

**DRAFT for Discussion**

**Towards an Agricultural Vision for Tesuque Pueblo**

Submitted by:

Tesuque Farms  
Four Bridges Travelling Permaculture Institute  
Water-Culture Institute

June 2011

**Background.** Since the establishment of the Tesuque agricultural farm as a tribal enterprise in 2004(?) the farm and its importance to the tribe has steadily grown. The farm and its director, Emigdio Ballon, has gained wide recognition for blending economic development with revitalization of indigenous cultural and community values related to agriculture. The farm is visited regularly by school groups and agricultural experts interested in how economics and culture can be advanced simultaneously.

**Project Purpose.** Until now, the development of Tesuque Farm has been guided by the personal vision of Emigdio Ballon under the authority of the tribal council, but there is no overall vision for the role of agriculture as an economic and cultural component of the Tesuque Tribe. A larger agricultural vision could enhance the effectiveness of the farm as a tribal enterprise, while also identifying agricultural opportunities beyond the farm, for tribal members to become more engaged in the growing, processing, marketing, and consumption of local food products.

**Methods.** The process of developing the vision would be based on (1) review of relevant literature, (2) interviews with tribal leaders, youth, and families about the significance of farming and/or local foods in their lives, (3) interviews with both tribal and non-tribal farmers and agricultural experts in the region, and (4) a series of visioning workshops to bring together both farmers and consumers from the tribe. The methodology of “multifunctional agriculture” will inform the analysis of the accumulated information, whereby a broad set of theoretical functions of agriculture will be assessed, including income, employment, education, ecosystem services, nutrition, culture heritage, etc. Economic calculations will be applied to analysis of income and employment, while qualitative measures will be used to describe other functions.

**[www.waterculture.org](http://www.waterculture.org)**

1021 Camino Santander, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 USA  
Tel +1 505 470 3554 Fax +1 505 466 4053 Info@waterculture.org

**Project Output.** A provisional vision report of about 15 pages, including a 2-page executive summary, will be compiled on the basis of the workshops, interviews, and background research, submitted to the Tribal Council for approval or revisions. Once approved, it is expected that the document could be made available to anyone interested, e.g., through the website of the Water-Culture Institute.

**Time Line.** The project would begin on March 15, 2012 (just prior to the agricultural season). Interviews would be conducted from late March to end-July. An initial draft vision document will be completed by October 15, 2012 and peer-reviewed by local agricultural and rural development experts, as well as by interested Tribal Council members. A final draft of the (provisional) vision document will be completed by December 15, 2012.

**[www.waterculture.org](http://www.waterculture.org)**

1021 Camino Santander, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 USA  
Tel +1 505 470 3554 Fax +1 505 466 4053 [Info@waterculture.org](mailto:Info@waterculture.org)