

Video and Activity 3: “Climate and Agriculture”

Watch “Climate and Agriculture”

Choose one of the following two activities to go through with the group.

Activity 1: Group Discussion

Lead the group in a 10-minute group discussion on the following prompt:

Traditional food systems have sustained Native people over thousands of years through changes in climate and landscapes. Today, sustainable local food systems depend in part on having suitable growing conditions for crops and gardens. Climate change affects temperature and precipitation. Warmer temperatures can increase a growing season, but can lead to drought. More frequent storm events can damage crops or flood them with too much precipitation. How can your department and/or Tribe build local food systems that will support food sovereignty while adapting to changing growing conditions caused by climate change?

Optional: Share these answers on the Facilitator’ Google doc under Discussion questions.

Activity 2: Perspective Taking – “Can traditional and commercial agriculture exist side-by-side”?

This activity provides the opportunity for friendly debate on an issue.

ISSUE FOR DEBATE:

Traditional harvesting includes traditional agriculture. Ho-Chunk elder George Garvin, Henning Garvin, and UW Professor Chris Kucharik all talk about use of hybridized corns as forms of agricultural adaptation to changing climate. George Garvin talks about Indigenous seedkeepers collaborating across the continent, and Chris Kucharik refers to corporate agricultural use of hybrid feed corns that typically grow in warmer states, such as those south of Wisconsin.

Divide the room into groups of 3 or 4. Ask the groups to discuss the issue for 10 minutes and share their points of view. Attempt to come to a consensus in the group.

Optional lead up questions:

1. Who are the stakeholders in this debate? Make a list of the group's responses.
2. Think about people who are not even listed. What might their perspectives be?
3. Who would be allies, and who might take opposite sides on the issue?
4. What are some important considerations regarding Traditional agriculture and seed sovereignty?

Main Question:

For farms and gardens in your community, can Traditional agriculture based on the use of indigenous seeds and cropping practices exist side-by-side with commercial, non-organic agricultural practices?

Reconvene and ask each group to describe their conversation. What did they think of the issue? Were they able to agree on a consensus? Why or why not?

Optional: Share these answers on the Facilitator's Google doc under Discussion questions.