

From the Director

Dear Friend,

This past year we spent time refocusing and redefining our role as seed stewards – clarifying our role in sharing these seeds, both to the communities with cultural connections, as well as the general public. Staff, board members and stakeholders came together in a committee to develop a Seed Policy that guides our work and ensures we stay focused on the Mission of the organization. The policy created new ways to share seeds, including through Seed Donations and Rematriation, and defined ways of engaging with Indigenous communities that are represented in the NS/S seed collection.

We expanded our growing capacity at the Conservation Center garden in Tucson and in partnership with farmers from across the region. We are proud to share that this past year we successfully produced 232 pounds of seeds representing 60 different accessions. This is more than what has been grown out annually for the past nine years! These seeds will refresh the seeds in the seedbank, and be distributed to communities, farmers, families, and customers in the Southwest and beyond.

We owe this success to you. Because of your generosity, the health of the seeds in the collection, and the demands of seed regeneration and distribution are successfully managed and maintained. With your support, we will continue to fight for agrobiodiversity by conserving and sharing these heirloom, arid-adapted seeds.

With gratitude,

Alexandra Zamecnik Executive Director





Our Mission

Native Seeds/SEARCH seeks to find, protect and preserve the seeds of the people of the Greater Southwest so that these arid-adapted crops may benefit all peoples and nourish a changing world.

This past year the Conservation Center gardens have doubled in size. This garden expansion, paired with a record monsoon season, created outstanding growing conditions.



Tohono O'odham Blue June Corn harvested at the Conservation Center

A lucky accident put us in touch with the donor of these seeds, Noel Patterson, a Tucson gardener. Patterson has been selectively breeding June corn for blue kernels for about nine years (he originally purchased seeds from NS/S in 2009). We intend to add them to the NS/S Collection!

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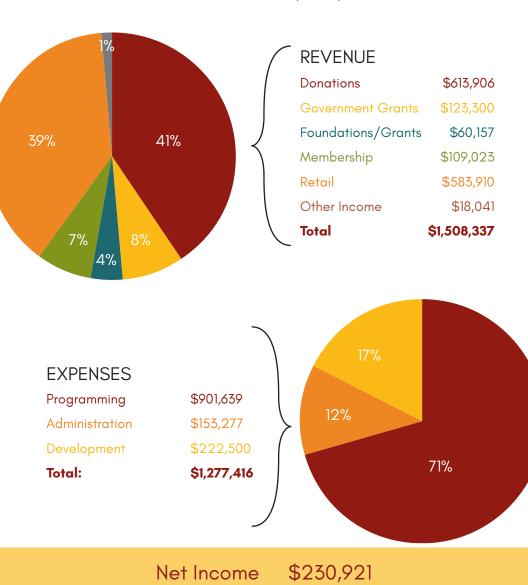
Chris Byrne

Anthony Francisco Jr. Tohono O'odham Nation



2021 Annual Report Data

Financials for the period of October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. Detailed financial information is available upon request.





Huazulco Amaranth

l'itoi Onion

White Mountain Apache Sorghum

Texas Wild Cherry Tomato

Conservation Center Seed Production

This year at the Conservation Center, we more than doubled our production of seed compared to last year. A record monsoon season, expansion of the gardens, and support from our donors made this possible. This year's success ensures more seed will be available through seed access programs and general distribution.

Conservation Center Grow-outs

Seed varieties grown for regeneration: Seed varieties grown for distribution: Total Harvested:	24
	9
	33
Total returned by Partner Farmers:	26
Total returned by Partner Gardeners:	1

Total Accessions Grown: 60



Alamos Torpedo Gourd

Beck's Gardenville Okra

Mano de Obispo

Purple Queen Garlic



Rarámuri Habas

Pinacate Pinto

Havasupai Striped Sunflower

Texas Black Amber Molasses Sorghum

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What is an Accession?

An accession refers to a seed variety collected at a particular location and time. Therefore, if the same variety of corn was collected from three different geographical locations, it would have three accessions!

Seed Bank Stats

Varieties returned to distribution that had been unavailable for 2+ years:

Seed bank varieties made available to the public for the first time: 7

Germination Tests to monitor the health of the seed collection: 1247



Hawol (Pima Orange) Lima

O'odham Ke:li Ba:so Melon

Papante Tobacco

Wild Luffa

The Partner Farmer Program continues to grow!

The Partner Farmer Program works with a network of Southwestern farmers to grow-out and increase the seed varieties we steward. The program strives to partner with Indigenous farmers who grow in or near the areas from where these seeds originate.

36 Accessions returned from Partner Farmers

190 lbs of seed returned, up from **48** lbs last year

Patrick Archie, Stanford University Student Farm, Palo Alto CA

Juan Arias, Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) Agent, Globe AZ

Alex Atkin, Tucson Village Farm, Tucson AZ

Humberto Badillo (Akimel O'odham), Gila River Indian Community, Chandler AZ

Molly Beverly, Slow Food Prescott, Chino Valley AZ

Charlie Blaylock, Shine's Farmstead, Azle TX

Bianca Bonilla, Community Roots Farm, Fallbrook CA

Patrick Bottiger, Kenyon College Student Farm, Mount Vernon OH

Dan Brown, Hummer House, Christoval TX

Justin Casiquito (Jemez), Albuquerque NM

Jonah Cude, Kearny AZ Han Dańiels (Cochiti),

Velarde NM

Megan Davey, Outlier Farm, Mancos CO

Sam Deboskey, Village Farm at Stanley, Denver CO

Susan DeBruin, Ogden UT

Matthew Draper, North Valley Organics, Albuquerque NM

Jessica Egan, Axtel UT

Marcello Federico (Blackfoot/Cherokee), Open View Farm Educational Center, Conway MA

Richard Goodridge (Maricopa), Cibecue AZ

Dax Hanson, Oatman Flats, Gila Bend AZ

Jessica Harper, Grow Local Colorado, Denver CO

Everett Herrera (Cochiti), Cochiti Lake NM

Buck Johnston (Diné), Taos NM

Angela Kingsawan (Rarámuri), Yenepa Herbals, Milwaukee WI

Courtney Lewis (Mohave), Avi Kwa Me Farms, Mohave Valley AZ

Hayes Lewis (Zuni), A:shiwi College & Career Readiness Center, Zuni NM

Tudor Montague (Yuman), Winterhaven CA

Agron Newton, Concord NC Larry Park, Larry's Veggies,

Marana AZ Floyd Pecos (Cochiti),

Cochiti Pueblo NM Mike Reeske, Rio del Rey

Beans, Valley Center CA

John Reub, Forever Yong Farm, Arivaca AZ

Bill Robinson, Crazy Chile Farm, Mesa AZ

Emily Rockey, Mission Garden, Tucson AZ

Amanda Ross, Chesnut Cove Farmstead, Whittier NC

Joyce Rychener, Steam Pump Ranch, Oro Valley AZ

Sue Salinger, Ekar Farm, Denver CO

Chantea Shor, Co-op at First Street, Denver CO

Kyle Swimmer (Yakanal / Laguna), New Laguna NM

David Van Druff (Akimel O'odham), Gila River Indian Community

Nalwoodi Denzhone Community Farm (San Carlos Apache), San Carlos AZ

Floyd Pecos | Cochiti Pueblo

"Little by little people are getting back to the land. It is good to taste the food you grow. And no pesticides are used which is important for your health. And it is good to see young people getting back to the way things used to be. This was a good year for growing. Lots of young Native people here are going back to farming and the farm fields."



Cochiti White Corn mid-season Photo credit Floyd Pecos

Han Dańiels | Velarde, NM.

"Dagot'ee, being a partner farmer means bringing Native crops home. We are growing from corn seed that was collected a stone's throw from our Grania ... It's an honor to repatriate seed and share the harvest with our neighbors."



Han Dańiels field at sunset Photo credit of Han Daniels

Susan DeBruin | Ogden, Utah

In 1991, we received seeds of "Mormon Runner Beans" from a donor who got them from an older gentleman who lived in Kanab, Utah, Runner beans can't be grown in the desert heat, so this year NS/S sent seeds to Susan DeBruin who grows in Oaden, Utah, north of Salt Lake City. This was the first time they've been grown. Before this grow-out, NS/S only had 19 seeds left in the seed bank!



Mormon Runner Beans

This map shows Partner Farmers of the Southwest.





Nalwoodi Denzhone Community (NDC), serving the San Carlos Apache community, has harvested over 3000 pounds of produce from their summer garden! NDC is one of 57 Native Communities that was granted a Community Seed Grant this year.

Free Seed Access

Native American Seed Request: 7,252 packets were distributed through NASR

Additional Seed Donations to Native and underserved communities: 8 lbs + 160 packets

Free Seed Programs

You can learn more about new changes to our Seed Programs online at nativeseeds.org/programs

Community Seed Grants

Total seed grants awarded: 127 Total seed packets sent: 3,468



These seeds have been the lifeblood of our urban horticulture and school-farm-to-table program at Sky Islands. Each packet of seeds granted to us has allowed each incoming student to gain experience sowing and transplanting heirloom crops. The seeding tray and raised bed have become regular gathering places to process what we've learned in the classroom and what is going on in our respective outside world. In many ways the seeds have become a source of therapeutic potential, with several students speaking to how they feel calmer, more grounded after a work party outside.

I've been so proud to see the students take the value of seeds to heart and cherish what they've sown. We have so much gratitude for all that you've offered to our program this year and eagerly look forward to collaborating in the near future.

-David Rollins,

Urban Horticulture/Restoration Ecology Teacher at Sky Islands High School

Garden Expansion

This past year, the garden underwent significant expansion! In January 2021, irrigation was added to freshly tilled plots and cover crops were planted to prepare the soil for larger growouts.

By September, the new plots had fencing and were bursting with Havasupai Striped Sunflower, Chemehuevi corn, Cocopah Brown Tepary, and Sonoran White Tepary. These crops were grown for regeneration from small samples from the collection.

The goal with continued garden expansion is to increase seed regeneration to maintain the health of the Seed Bank collection, and also meet rising seed demand for our distribution programs.





Garden increased from **0.3** acres to **0.66** acres

12 new permanent beds added

1,635 feet of new permanent fencing installed

1,532 feet of new drip tape irrigation installed





Volunteers:

Number of onsite volunteers: 62

Hours Volunteered: 3,070.8

Value of labor: \$82,727

(based on 2020 AZ value of volunteer time)

Seed packets filled by volunteers for distribution: 70,606



I love volunteering here because I appreciate their conservation ethic, the staff is super friendly and knowledgeable, and there is a range of activities available for us. And considering where we are on the climate change spectrum, their arid-adapted seeds may very well save our proverbial bacon!

> -Elyse Benson Seed Lab Volunteer



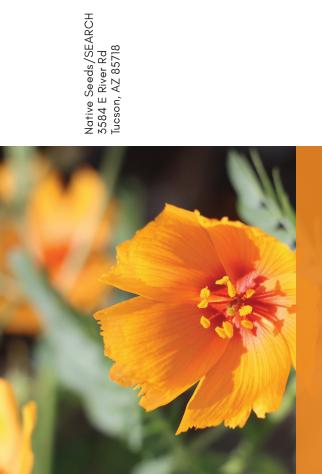
Supporting Regional Artisans

The NS/S online retail store offers products from over 45 local and regional vendors including: chiles, herbs, jewelry, pottery and other Native crafts. Proceeds from these purchases not only support seed conservation, but also Indigenous artists in rural communities throughout the Southwest US and northern Mexico.

Since moving all retail operations online, there has been considerable growth in visits to our website. Not only have retail sales increased, but more people throughout the country are learning about NS/S programs, and are joining the cause to grow, save and share the arid-adapted seeds of the Southwest.

In FY21, 17,530 online orders were fulfilled!

Pictured above: Master Mata Ortiz artist Oralia Lopez Guillen at the NS/S Conservation Center



Native Seeds/SEARCH could not fulfill its mission without your ongoing support. Thank you for protecting agricultural biodiversity!

Thank you!



nativeseeds.org