Presented By: Lorena James



nature4justice.earth ljames@nature4justice.org

# GROWING AMERICAN FARMER PROSPERITY

Cultivating Equity, Prosperity, and Regenerative Agriculture with Smallholder Farmers



# Historical and Ongoing Crisis

Smallholder, particularly BIPOC farmers, have lost their farmland due to systemic barriers like discriminatory lending, heirs' property challenges, market exclusion, and land dispossession, resulting in an estimated **\$326 billion in lost wealth**.

This loss has weakened rural economies and disrupted local food systems. Addressing these challenges requires not only **equitable** land access and agricultural resilience but also a **new generation** of youth farmers to carry this work forward and ensure long-term sustainability in our food systems.

90%

Black-owned Farmland
Lost since 1910

# Regenerative Agriculture

Repairing Historical Harms, Building Future Prosperity

No Till
Reduced Till
Cover Crop
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
and Renovation
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Riparian Forest Buffer
Pasture and Hay Planting
Silvopasture



#### **Restores Land Health**

Heals depleted soils often found on smallholder land due to historical extractive practices.



#### **Builds Farmer Power**

Shifts ownership and decision-making back to historically excluded farmers.



#### **Increases Resilience**

Supports small-scale farmers in adapting to climate change through low-input, nature-based practices.



### Reconnects Communities

Regenerative methods help revive traditional, ancestral land stewardship practices.



### Market Access as Equity

Improves access to higher-value markets for smallholder growers through cooperative models and technical assistance.

# Our Vision & Origin Story

Growing American Farmer Prosperity



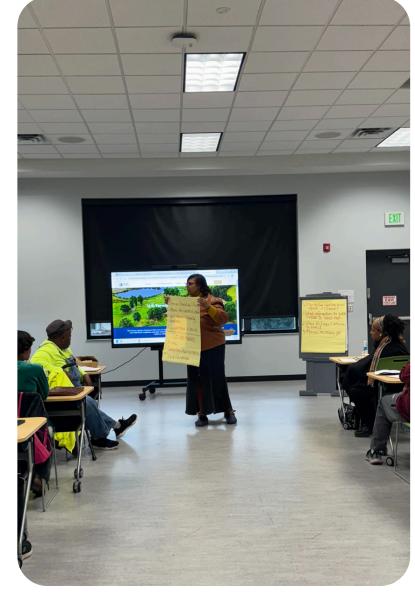


### **Farmer** Listening Sessions

To understand the needs in the community

### **Identified Key** Needs

Including direct support, peer learning, and regenerative practices





#### **Co-Creation**

With farmers, not just for farmers, centering collaboration in our community



# Our Model

01

### **Direct Support**

Funding for on-farm regenerative practices and infrastructure

02

#### **Technical Assistance**

Climate-smart agriculture, marketing, policy engagement

03

#### **Farmer-to-Farmer Networks**

Peer exchanges and leadership development

04

### Land Access & Ownership Support

Legal aid, heirs' property assistance





### The Team Behind N4J

**Growing Amercan Farmer Prosperity** 



Patrick Brown
Director



Jasmine Gibson Manager



**Lorena James Coordinator** 



## Our Impact

**Since 2022** 





152

BIPOC farmers in-network



6,816

Acres transitioned to regenerative practices



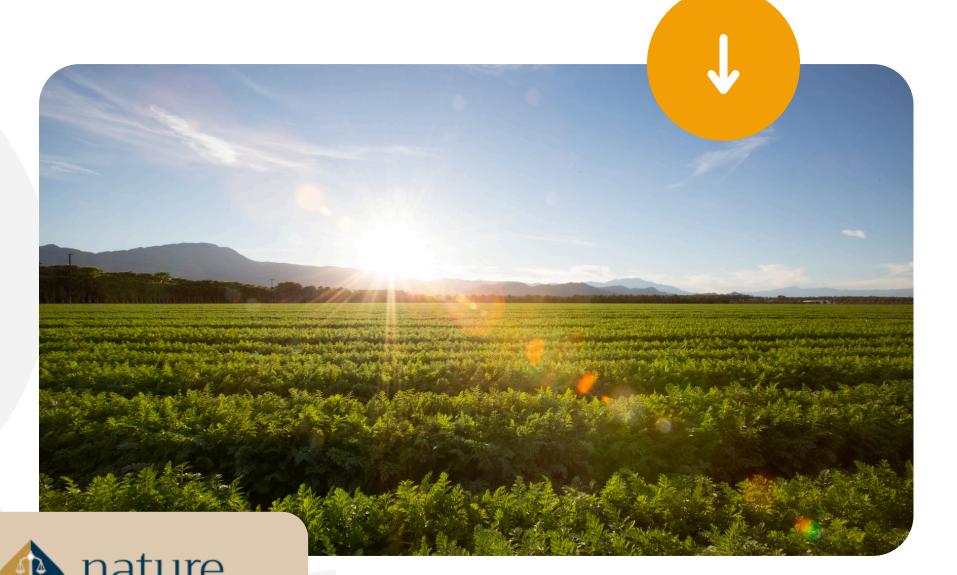
\$2M

Distributed to smallholder farmers



# Development

Forward Vision and Growth



01

### **Geographic Expansion**

Launch efforts in new regions, including Virginia and Georgia

02

### Next Generation Engagement

Recruit and support younger farmers to ensure generational continuity

03

## **Strengthened Support Systems**

Deepen capacity-building efforts and expand policy engagement opportunities

04

### Innovative Market Models

Offering resources to solve unique farming challenges



### **Leadership Development**

Create a farmer fellowship program and build a leadership pipeline rooted in community knowledge

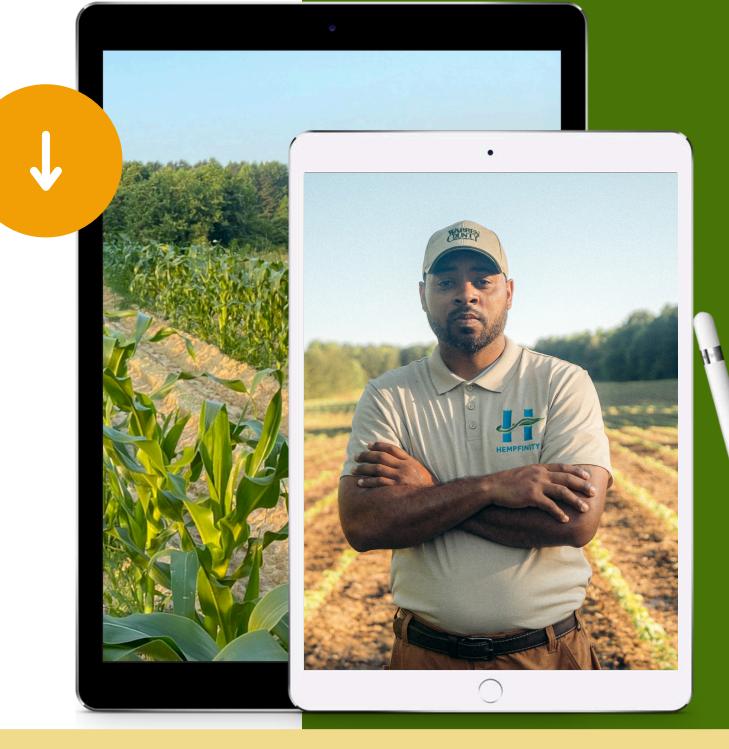
# Brown Family Farms

### **Collaborating with Farmers**

Owned and operated by **Patrick Brown**, a fourth-generation farmer

112 enrolled acres in Warren County

No Till, Cover Crop





"As a fourth-generation farmer, working with Nature For Justice allows me to honor that legacy while advancing regenerative practices that support soil health and economic empowerment."

### Roundtree Resilience

**Collaborating with Farmers** 

Owned and operated by **Lorena James**, a youth climate innovator

100 acres in Aiken, SC

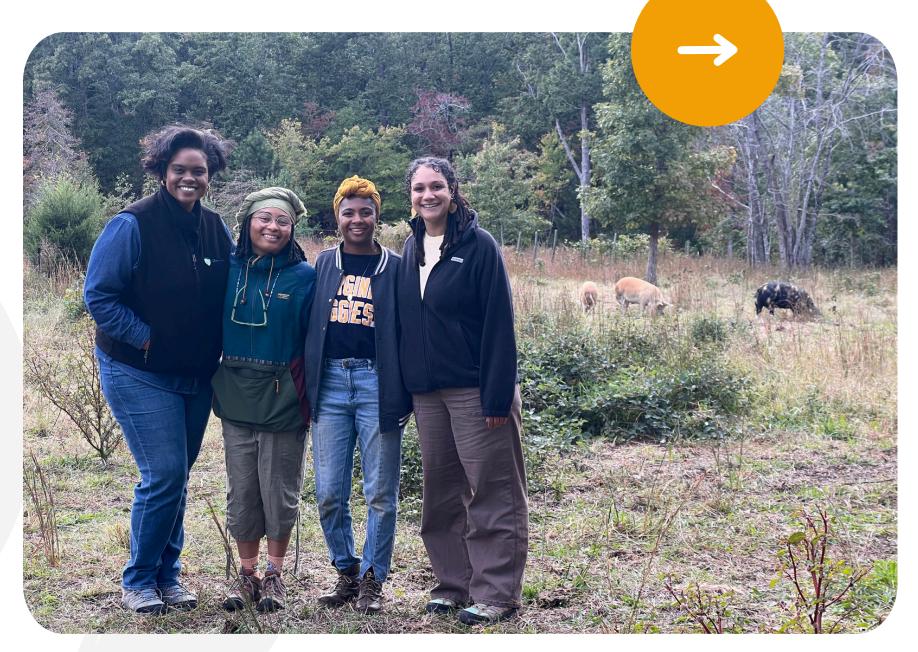
No Till, Cover Crop





"After my grandmother passed, my grandfather and I stepped in to manage the land, renewing the family's commitment to its preservation and future."

### Funders





- Cargill
- Clif Bar Foundation
- Grubman and Compton
   Foundation
- K. Reynolds Foundation
- Kenan Charitable Trust
- Patagonia
- USDA Climate Smart
   Commodities program
- Walmart Foundation
- Working Lands
   Conservation Corps

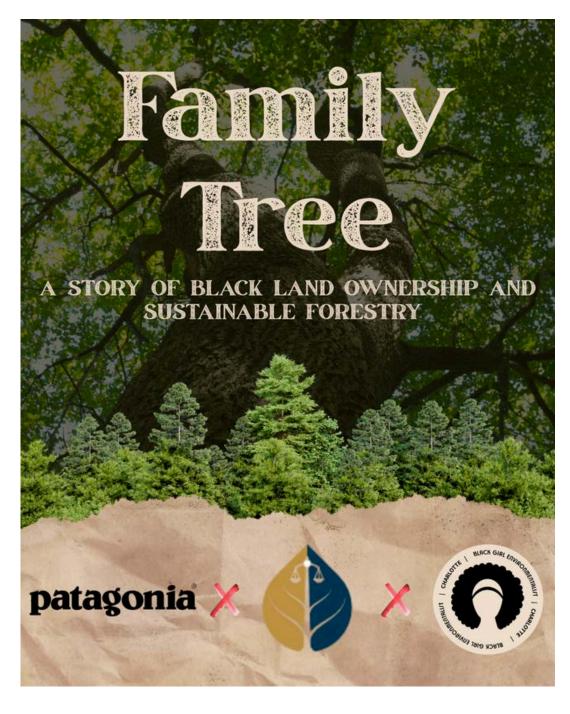
# Community Engagement

Collaborating with Local Businesses and Other **Nonprofits** 









# Invasive Species Management

**Invasive Impact Initiatives** 







### Future50 Initiative

World Economic Forum's Global Foresight Network

"Intergenerational foresight is a critical tool for ensuring that today's decisions create a sustainable and equitable future."





