



As a global organization, [Nature for Justice](#) (N4J) harnesses nature-based solutions to advance social justice for frontline populations confronting the climate crisis. The Farmer Inclusion Program is N4J's core U.S. initiative and is currently launching in North Carolina. We focus on Black and Indigenous smallholder farmers and farm owners, as well as other farmers and farm owners of color to expand their access to existing resources and build their climate resilience.

Our Approach

The North Carolina agricultural justice landscape is a diverse and well-established field. N4J's goal is to be additive to this landscape; wherever possible, we will support and convene existing networks or groups of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) farmers through local partners. We also compensate local BIPOC farmers and BIPOC-led farmer organizations for sharing their time, networks, and expertise with us and others.

Peer-to-Peer Learning through Networks. We will support networks of BIPOC farmers that want to implement specific climate or environmental interventions such as water access or efficiency, new cover crops, or regenerative agriculture. These networks will receive: financial support for implementing new approaches on their own farms, compensation for their input and insights as they network and share lessons learned, and subject-matter expert technical support. We will launch the first cohort in spring 2023 for growers who have plans for regenerative or organic practices but who need additional financial or technical support to begin implementation.



Black and Indigenous communities have a long history of implementing regenerative agricultural practices but face some of the highest barriers to keeping access to their land much less these practices. Historically, Black farmers held almost 25 percent of farms in North Carolina; now it's three percent, or less than 1,500 farms. At the same time, with less than two percent of US land farmed as organic and even less with regenerative or restorative practices, industrial agriculture contributes to an overwhelming amount of climate emissions; habitat loss; soil erosion; and water, land, and air pollution—impacting frontline farming communities. The Farmer Inclusion Program seeks to increase Black and Indigenous farmers' access to resources and strengthen climate resilience through social justice approaches and a focus on regenerative agriculture.

Subject-Matter Experts and Local Partners. N4J will build a consortium that centers Black and Indigenous farmers and partner organizations, compensating them for their networks and knowledge. The responsibilities of a subject-matter expert or local partner may include:

- Increase BIPOC farmer engagement and recruit new producers to increase inclusivity in historically exclusive environments
- Structure, facilitate, or support the implementing cohorts
- Customize service offerings for the wider Program and specific regional priorities
- Share technical and financial resources or programs with BIPOC smallholder farmers that complement their existing regenerative practices
- Support N4J in bringing awareness to discriminatory practices that historically and currently exclude BIPOC farmers from resources and suggest alternative practices
- Provide feedback on how N4J can leverage its relationships and funding to improve access to climate resources

Let's Talk About It! Please [contact us via this form](#) with questions and comments and if you are interested in joining a cohort or engaging as a subject-matter expert.

The Team



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Nature for Justice is also seeking a **Director of Farmer Inclusion** to replace our interim Director. Please [circulate this announcement within your networks](#) and share any feedback you have on how N4J and this specific role can best engage with you and our wider community!



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