Title: Education and outreach to improve food safety outcomes in tribal communities

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Abstract:

We are engaged in ongoing collaborations to 1) identify specific food safety training priorities within Arizona tribal communities; 2) build the capacity of tribal growers and other stakeholders to address food safety training priorities; 3) develop and implement culturally appropriate integrated food safety education and outreach programs for tribal communities; and 4) advance food safety resilience of Native Nations. We promote a new approach – connecting food safety with integrated pest management (IPM) – to increase food safety capacity in tribal communities, enhance the acceptance of food safety practices, strengthen and expand existing networks and develop/mentor new educators/scientists as future leaders in tribal communities. Outcomes and impacts include: 1) improved awareness and knowledge of food safety practices and solutions to protect public health and reduce food-borne illnesses; 2) cultivated positive attitude toward adopting food safety practices, and 3) improved engagement with underserved stakeholder audiences challenged by food safety issues.