

Bay Mills Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program Ripple Effects Mapping Findings

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) engaged in a joint collaboration with an evaluation team and the Western Extension Risk Management Education Center to measure the long-term impacts of the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) serving the Bay Mills Indian Community. In order to collect this information, the evaluation team used a tool called Ripple Effects Mapping (REM). REM is a storytelling technique that is used to collect stories and experiences from community members. The results at the completion of a Ripple Effects Mapping included both a visual map and a set of narratives that were subsequently analyzed.

The data from 31 FRTEP programs was summarized into a final report – *“Mapping FRTEP Impacts in Indian Country”* and published in March 2022 for the purpose of demonstrating the collective value of the programs. This report can be found [Measuring FRTEP's success - Tribal Extension](#)

In January 2021, a virtual Ripple Effects Mapping event was held with the Bay Mills Indian Community members and others in the community who benefited from FRTEP programs or were aware of the impact of this programming. Those participating in the online event may have included farmers/ranchers, community members including agency and/or Tribal leadership, high school students, 4-H members, and others. Tribal and community members joined either online or by phone.

During the session, participants had the opportunity to tell us stories about how they have benefited from having FRTEP in their community. A facilitator led the conversation, asking each Tribal and/or community member to share their story one at a time. Questions participants were asked to consider included:

1. *Tell us a story about how one of these programs has had an impact on your tribal community.*
2. *Are you or your family doing anything differently as a result of these programs?*
3. *What has been a personal benefit to you or your family because of these programs?*
4. *What has been the most helpful part of these programs for you, your family, or your tribal community?*

As individuals spoke, their stories were both recorded and mapped into digital mapping software in order to visually display the impact. No individual’s names are included in this data set or the final report mentioned above. Following the REM, those stories were analyzed using the FRTEP priority program areas to determine the ways in which the FRTEP has impacted the Tribe and surrounding community. Additionally, the data was also analyzed to understand ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on programming.

This report includes all of the stories collected from the Bay Mills Indian Community.

- Page 2 shows examples of ways you can use this information.
- Page 3 summarizes in themes and subthemes the ways in which the FRTEP program and you as the FRTEP educator/agent had impact in your tribal community.
- Pages 4-9 includes these themes and all of the stories collected from your REM event.
- Page 10 is an image of the full REM Map, which is also attached as a PDF for reprinting. Additionally, a laminated poster of your REM MAP is being mailed to you, to share with community members, Tribal leaders and others vested in your programs.

If you would like to have an opportunity to discuss in further detail and/or have questions, we can set up a Zoom meeting with one of the Ripple Effects Mapping team members.

Rebecca Sero, r.sero@outlook.com;
Debra Hansen, debra.ann.hansen@gmail.com; and
JoAnn Warner, warnerj@wsu.edu

How you can use your Ripple Effects Mapping data:

Storytelling is a powerful technique that can be used in many different ways. Your stories from REM helped us understand the impacts and value of FRTEP that can be shared with funders, Tribal members, and leadership. More than numbers, stories can reveal needs, achievements, and emotional real-life impacts. Your story examples can be used multiple ways to elevate the importance of the work that you are doing and to demonstrate the collective impact that it is having in your community.

Here are three ways you can use the two edited story examples (below) while also utilizing the report's themes and subthemes to demonstrate the impacts this program is having:

Within the Community

- Stories can be shared or incorporated into community celebrations and/or events.
- Communicated to your Advisory Committee to help build capacity for future programming.

In Reports

- Prepared reports Tribal Council members and other community leaders with story examples, themes and subthemes that show how FRTEP is working to accomplish the priority areas established by the Tribal Advisory Council; and which relay the benefits, impacts and other indicators of success as a result of FRTEP.
- Prepared reports for your 1862 Land Grant University or your 1994 Tribal College or University leadership with story examples embedded and that include the themes and sub themes from each of the program's priority areas. Highlight how the Ripple Effects Mapping session empowered community members to share their stories and the benefits inherent in discovering the successes brought about by the program

In Grant Applications

- Having a solid evaluation plan is critical to writing a successful grant application. Including outcomes from the Ripple Effects Mapping demonstrates the long-lasting impacts of FRTEP and uses a culturally appropriate approach to do so.

In summary, the stories and data that you have collected through the Ripple mapping process can be used many different ways to communicate your successes and to elevate your program not only at the community level – but also to your stakeholder partners, collaborators and other individuals, organizations and entities, for the purpose of strengthening and building the capacity of FRTEP.

Themes and Subthemes

For the Bay Mills Indian Community, the impacts, effects, and benefits could all be found within the following five program priority areas and subthemes are listed here. On pages 4-9, you will see the same priority areas, subthemes with individual stories collected directly from the transcript.

1. Indian Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management

- Support for Farmers

2. Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction

- Adult Involvement
- Community Involvement
- Education
- Healthy Food Choices
- Traditional foods

3. Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Response to COVID

- Adaptation of Programs and Services
- Clarifying Values because of COVID
- Trouble with Technology

Overall

- Cultural Understanding and Respect
- Diversity and Quantity of Programs and Services
- Embedded in the Community
- Responsive to Community Needs
- Need for Additional Resources for FRTEP

Themes, Subthemes and Stories

| Theme | Sub-Theme | Statement |
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| Indian Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management | Support for farmers | FRTEP... we worked with [the agent] to do business plans and strategic planning for our farm and creating our business. We also worked with [another agent] from Extension, working with her on different things. |
| Indian Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management | Support for farmers | We're part of the local food alliance as well. FRTEP shows up to that with [an expert] and some other people and we just talk about how we can, even reach outside the native community a little bit with FRTEP. What's one of the big, big really impacts is [the agent] doing some of the sponsorships for my board because it is a non-profit. She had sponsored us to go to [a] small farms conference. With that, we've met more contacts there and we had the ability to learn and share our ideas and now, going to this conference, we used to be the attendee. Now we're presenters, right? I think that's amazing. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Adult involvement | One thing I forgot on the seed saving part is [the agent]... brought me into the indigenous seed keepers network and has made some connections there that otherwise may have been more difficult to find, or maybe I wouldn't be involved but that's been another huge impact for me. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Community involvement | I was one of the recipients of one of those seed save scholarships, and I think those were huge confidence builders. At least ... I can speak for myself only. Huge confidence builders in thinking about seed keeping. And when we think about seed keeping, some would argue, many would argue that seed sovereignty is one of the bases for food sovereignty. Through going through that, that kind of ignited something of a fire. And if you want an example... I'm starting a seed farm now because that meant so much to me. That experience had such a profound impact on my personal life. I hope this idea of food sovereignty and the funding available for food sovereignty is not just a fad because it's critical to our community and it's critical to building community and improving the health of our community. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Community involvement | And, [another REM participant] mentioned... [we're] ultimately, working toward sovereignty, right? We shouldn't be relying on ... Walmart necessarily for our groceries. Currently in the process of partnering with [Extension for] community health and [agent] in our culture and language department on the community seed library at the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library. [The agent] has been more than willing to come to the table as |

| Theme | Sub-Theme | Statement |
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| | | <p>a partner there, help with funding, help with organizing and doing behind the scenes work to get that established. I think that's very important.</p> |
| <p>Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction</p> | <p>Community involvement</p> | <p>When my tribe decided to purchase the land and start their food sovereignty journey, it was with the help of Extension, it was with the help of FRTEP. Starting these very small workshops, season Extension. They brought the vendors of the conduit tubes so we could bring community members in and say, "This is how you can extend your season." What made it great for me was going to their houses for a sacred fire and then next thing you know, looking into their garden and seeing those same tubes that they made at their house actually being used instead of just leaning up against the house, right? That part ... it's pretty amazing to see that. Personally, for me FRTEP has done a lot for my career. I have met many, many people who have now become friends through FRTEP. One of the things I like to say, " If we don't assert our sovereignty, we abuse it by not using it." By doing these things, these are our acts of resistance of growing and still being here, and with that, FRTEP helps us do that.</p> |
| <p>Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction</p> | <p>Education</p> | <p>FRTEP has been present for years... helping support the programming that community health education has been able to do for [tribal] community members. Some of those programs for us include... harvesting and processing, the canning and preserving workshops. I feel like ... for me personally, I really feel like just increasing the visibility of the importance of tribal food sovereignty and how tribal food sovereignty relates to global tribal sovereignty as a whole. So, I feel that FRTEP, the programs and the support has really been helpful for that.</p> |
| <p>Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction</p> | <p>Education</p> | <p>FRTEP provided a lot of scholarships last year, I don't know how many, for a seed saver mentorship [program] that a lot of tribal members and educators were able to attend. They're also involved in starting a seed library in our community and we also work with [the agent] on our tribal food ceremony collaborative where we do a lot of educational materials for our tribal members about various topics, including seed saving, gardening, and then we also have partnered with [the agent] the last couple of years on doing seed distribution.</p> |

| Theme | Sub-Theme | Statement |
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| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Education | <p>There's a lot going on and a lot to do, and having someone like [agent] that I can kind of turn to who is working with multiple tribes, it's really helpful. Specific examples of the Great Lakes Center Tribal Food Summits that we host, [agent] and [Land Grant university] have been partners, going back ... I want to say, at least 2017 if not 2016, and [agent and another] hosting ... [another] giving soil health, bringing the water infiltration demonstration, [agent] doing a low tunnel demonstration and actually bringing the surprise and just taking on that whole workshop, and even where participants are able to take some of those materials home with them. That's fantastic, and it just takes ... Part of how those events happen is by having a lot of different ... a whole team of people who can bring those complementary skills and support. We probably should bring more tribal folks into that group, but a lot of that is what led to a National Science Foundation Grant that is funding Food Sovereignty Symposium Festival. So just really being that glue and that catalyst for a lot of these other efforts is huge.</p> |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Education | <p>I've been thinking about all of the things that we've done with FRTEP... from raised beds to seed saving. We're having, within the [local] Indian community, another seed saving workshop with experts next week, virtual. We've had [a seed saving expert] here, we've been able to try to move forward with our seed saving initiatives within [the local community]. Also, with [the agent's] connection with [a local farm] and with [another expert] and her expertise and doing activities with our [families], Let's Eat Good Food Coalition. And then now we're connected with [someone] in revisiting incubator kitchens and helping some of our tribal producers move towards being more commercial to be able to sell products off the reservation, so that's very exciting.</p> |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Education | <p>I worked with a whole slew of tribal members from all different tribes and what we experienced down there, and myself as well is that a lot of us were disconnected from our traditional food-ways for many reasons. The project that we were working on, we did a needs assessment in the very beginning, and what came out of that was that people wanted a space to garden, people wanted a space to learn different skills, specifically around our traditional food-ways. So we worked really closely with MSU extension to bring those different skill building workshops to our community. And then what I've seen, people were really hungry for these different skills. They wanted to know how to can. They wanted to know how to preserve.</p> |

| Theme | Sub-Theme | Statement |
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| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Education | We also brought the Cottage Food Log Class to our community, and what I shared is, a lot of times people ask for things and don't always show up, or you get a really small attendance. But what we noticed when we started to bring those classes to the community is that we were filling every space and having a wait list, which was amazing. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Healthy food choices | It will be two years now that I've left that job and left that community, but what's great about living a virtual life is that I get to see what folks are still doing in that community and a lot of stuff has stuck, which is great. People have grown their own gardens from seeds that we all saved together, that's beautiful. People are canning. It's just like generation upon generation of these seeds that we're sharing throughout our community and that's still happening, so I think that's really great. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Healthy food choices | One of the things that I've really ... we've taken to the next level within our market, we have a prescription for health program for our tribal diabetics to purchase fruits and vegetables at the market with diabetes dollars and [Extension] was really the leader in teaching us how to convince our administration within [the tribe] and use our diabetes money for market coupons. So since then, we've expanded to other grant programs, so I probably wouldn't have had that connection if it wasn't for FRTEP and learning how to do a farmer's market on tribal land that doesn't have to follow the Michigan Cottage Food Law. And then, a couple years ago, within our area, we now have our own Cottage Food Law. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Traditional Foods | I think Kat and FRTEP have had a positive impact, both on our program and on individuals like myself. [The agent] has been the catalyst and one of the lead organizers for two food processing workshops in 2018 and 2019, pre-pandemic. [The agent] has served a huge role in helping with logistics and organizing, bringing partners to the table. I was telling my group, it's hard for me to separate [the agent] and FRTEP. |
| Indigenous Food Systems for Food Security, Food Safety and Obesity Reduction | Traditional Foods | Bringing [FRTEP employee] on was a real good boon for us because she has a passion for food sovereignty. One of the things I like to say, " If we don't assert our sovereignty, we abuse it by not using it." By doing these things, these are our acts of resistance of growing and still being here, and with that, FRTEP help us do that. |

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| Natural Resource Conservation and Bio-energy Development | Fish and Wildlife Conservation | [The agent] and FRTEP have been able to provide funding for places and for uses that are really hard for my department to address. So, we can do all the wildlife assessment. We can buy equipment. We can pay for staff to do assessments. It's really hard for us to do the community engagement piece and bring the community to the work that we're doing and share that with them. |
| Response to COVID | Adaptation of programs and services | So, because of COVID 19, we couldn't do a lot of in-person programming last year, but we were able to distribute seeds to tribal members throughout [our state], and that was really possible because of [the agent] and the logistics and the knowledge that she brought to that project. [The agent] has been super awesome. |
| Response to COVID | Adaptation of programs and services | It's very apparent to me, when we moved to virtual and more technology-based services with the pandemic is that [the agent] has access to more things than we do within our organization for technology, online registrations. We use her as our lead for Google Docs. |
| Response to COVID | Clarifying values because of COVID | Yeah, I would just say that last spring, when we were registering a lot of tribal members for the seeds, they would call me and I would go through the online form with them if they didn't have access to it or access to a computer, or internet or anything. And I heard a lot about how people felt ... how important it was for them to start gardening, or to pick gardening back up, and seed saving because of COVID, and they felt very vulnerable during that time, and that relying on the large food system wasn't necessarily the best thing. And so, I definitely think it impacted ... In the short term, it's impacted a lot of families in our area because they're starting to see how important it is to grow your own food. |
| Response to COVID | Trouble with technology | Within our own organization we haven't been as proactive, and maybe it's within the training or it's the equipment. We don't have access to computers. Our computers are outdated or, we're not as savvy as [the agent] is with learning these new technology programs. Even with Zoom ... and that's the other thing of sharing resources and collaborating, financially, it has made us extend our budgets to provide more services within the community. |
| Overall | Cultural understanding and respect | Something that I think [the agent] does really well, and I think is probably critical for the success of FRTEP problems is engaging respectfully with tribes. [The agent] never comes to the table as a savior. It's never like, "What skill do I have that will better you?" She always comes as a |

| Theme | Sub-Theme | Statement |
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| | | partner and acknowledges that she's there as a partner more than parachuting in to make our lives better. |
| Overall | Diversity and Quantity of Services | The other thing of sharing resources and collaborating, financially, it has made us extend our budgets to provide more services within the community. |
| Overall | Diversity and Quantity of Services | I think the greatest impact of the FRTEP program is that it has tremendously increased our capacity to do the work that we need to do. On a personal level, I think the impact, specifically that [the agent] has had on me as she has challenged me to be a more thoughtful administrator, she has challenged me to provide a level of quality within the work that we do. |
| Overall | Embedded in the Community | FRTEP has been part of the community again, for so long that I would be devastated if we didn't have this connection and I just think we really work well together. |
| Overall | Embedded in the Community | FRTEP has done a ton with local schools and local students that will have a lasting impact with those students, so I think it's all around, the impact that FRTEP makes in our community. |
| Overall | Need for additional resources for FRTEP | We need a lot more people in [the agent's] position, and that's where I see it as really working at the policy, at the federal level with [the tribal program] and trying to get more support for it. |
| Overall | Responsive to community needs | Those workshops have brought people together from our community that have had impacts beyond just that specific workshop so afterward, I was able to hear from community members that are like, "Hey, I talked to my great grandma," and share information with me that's actually really important in our restoration work. So it's spurred further discussions that actually tie back in to the restoration work that my department is engaged in. |

Image of Ripple Effects Map

