Farms, from the 18 small tribal farmers mentioned above and even from the Farm to School program if they wish. In addition, the local tribal farmers market has encouraged Rebel Earth and our partnering farmers to sell at their farmers markets. The Black Hills Area Farmers Market in Rapid City has also encouraged us to set up a booth there.</p>

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	<p>program now have a high-tunnel up, funded in part via an FNS grant and also through NRCS EQIP. These students also got to sample my traditional foods produce and in 2022 will be adding these crops to their Farm to School High-Tunnel.</p> <p>Lastly, I helped the Oglala Sioux Tribe, SDSU Extension, the BIA and others, identify ten new high-tunnel sites. They've ordered the high-tunnels and they've arrived on Pine Ridge. TO date, some of these have been built and others aren't yet up. Some are to go to some of our AgrAbility partnering farmers.</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops though greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources:</p> <p>Outcome 4: Indicator 1: 5 native plants/seed releases (cultivars, drought tolerant plants, organic, etc.). We produced the above mentioned five native plant varieties, along with identifying wild hops as a 6th and now are researching Linda Black Elk's plant list for a <i>substantial</i> number of additional plants, teas and fruits that could become specialty crops. We have collected seeds from many of these species and in 2022 are continuing to do so and to test and research these.</p> <p>Outcome 4, Indicator 2: Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources: 18 of growers/producers indicated adoption of recommended practices. 18 of growers/producers reported reduction in pesticides, fertilizer, water used/acre to ZERO pesticide use and reduced water use.</p> <p>Outcome 8: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development:</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 6: 18 new beginning tribal farmers who went into specialty crop production</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 7: 18 socially disadvantaged farmers who went into specialty crop production.</p>
3	<p>Objective 3: Increase knowledge & awareness of Farm to School/cafeteria procurement regulations, Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Farm to School grants (planning, training, & implementation) amongst my fellow Lakota new farmers. This will be coordinated with two other planned incubator-Hubs in the Central and Western part of the reservation. This grant is directed only at my site, the Eastern Hub, but participants from the other two hubs will be invited to trainings at my site.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>Through our partnership with our co-Incubator-Hub, Remember's Feather Two Farms, and with SDSU Extension on Pine Ridge and their Tribal</p>	<p>For my Lakota people to develop their own culturally relevant and significant <i>tribal</i> and <i>Lakota</i> form of agriculture, we need to have a strong local market. On the reservation, the single biggest local market are the institutional buyers at the local tribal schools. In addition, Lakota people want to grow for Lakota people. Currently most of us grow for subsistence farming as we don't like to see our people hungry and mal-nourished. So growing food isn't only an economic need for us. However, to be sustainable we also need a market driven solution to hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Agriculture and specialty crop production are great avenues to address all three. However, without a market and without training the next generation of tribal farmers (our youth and farmers) it won't matter. That's why Farm to school is our target.</p>

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	<p>Local Foods and AgrAbility program, we recruited 18 disabled tribal new farmers start producing specialty-crops based off of our own Lakota Traditional Plants. One of these producers, applied for an NRCS EQIP grant and has a high-tunnel up.</p> <p>In addition, 119 tribal students at Little Wound School's Extension school's new Farm to School Program now has a high-tunnel up, funded in part via an FNS grant and also through NRCS EQIP as well as through a USDA-FNS Farm to School grant that I helped them develop. The school's grant will be bringing Farm to School students, teachers and staff to Rebel Earth Farms and I will be providing education, alongside SDSU Extension's Tribal Local Foods and AgrAbility programs at Little Wound School starting in 2022 or 2023 Covid-19 allowing.</p> <p>Lastly, I helped the Oglala Sioux Tribe, SDSU Extension, the BIA and others, identify ten new high-tunnel sites. They've ordered the high-tunnels and they've arrived on Pine Ridge. It is the Oglala Sioux Tribe's stated intention that these new high-tunnels will either go to schools or to tribal small farmers and non-profits looking to produce specialty crops and to sell to their local area tribal schools as soon as they're ready. They have approached SDSU's Tribal Local Foods and AgrAbility programs to facilitate some of this instruction and Rebel Earth Farms Incubator, myself as a tribal specialty crop farmer to be both a teaching/tour site and as an educator in this effort.</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 1: Of the estimated 75 children/youth reached: 166 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops 166 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops. 166 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad.or non-traditional)</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 2: Of the estimated 25 adults reached: 181 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops 181 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops. 181 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad. or non-traditional) 18 reported eating more specialty crops.</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk's listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 2: Of the 10 individuals (culinary professionals, institutional kitchens, specialty crop entrepreneurs such as kitchen incubators/shared used kitchens, etc.) reached:</p> <p>10 Little Wound School Food Program Staff and teachers gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. 10 reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops at Little Wound School and/or at home. 10 reported they plan to supplement their diets with specialty crops that they produced, preserved/obtained/prepared at home in 2022.</p>

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		<p>Outcome 3, Indicator 3: existing delivery systems/access points of those reached that expanded and/or improved offerings of specialty crops: 1 School food programs (Little Wound School) 2 wholesale markets; (Little Wound School and Lakota Made LLC) 2 food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute and store specialty crops (Rebel Earth Farms and ReMember's Feather Two incubator-hub farms)</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 4: new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops:</p> <p>School Programs: 1 Farm to School food program at Little Wound School is now planning to introduce Lakota Traditional Plants as specialty crops to be produced inside their high-tunnel.</p> <p>Whole Sale Markets: Lakota Made LLC. is now officially interested in purchasing from Rebel Earth Farms, from the 18 small tribal farmers mentioned above and even from the Farm to School program if they wish. In addition, the local tribal farmers market has encouraged Rebel Earth and our partnering farmers to sell at their farmers markets. The Black Hills Area Farmers Market in Rapid City has also encouraged us to set up a booth there.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources:</p> <p>Outcome 4: Indicator 1: 5 native plants/seed releases (cultivars, drought tolerant plants, organic, etc.). We produced the above mentioned five native plant varieties, along with identifying wild hops as a 6th and now are researching Linda Black Elk's plant list for a <i>substantial</i> number of additional plants, teas and fruits that could become specialty crops. We have collected seeds from many of these species and in 2022 are continuing to do so and to test and research these.</p> <p>Outcome 4, Indicator 2: Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources: 18 growers/producers and Little Wound School's Farm to School Program indicated adoption of recommended practices. 18 growers/producers and Little Wound School reported reduction in pesticides, fertilizer, water used/acre to ZERO pesticide use and reduced water use.</p>

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		<p>Outcome 8: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development:</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 6: 18 new beginning tribal farmers who went into specialty crop production for the Farm to School Movement on Pine Ridge.</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 7: 18 socially disadvantaged farmers who went into specialty crop production for the Farm to School movement on Pine Ridge.</p>
4	<p>Objective 4: Create 2-3 seasonal part-time contracted workers (up to 20 hrs./week each) to assist erecting the high-tunnels on site, care and maintenance of the high-tunnels and crops inside (from planting to harvesting). These two trained high-tunnel farm workers will become experienced in high-tunnel production, GAP, GHP, field packing, drip irrigation and the production of traditional native foods and other specialty crops.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>We were able to hire the 3 paid specialty crop interns and through other funding, as of 2021 winter, keep them on staff at Rebel Earth Farms Incubator. In addition we hired approximately 20 tribal day laborers to help prepare, plant and care for these specialty crops inside and outside of the high-tunnels. Both the interns and the day laborers all helped build the high-tunnels, replace covers, install drip-irrigation, start seeds, transplant plants into the high-tunnels. They've helped install fans and exhaust vents and are aware that the plants we've grown inside are all specialty crops, some are also Traditional Lakota herbal plants of our people. We have taught them one-on-one (during Covid lock-downs) or in small groups (post-Covid lock downs) on GAP and GHP and plan to build a new field pack station and wash station outside of our high-tunnels next to the new solar-powered Farm from A Box cold storage and water pump unit.</p>	<p>To reach our Big Picture goals to developing a culturally relevant Lakota form of agriculture, addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty, we need to develop a Farm to School Market that is supported by local tribal farmers. But many of our tribal new farmers are disabled and need farm workers. Farm workers trained to grow inside high-tunnels and trained to safely handle specialty-crop production and produce. I need help on my small farm to do this! So we need workers who know what they're doing. Maybe these trained workers become farmers too. Maybe not, but farms need labor and my Lakota people need training to be farm workers safely!</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 2: Of the estimated 25 adults reached:</p> <p>23 (above the previously stated 181 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops 23 (above 181) gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops. 23 (above 181) reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad. or non-traditional) 23 (above the 18) reported eating more specialty crops.</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers. 23 mentioned above working at Rebel Earth were introduced to specialty crops, the production of these and other specialty crops and to Linda Black Elk's plant list.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults at Lakota Made LLC, to 23 interns and workers at Rebel Earth Farms Incubator and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk's listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants,</p>

#	Accomplishment or Impact	Relevance to Objective, Outcome, and/or Indicator
		<p>beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside. That's 204 adults and 166 youth exposed to specialty crops.</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 3: 3 jobs (paid incubator farm internships) created. We were able to hire the three interns and 20 other day labor workers to satisfy Outcome 8, Indicator 3.</p>
5	<p>Objective 5: New Specialty crops produced in my 4 high-tunnels will be: traditional foods- 1 high-tunnel will be entirely <i>Mentha Arvensis</i> wild field mint, which my people call <i>Ceyaka</i>. This first high-tunnel is partially covered by a NCR-SARE grant. The other three high-tunnels as covered in this SCBGP proposal are as follows: the 2nd high-tunnel will produce <i>Agastache-foeniculum</i>, Anise Hyssop, <i>Wahpe Yatapi</i> alongside cultivated wild native raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i> and native strawberries <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>. As well as wild onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i>. The 3rd and 4th high-tunnels will teach/highlight sequential planting and companion planting strategies for the following: peppers (hot pepper varieties in one high-tunnel and bell pepper varieties in the other); culinary herbs in both high-tunnels; heirloom tomatoes (determinate and indeterminate) varieties; medicinal herbs; vegetable varieties such as: lettuce, greens/micro-greens, spinach, annual vegetable and flower plants), potted native ornamental grass (potted herbaceous perennials) and cut flowers.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>We identified and cultivated 5 main target traditional plants, traditionally wild gathered by Lakota, which have potential to become both a raw and a value-added Native American agricultural crops: 1) <i>Mentha Arvensis</i> (wild field mint) which we call <i>Ceyaka</i>, 2) <i>Agastache-foeniculum</i> (Anise Hyssop), which we call <i>Wahpe Yatapi</i> alongside cultivated 3) wild native raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i>, which we call, <i>thakhanhecala hu</i> and 4) native strawberries <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>, which we call, <i>wazusteca</i>. As well as 5) wild onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i>, which we call <i>psin sicamna</i>. We did not grow, but identified 6) wild hops (or common hops) as another potential specialty cash crop that could</p>	<p>These five new plants represent the single fastest potential new specialty crops to both our local tribal markets and to regional non-tribal markets. I needed to use high-tunnels to get more harvest out of these perennial crops through an extended growing season and more yield, but also to provide a LOT of samples to other tribal farmers, students, the general public etc. Part of growing a market is taste-testing.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk's listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 4: new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops:</p> <p>School Programs: 1 Farm to School food program at Little Wound School is now planning to introduce Lakota Traditional Plants as specialty crops to be produced inside their high-tunnel.</p> <p>Whole Sale Markets: Lakota Made LLC. is now officially interested in purchasing from Rebel Earth Farms, from the 18 small tribal farmers mentioned above and even from the Farm to School program if they wish. In addition, the local tribal farmers market has encouraged Rebel Earth and our partnering farmers to sell at their farmers markets. The Black Hills Area Farmers Market in Rapid City has also encouraged us to set up a booth there.</p>

#	Accomplishment or Impact	Relevance to Objective, Outcome, and/or Indicator
	<p>be produced. Our people called it, <i>chaniyuwe wahpe onaphoye</i>.</p> <p>In addition to these, we believe that is a significant number of culturally significant plants to the Lakota Oyate listed in https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/Hydrocarb onPipeline/2014/HP14-001/testimony/betest.pdf Native American ethnobotanist, Linda Black Elk’s work that could be successfully cultivated on small regenerative tribal farms. Plants, fruit trees, and edible mushrooms could form the basis of a new Lakota Regenerative Agriculture on the Northern Great Plains. Many of these species we are growing currently on Rebel Earth Farms, other’s we’re researching their viability for growth inside high-tunnels or outdoors.</p>	
6	<p>Objective 6: Help 3-5 additional socially-disadvantaged and beginning Lakota farmers start specialty crop farming either inside a high-tunnel or upon the incubator acreage (provided free of charge) on one of the three incubators.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>Through our partnership with our co-Incubator-Hub, Remember’s Feather Two Farms, and with SDSU Extension on Pine Ridge and their Tribal Local Foods and AgrAbility program, we recruited 18 disabled tribal new farmers and their small regenerative agriculture focused farms, to start producing specialty-crops based off of our own Lakota Traditional Plants. One of these producers, applied for an NRCS EQIP grant and has a high-tunnel up. These new farmers were all able to sample these traditional plants as produced at my site and have begun to produce on their own sites, those that they selected. Herbal teas seems to be the most popular, although the raspberries and strawberries are second in popularity alongside an interest in growing fruits such as wild plum and raspberry.</p>	<p>For my Lakota people to develop their own culturally relevant and significant <i>tribal</i> and <i>Lakota</i> form of agriculture, we need to have a strong local market, consistent production of crops and the crops selected and produced and the systems to produce them <i>have to</i> be accessible to other tribal new disabled tribal farmers who are also struggling with intergenerational poverty. On the reservation, the single biggest local market are the institutional buyers at the local tribal schools. In addition, Lakota people want to grow for Lakota people. Currently most of us grow for subsistence farming as we don’t like to see our people hungry and mal-nourished. So growing food isn’t only an economic need for us. However, to be sustainable we also need a market driven solution to hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Agriculture and specialty crop production are great avenues to address all three. However, without a market and without training the next generation of tribal farmers (our youth and farmers) it won’t matter. That’s why Farm to school is our target.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk’s listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by</p>

#	Accomplishment or Impact	Relevance to Objective, Outcome, and/or Indicator
		me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.
7	<p>Objective 7: Provide the following agricultural production and produce safety trainings in the grant period: specialty crop production, high-tunnel production, organic production, GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) & GHP (Good Handling Practices), 3 High-tunnel build (how-to) classes, and 5 additional permaculture, specialty crop production design classes.</p> <p>Accomplishment or Impact:</p> <p>In addition to one-on-one trainings (during Covid lock downs) to 18 disabled tribal new farmers, at their home sites, via SDSU Extension’s Tribal Local Foods and AgrAbility program and through our own efforts on Rebel Earth Farms we were able to hire the 3 paid specialty crop interns. In addition, we hired approximately 20 tribal day laborers to help prepare, plant and care for these specialty crops inside and outside of the high-tunnels. Both the interns and the day laborers all helped build the high-tunnels, replace covers, install drip-irrigation, start seeds, transplant plants into the high-tunnels. They’ve helped install fans and exhaust vents and are aware that the plants we’ve grown inside are all specialty crops, some are also Traditional Lakota herbal plants of our people.</p> <p>We taught them one-on-one (during Covid lock-downs) or in small groups (post-Covid lock downs) on GAP and GHP and plan to build a new field pack station and wash station outside of our high-tunnels next to the new solar-powered Farm from A Box cold storage and water pump unit. We are in discussion with SDSU Extension’s Dr. Rhoda Burrows about partnering on Rebel Earth and ReMember’s Feather Two incubator-hub teaching farms to do additional, in person (Covid willing) GAP and GHP trainings, with specific issues focused on high-tunnel production off and handling concerns for these new specialty crop plants based off of the culturally significant plants used by my Lakota people.</p>	<p>These results are highly relevant to this objective and to all outcomes and indicators related to increasing access, consumption, knowledge of and sales of these new specialty crops as these trainings are an important part of food safety. If these new specialty crops are to be accepted by wholesale buyers in particular (such as tribal schools) than proper certification and handling practices need to be instilled on these new tribal farmers and at the farm to school programs. Only through safely increasing production of these new specialty crops can a viable specialty crop market be developed and expanded over the next decade.</p>

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Provide any challenges to the completion of your project or any positive developments outside of the project’s original intent that you experienced during this project. Also, provide the corrective actions you took to address these issues. If you did not attain an approved objectives, outcome(s), and/or indicator(s), provide an explanation in the Corrective Actions column.

#	Challenge or Development	Corrective Action or Project Change
1	Building delays caused by hired contractor led to delays in planting in 2018.	We found a different builder to help us finish the structures. NOTE: All Structures have been built, recently we ordered new covers for the high-tunnels in 2021, but the covers sent were sized wrong by the manufacturer, however, we're working with them to resolves this issue before the spring 2022 season starts. We also now have all four high-tunnels hooked up to fans, exhaust vents and electrical. In addition, though a partnership with Farm From a Box, we'll be irrigating in 2022 spring through Fall 3 acres of production, including our four high-tunnels, via a solar powered 3kw water pump and we now have cold-storage on Rebel Earth inside of their unit.
2	Then the Atlas Bomb Cyclone Blizzard damaged all four high-tunnels and covers, which we've replaced	We repaired the damage ourselves and purchased new covers. We have switched from roll-up sides to full-covers, as our winds are too strong for roll-up sides. We ordered four new full-covers for a 30'x100' high-tunnel but the manufacturers sent too narrow and are working to replace these with proper sized covers before the spring 2022 season.
3	Covid-19 Global Pandemic hit causing quarantine, reservation wide, tribal government imposed close-downs, school closings, farmers market closings, bed-n-breakfast closings and store closing. Some of these were permanent, others temporary (6 months to over a year), delaying our ability to get our products to them to sample.	We had to develop a quarantined group of volunteer farm workers to tend to the crops during the growing season so that we could successfully bring the crops to full production and send the teas off to BAM Packing. We spent the time researching new potential markets, trying to implement new marketing strategies, such as creating a Rebel Earth Farms Instagram account, we kept consistent communication with prospective schools and businesses.
4	BAM Packing Inc changed their policies on the rough drying and processing on our end so we now have to bag the teas ourselves or purchase a machine to help us filter out stems.	We researched such machines and procedures, but are hand packing the tea bags ourselves to market the teas. NOTE: this was completed and new markets identified and two secured. Lakota Made LLC is the main new site. We are still hand-packing teas as of this report as the machines are pretty expensive.

LESSONS LEARNED

Provide recommendations or advice that others may use to improve their performance in implementing similar projects.

Operating a small farm and a new business on a tribal reservation, during climate change and a global pandemic is incredibly hard. We needed to adapt almost constantly over the last three years either due to the increasingly worse weather caused by climate change, the global Covid-19 pandemic and fears and closings outside of our control. The global supply chain and inflation problems also taught us however, that our focus on local production, local market development and local logistical control is how we want to continue to build our business as we weren't as affected as larger commercial operations and businesses around the world.

CONTINUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (IF APPLICABLE)

Describe your plans for continuing the project (sustainability; capacity building) and/or disseminating the project results.

We have continued to build upon this project after completion through continuing to support the Little Wound School's Farm to School program, SDSU Extension's AgrAbility program and their 30 new, tribal disabled small regenerative farmers and through continued market development to wholesalers interested in our project.

BENEFICIARIES

Number of project beneficiaries:347

OUTCOME(S) AND INDICATOR(S)/SUB-INDICATOR(S)

Provide the results of the project outcome(s) and indicator(s) as approved in your application and project proposal. The results of the outcome(s) and indicator(s) will be used to evaluate the performance of the Program on a national level.

OUTCOME MEASURE(S)

Select the Outcome Measure(s) that were approved for your project.

- Outcome 1:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased sales
- Outcome 2:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption
- Outcome 3:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access
- Outcome 4:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops though greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources
- Outcome 5:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through more sustainable, diverse, and resilient specialty crop systems
- Outcome 6:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increasing the number of viable technologies to improve food safety
- Outcome 7:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased understanding of the ecology of threats to food safety from microbial and chemical sources
- Outcome 8:** Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development

OUTCOME INDICATOR(S)

Provide the indicator approved for your project and the related quantifiable result. If you have multiple outcomes and/or indicators, repeat this for each outcome/indicator (add more rows as needed).

#	Outcome and Indicator	Quantifiable Results
2	<p>Outcome 2: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased consumption:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 1: Of the estimated 75 children/youth reached:</p> <p>Outcome 2, Indicator 2: Of the estimated 25 adults reached:</p>	<p>a. 166 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops</p> <p>b. 166 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops.</p> <p>c. 166 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad.or non-traditional)</p> <p>a. 181 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops</p> <p>b. 181 gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops.</p> <p>c. 181 reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad. or non-traditional)</p> <p>d. 18 reported eating more specialty crops.</p>

	<p>Outcome 2, Indicator 4: Will introduce an estimated 18 new specialty crops and/or specialty crop products to both tribal & non-tribal consumers.</p>	<p>a. 23 workers (above the previously stated 181 gained knowledge about eating more specialty crops b. 23 workers (above 181) gained knowledge about eating more traditional Lakota Foods that are specialty crops. c. 23 workers (above 181) reported an intention to eat more specialty crops (trad. or non-traditional) d. 23 workers (above the 18) reported eating more specialty crops.</p> <p>We used samples and provided 18 new tribal farmers, 163 adults, and a total of 166 youth to specialty crops as well as to ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk’s listed of culturally significant Lakota plants and we identified for them what traditional plants, beyond those grown by me, were good candidates for specialty crop production and cultivation, either inside high-tunnels or outside.</p>
3	<p>Outcome 3: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through increased access:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 1: Of the 100 general consumers and 6 wholesale buyers reached:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 2: Of the 10 individuals (culinary professionals, institutional kitchens, specialty crop entrepreneurs such as kitchen incubators/shared used kitchens, etc.) reached:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 3: existing delivery systems/access points of those reached that expanded and/or improved offerings of specialty crops:</p> <p>Outcome 3, Indicator 4: new delivery systems/access points offering specialty crops:</p>	<p>a. 181 gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. b. 181 reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. c. 181 reported they will be trying hard to supplement their diets with specialty crops that they produced, preserved/obtained/prepared.</p> <p>a. 10 Little Wound School Food Program Staff and teachers gained knowledge on how to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops. b. 10 reported an intention to access/produce/prepare/preserve specialty crops at Little Wound School and/or at home. c. 10 reported they plan to supplement their diets with specialty crops that they produced, preserved/obtained/prepared at home in 2022.</p> <p>c. 1 School food programs (Little Wound School) e. 2 wholesale markets; (Little Wound School and Lakota Made LLC) f. 2 food hubs that process, aggregate, distribute and store specialty crops (Rebel Earth Farms and ReMember’s Feather Two incubator-hub farms)</p> <p>School Programs: 1 Farm to School food program at Little Wound School is now planning to introduce Lakota Traditional Plants as specialty crops to be produced inside their high-tunnel.</p>

		<p>Whole Sale Markets: Lakota Made LLC. is now officially interested in purchasing from Rebel Earth Farms, from the 18 small tribal farmers mentioned above and even from the Farm to School program if they wish. In addition, the local tribal farmers market has encouraged Rebel Earth and our partnering farmers to sell at their farmers markets. The Black Hills Area Farmers Market in Rapid City has also encouraged us to set up a booth there.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through greater capacity of sustainable practices of specialty crop production resulting in increased yield, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and/or conservation of resources:</p> <p>Outcome 4: Indicator 1: 5 native plants/seed releases (cultivars, drought tolerant plants, organic, etc.).</p> <p>Outcome 4, Indicator 2: Adoption of best practices and technologies resulting in increased yields, reduced inputs, increased efficiency, increased economic return, and conservation of resources:</p>	<p>We produced the above mentioned five native plant varieties, along with identifying wild hops as a 6th and now are researching Linda Black Elk's plant list for a <i>substantial</i> number of additional plants, teas and fruits that could become specialty crops. We have collected seeds from many of these species and in 2022 are continuing to do so and to test and research these.</p> <p>2a, 18 of growers/producers indicated adoption of recommended practices. 2b, 18 of growers/producers reported reduction in pesticides/fertilizer, water used/acre to ZERO pesticide use and reduced water use.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Outcome 8: Enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through enhancing or improving the economy as a result of specialty crop development:</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 3: 3 jobs (paid incubator farm internships) created.</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 6: 4 new beginning tribal farmers who went into specialty crop production.</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 7: 4 socially disadvantaged farmers who went into specialty crop production.</p>	<p>Outcome 8, Indicator 3: We were able to hire the three interns and 20 other day labor workers to satisfy Outcome 8, Indicator 3.</p> <p>18 new beginning tribal farmers who went into specialty crop production for the Farm to School Movement on Pine Ridge.</p> <p>Outcome 8, Indicator 7: 18 socially disadvantaged farmers who went into specialty crop production for the Farm to School movement on Pine Ridge.</p>

DATA COLLECTION

Explain what data was collected, how it was collected, the evaluation methods used, and how the data was analyzed to derive the quantifiable indicator.

We counted participants or were given participant numbers (from the school). One on one interviews were conducted with our hired workers, the 18 new specialty crop tribal farmers and with new and/or prospective specialty crop market vendors.

FEDERAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES

Cost Category	Amount Approved in Budget	Actual Federal Expenditures (Federal Funds ONLY)
Personnel	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$11,700	\$11,700
Supplies	\$8560	\$8560
Contractual	\$19,200	\$19,200
Other	\$540	\$540
Direct Costs Sub-Total		
Indirect Costs		
Total Federal Costs	\$40,000	\$40,000

PROGRAM INCOME (IF APPLICABLE): Program income indicated above is actually from 2022, not for this grant. We reported it above to inform you that the farm is now making some income, post-covid.

Source/Nature (i.e., registration fees)	Amount Approved in Budget	Actual Amount Earned
1. No Income was able to be generated in the project period. Covid-19 global pandemic hit. So all produce produced was donated to needy tribal families and elders. We were asked for such assistance by the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Emergency Management team once the Covid-19 pandemic hit.		
2.		
3.		
Total Program Income Earned		

Use of Program Income

Describe how the earned program income was used to further the objectives of this project.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Provide additional information available (i.e., publications, websites, photographs) that is not applicable to any of the prior sections.

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