Stewarding Native Lands Webinar Series

Decolonizing Regenerative Agriculture

September 3, 2020
STRENGTHENING
American Indian COMMUNITIES & ECONOMIES
For 40 years

Our Mission...
to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities. We invest in and create innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities.
Webinar Management

All participants will be muted during the webinar

➢ Please use the question box to enter any questions to staff

➢ There will be a question and answer session at the end of the presentation. Please add your questions to the question box
Introductions

A-dae Romero Briones (Cochiti/Kiowa)
Director of Programs - Native Agriculture and Food Systems, First Nations Development Institute

Mark Muller
Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Foundation

Mary Adelzadeh (Diné)
Consultant, First Nations Development Institute
Poll

When was the first time you heard the term Regenerative Agriculture?

A. When I signed-up for this webinar
B. Within the last year
C. 1-10 years ago
D. Too long ago, I can’t remember
Regenerative Agriculture
The Story......
The Terms.....

- The 1st Agricultural Revolution: Hunter/gathers to Agriculture
- The 2nd Agricultural Revolution: Mechanization of Agriculture (Tractors)
- The 3rd Agricultural Revolution: The Green Revolution (GE and pesticides)
- We are now in the 4th Agricultural Revolution:
  - Organic Agriculture
  - Sustainable Agriculture
  - Digital Agriculture
  - Urban Agriculture
  - Regenerative Agriculture
Indigenous Perspective: Kincentric Ecology

- The 1st Agricultural Revolution: Hunter/gathers to Agriculture
  - INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ABSENT (except as the caveman “left behind”)
- The 2nd Agricultural Revolution: Mechanization of Agriculture (Tractors)
  - INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ABSENT (“unless you send your children to boarding school”)
- The 3rd Agricultural Revolution: The Green Revolution (GE and pesticides)
  - INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ABSENT (“because Native people don’t do science”)
- We are now in the 4th Agricultural Revolution:
  - Organic Agriculture
    - Largely Absent—around 10-12 organic Indigenous operations
  - Sustainable Agriculture
    - There are some interest in Indigenous Agricultural Practices
  - Digital Agriculture
  - Urban Agriculture
  - Regenerative Agriculture
  - Deep Ecology Movement
Regenerative Agriculture

1) a “functional” level focused on best practices that regenerate soil health and sequester carbon;

2) an “integrative” level focused on more holistically designing farms to improve the health and vitality of the wider ecosystem, not just soil;

3) a “systemic” level that views the farm within wider ecosystems of enterprises building multiple forms of capital; and

4) an “evolutionary” level involving “pattern understanding of the place and context” within which agriculture takes place.

Rodale Institute
We can’t talk about Soil Regeneration and Carbon Sequestration without...
tending the wild
the workshop
Western and Indigenous Perspective Split

**INDIGENOUS**
- Reverence for the Unknowns
- Natural systems are complex
- Kincentric

**WESTERN**
- Unknown should be explored (almost unacceptable)
- We can mimic nature and even do it better
- Anthropocentric

WHAT DO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE?
Let's start by reframing....

- Non Indigenous people working within regenerative agriculture need to start by including Indigenous history and practices BEFORE have the ideas about “agriculture”
  - terra nullius/
  - virgo terram
For Indigenous people.....

We need to think about the influences that have westernized the way we care for our lands and food...

- Think USDA programing NRCS
- Think reshaping of fields and areas where we grew food
- Think of trespassing on land claims..
- Timelines! Timelines! Timelines!
Ishi
Folkways or Adaptability
A-dae Briones

abriones@firstnations.org
Decolonizing Regenerative Agriculture

Mark Muller

Regenerative Agriculture Foundation
Seeding the Evolution of Agriculture

First Nations Development Institute Webinar
September 2020
A Decolonizing Journey...
State of Midwest Agriculture
Corn and Soybeans and Corn and Soybeans and Corn and...
Unbalanced Landscapes

Unbalanced Economics

Unbalanced Policies

Unbalanced Landscapes
Midwest Agriculture Facing Significant Challenges

- 40% of Minnesota Water Bodies Impaired
- The Land Use in Several Counties are 90% Corn and Beans
- Floods! Derechos! Heat!
- Brain Drain
The Agricultural Economy and Agricultural Policy Prioritizes One Item:

Cheap Calories
Are We Facing November Gales Like the Edmund Fitzgerald?

How to Incorporate Resiliency into the Landscape?
We Now Need More from Agriculture

Clean Water

Wildlife

Recreational Opportunities

Climate Mitigation

Healthy Soils

Thriving Economy
But Wait, There’s More!

Healthy Foods

Living Wages

Land Reparations

Food Sovereignty

Farmworker Justice

An End to Hunger
“We seek to uplift expressions of a more indigenous way of thinking, seeing, acting and working with nature as a foundational principle of scaling up regenerative agriculture with integrity.”

Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin
Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
Grantee of Regenerative Agriculture Foundation
Regenerative Agriculture Needs to Provide Tools...

...And Vision for the World We Desire
Unleash Brilliant Uncolonized Thinking
Native American Fiber Program

• Hemp may be the world’s oldest cultivated crop
• Many practical uses under research such as construction material or bio-composite
• Can tribal communities take ownership in the production, processing, and marketing of hemp and other materials?
Can RAF provide a bridge, increasing awareness of the opportunities for decolonization while increasing funding for indigenous communities?

How can RAF best serve as an ally?

Mark Muller - Mark@regenerativeagriculturefoundation.org

Thank You!
Presentation References and Resources

- *Eating the Landscape* by Enrique Solomon
Q&A

Please submit your questions in the question box
Speaker Contact

A-dae Romero-Briones
abriones@firstnations.org

Mark Muller
mark@regenerativeagriculturefoundation.org
Contact and Social Media

First Nations Development Institute
2432 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Longmont, Colorado 80501
www.firstnations.org
Tel: 303.774.7836
Email: info@firstnations.org

The recorded webinar can be accessed on our website under the First Nations Knowledge Center at https://www.firstnations.org/fnk
Next Webinar

GIS Mapping for Indigenous Communities Part 2

**Date:** Tuesday, September 29th 2020 at 12 pm MDT

**Where to Register:**
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4192312901569576460

**Webinar series questions?**
**Contact:** Emilie Ellis at eellis@firstnations.org
Please Take the 3-min Post-Webinar Survey!

You could win a $25 VISA Gift Card
Thank you!

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