Closing the Loop: Regenerative Agriculture on Minority-owned and Operated Small Farms in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, California

NIFA Award 2022-70033-38215

Ronnie D. Lipschutz & Josefina Lara Chavez

Sustainable Systems Research Foundation/Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Overall Goals

- Conduct a series of bilingual workshops on best practices and practical implementation of closed loop regenerative agriculture principles, initially targeting Latinx small farm operators.
- 2. Partner with farmers to identify and produce suitable highmargin products for local markets and develop new distribution channels and branding strategies to increase visibility and market reach.
- 3. Assist farmers with navigating the structures of US and state agricultural systems and accessing useful skills and tools to sustainably manage farm operations and finances.

Anticipated Outputs

- 1. Bilingual, open-source regenerative agriculture curriculum and associated learning materials targeting minority startup producers.
- 2. Bilingual, open-source reference library of regenerative agriculture and farm management principles, practices, technologies, and techniques for beginning farmers available in print, on-line, and in the field.
- 3. Facilitate and support the development of ongoing communities of practice, to build and share knowledge and resources that benefit small minority-owned farms in the Monterey Bay region.



Instructional workshops



Applied regenerative agriculture best practices



Production, distribution, and marketing of high-value crops



Knowledge and skills for navigating the US agricultural system

Project Organization











Project partners