

# Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

May 2023 – Indigeponics Community Food Resiliency Project

**Email:**

chantelharrison@arizona.edu

**Project Manager Name:**

*who is submitting this project?*

Chantel Harrison

**Project Name:**

Indigeponics Community Food Resiliency Project

**Project Subaccount Number:**

23.05

**Project Summary Snapshot:**

*Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application.*

**Response**

The aim of the Indigeponics: Community Food Resiliency Project to:

1. provide educational offerings centered on sustainable hydroponic growing systems
2. provide technical training opportunities via workshops and demonstrational videos for indigenous students, staff and faculty at the University of Arizona
3. develop free community and indigenous-centered controlled environment agriculture curricula for UArizona student organizations, departments, and extension offices and
4. develop and maintain meaningful relationships with indigenous-lead organizations to bridge the gap between local sustainability food efforts with UArizona campus sustainability efforts regarding local food production and accessibility of healthy foods.

**Requested Metrics:**

*Please report your project's metrics and their most recent number or response in a list format.*

**Response**

Social Media Reach: Total: 386 accounts reached, 71 accounts engaged, 107 followers since 3/21/23

- Workshop 1: 90 accounts reached, 16 accounts engaged
- Workshop 2: 156 accounts reached, 35 accounts engaged

# of attendees for Workshop 1 (if they are students/ faculty/ staff)

- 1 faculty member
- 6 students (grad/undergrad)
- 11 registered, 5 cancellations/no show

# of attendees for Workshop 2 (if they are students/ faculty/ staff)

- 0 faculty member
- 1 staff member
- 8 students (grad/undergrad)
- 1 indigenous community member
- 15 registered, 5 cancellations/no show

# of kits purchased and distributed

- 15 microgreen kits purchased
- 4 used for demonstration
- 7 distributed
- 15 Nutrient Film Technique kits purchased
- 3 used for demonstration
- 11 distributed

What marketing tactics were completed and what was effective?

- Informational flyers for the workshop were sent via email to NASA, Guerrero Center, Women & Gender Resource Center, IRes, Sloan
- Donna Treloar, Agnes Attakai, MPA
- Director of Health Disparities Outreach Prevention Education Center for Rural Health, Dr. Chief and the Indigenous Resilience Center.
- The workshop was widely circulated via email, however, the number of individuals who registered was low. We don't believe this was the most effective method of reaching potential customers.

For the second workshop, we reached out to the same individuals and organizations via email to share the workshop flyer. Additionally, the workshop flyer was posted on Instagram and we reached out to other UArizona programs to reshare our post. Again, we reached out to IRes, WGRC, UA Guerrero Center, UA-aialumiclub, Arizona Indians into Medicine (Arizona\_inmed), skoden\_ua, UArizona AISES, Indigiwellbeing, and UA\_CEAC. We felt we increased our reach and had a better response based on the number of registrations.

Change in Knowledge:

- Workshop 1
  - o Key Categories:
    - Defining food sovereignty: 100% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
    - Understanding the food, water, and energy nexus: 80% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
    - Describing hydroponic growing methods: 100% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
    - Describing hydroponic growing systems: 100% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
    - Describing microgreens: 100% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
    - Growing your own microgreens at home: 100% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
- Workshop 2
  - o Key Categories:

- Understanding the food, water, and energy nexus: 66% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
- Describing hydroponic growing methods: 66% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
- Identifying hydroponic growing systems: 44% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge
- Describing nutrient film technique: 77% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge

## **Project Accomplishments :**

*Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Examples of accomplishments could include: Held 4 public meetings totaling 130 attendees; Transitioned 300 square feet of dirt into usable garden space and signed on 14 community garden volunteers. Other examples of accomplishments could include sharing a confirmed schedule of events, the connections/contacts that have been established, etc.*

### **Response**

The Indigeponics: Community Food Resilience Project accomplishments include:

- Providing CEA and hydroponic education to 15 different individuals from UArizona and indigenous community members
- Developing a community-focused workbook focused on controlled environment agriculture, Dine food sovereignty and agriculture, food safety, and use of at-home microgreen and nutrient film technique hydroponic kits.
- Connect Indigeponics and the Controlled Environment Agriculture Campus with main campus by building relationships with WGRC, UA Guerrero, NASA, and UA Aises.
- Connect the Indigeponics teams with two outside organizations and tribal governments to potentially partner in the future to provide resources and similar-style workshops in their communities.
- Increase social media presence and engage with other UArizona programs.

## **Next Steps:**

### **Response**

Most of our projects scope of work which was based on the workshops was completed. However, we were not able to launch the website and upload the CEA workbooks within this designated time frame due to time limitations. Moving forward, we still intend to launch the website within the next 2-3 weeks to provide the workbooks and other hydroponic informational worksheets.

## **Challenges Faced:**

*Please identify and describe any obstacles/roadblocks you or your team have experienced, and detail how you've managed them/ will manage them. Should your project already be completed, please note what challenges you faced and what you would do differently.*

### **Response:**

Overall, we did not face any challenges that prevented us from carrying out the expected scope of work in terms of logistics or skillset. However, we experienced some challenges in promoting the workshops and increasing participation. We assume that if the workshops were held on a Saturday morning at the beginning of the semester, more participants would be able to attend. Additionally, we modified the length of the workshop by shortening it so it does not require a majority of the day, which was an obstacle for students who would have liked to attend. Lastly, we extended the invitation to a variety of student communities on campus while still focusing on serving indigenous campus community members. However, for the second workshop, we had more students register who learned about Indigeponics through UA Guerrero Center compared to any other campus program and organization.

## **Project Support:**

*Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project?*

**Response:**

The challenge we faced was somewhat anticipated. Based on previous experience offering free educational programming to the public, it is a continual challenge to increase reach and participation. In the future, it might be helpful to provide a media kit that could include a list of potential programs that have been or likely be willing to share information via email, social media, or community boards. Lastly, it may be helpful to include university resources, such as the printing center, if grantees need to print large quantities of posters, signs, workbooks, etc.

**Photo Upload:**

*Please upload or provide links (below) to relevant photos.*

**Response:**

- workshop-1---greenhouse-tours.jpg  
[\[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/342/workshop-1---greenhouse-tours.jpg\]](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/342/workshop-1---greenhouse-tours.jpg)
- workshop-2---greenhouse-tours-2.jpg  
[\[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/342/workshop-2---greenhouse-tours-2.jpg\]](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/342/workshop-2---greenhouse-tours-2.jpg)
- workshop-2---greenhouse-tours.jpg  
[\[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/342/workshop-2---greenhouse-tours.jpg\]](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/342/workshop-2---greenhouse-tours.jpg)
- workshop-2---group.jpg [\[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/342/workshop-2---group.jpg\]](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/342/workshop-2---group.jpg)
- workshop-1---group-photo.jpg  
[\[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/342/workshop-1---group-photo.jpg\]](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/342/workshop-1---group-photo.jpg)

Photo Link {Empty}

**Photo Link:**

*Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos.*

**Response:**

{Empty}

**Media/Links:**

*Please include links to any media coverage or events information (e.g. news, social media, websites, interviews, etc.)*

**Response:**

N/A