

Indian Country Priorities and Opportunities for the 2023 Farm Bill Title III: Trade

Key Points and Recommendations

- Trade Title programs represent a significant opportunity for Indian Country producers and Tribally owned food businesses who want to access international markets, where Native-produced foods are often seen as highly desirable and financially lucrative niche products.
- Expanding the Market Access Program (MAP) and the MAP's definition of "eligible trade organizations" to include Tribal organizations would increase opportunities and access to overseas markets for Native producers.

Background Information and Context

Despite the potential economic benefits of engaging in international trade, accessing international markets for any product is a challenging and complex process. Trading food products, which often have strict food safety and other regulatory protocols, adds additional challenges. With the resources and technical assistance that USDA programming can provide through Trade Title programs, the number of Tribal Nations and Tribal producers accessing these profitable international markets can increase, improving economic realities across Indian Country. Of all the supports available through Title III, the program that currently provides the strongest support to Indian Country is likely the Market Access Program (MAP). Through MAP, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) has been able to offer Native producers export resources and access to markets for Native-produced products around the world through IAC's American Indian Foods Program (AIF).

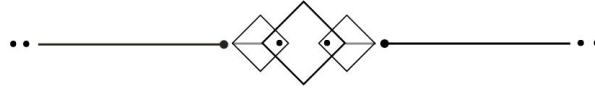
Opportunities for Indian Country in the Trade Title

Expand MAP and increase opportunities and access to overseas markets

- Substantially increasing the funding available to the Intertribal Agriculture Council to coordinate and administer this program for Tribal audiences will allow more Tribal food and agriculture businesses to benefit from the program.
- MAP participation is limited to "eligible trade organizations," and this definition currently leaves out Tribal organizations and entities. Expanding this definition would promote Tribal parity and access to this critical program.

Support unique Tribal foods and fighting native food fraud

- Making changes in the Trade Title that helps the Foreign Agricultural Service weed out fraudulent operators will ensure that Tribal producers and operators are given priority as



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producers of authentic products, not only for domestic distribution but also internationally through MAP.

Interdepartmental coordination to support Tribal trade

- The Secretary should engage in interdepartmental collaboration in order to increase Tribal producers' access to trade missions.