



NUag Impact Snapshot Sustainable and Regenerative Practices



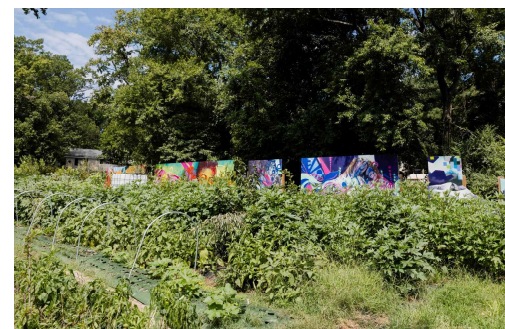
This impact snapshot is part of the National Urban Agriculture initiative and is based on interviews conducted at the NUag Conference, held August 4-6, 2024, in Detroit. Drawing from multiple participant interviews, we have crafted thematic snapshots to highlight key insights. Overall, 48 interviews were conducted across various participant groups. This particular snapshot amplifies perspectives on sustainable and regenerative practices, focusing on relevance, response, and results.

Relevance

Sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices, mentioned 11 times by participants, are key to environmental resilience, food security, and economic stability. Urban communities face challenges such as soil degradation, climate change, and limited land access. In cities like Detroit, urban farmers contend with soil contamination, land acquisition issues, and policy barriers that hinder long-term farming. Regenerative agriculture offers solutions like soil restoration, water conservation, and climate-adaptive farming, making it vital for strengthening local food systems and ensuring their sustainability.

Response

Organizations like Heal Oasis are leading sustainable agricultural initiatives that support environmental and community well-being. Heal Oasis focuses on increasing urban land access and advocating for community-based soil remediation strategies to ensure long-term security for farmers. Many other organizations use similar innovative approaches that prioritize environmental sustainability and community empowerment. Urban farms like Zion Urban Farm in Las Vegas are also working to secure favorable zoning laws to overcome regulatory barriers, improving food security and promoting lasting community resilience.



Results

These efforts have improved access to nutrient-dense food for communities facing food insecurity. Zion Urban Farm has secured policy changes recognizing urban farming as a legitimate land use, providing farmers with access to sustainable agriculture funding. Heal Oasis has established urban gardens, reducing reliance on external food sources and offering education in sustainable farming practices. These organizations enhance soil health, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen local food systems, fostering resilient, self-sufficient communities that advocate for sustainable agricultural practices.



Disclaimer: This snapshot is provided for informational purposes only and reflects the perspectives of individual participants at the NUag Conference. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United States Department of Agriculture or any federal agency. This material is not intended to promote any specific policy or advocacy position and complies with Executive Order 14173 regarding merit-based and non-discriminatory federal program communications.