

### WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIAN COUNTRY

- Increasing fruit and vegetable production is an act of food sovereignty and addresses health issues.
- Surplus horticulture products can be marketed in local and regional food systems, providing more economic opportunities and increasing food access
- This title supports the production, promotion, marketing standards, food safety, and protection of specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, floraculture, and ornamental products. It also provides assistance to certified organic agriculture production

### INDIAN COUNTRY AG CENSUS STATISTICS



Fruit and tree nut farming increased 2% from 1,853 farms in 2012 to 2,302 farms in 2017.



Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture farming increased by 20% from 650 in 2012 to 779 in 2017.

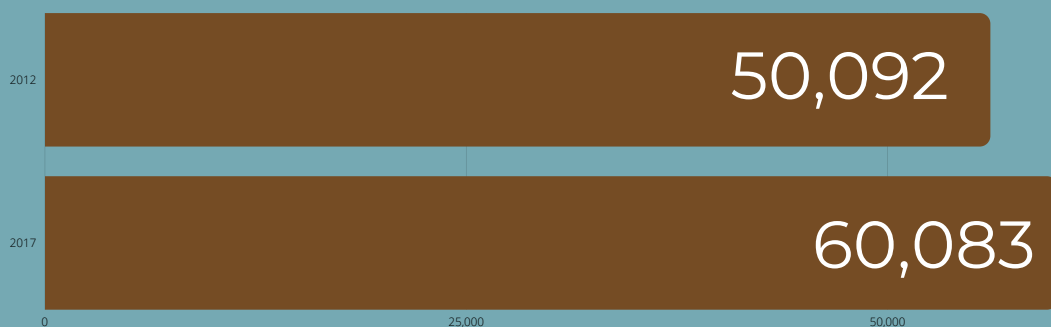
Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

### INDIAN COUNTRY PRIORITIES

- Establish protections for Tribal seeds and traditional foods
- Increase food safety compliance support and market access
- Demonstrate support for Tribal organic producers and organic programs
- Include Tribes in the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)
- Acknowledge Tribal sovereignty in horticulture operations and pesticide regulation

Aside from the economic implications of growing horticulture operations, many of the crops in Indian Country that federal policy today considers to be “produce” and “specialty crops” have been culturally significant foods in Tribal communities for far longer. These are often the traditional or culturally important foods that have nourished Tribal people for thousands of years. With increasing frequency, Tribal actors — either through Tribal governments, Tribally led organizations, or individual Native food producers — cultivate these foods as part of food sovereignty or health equity initiatives.

## NUMBER OF AI/AN PRODUCERS



Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

7%

**INCREASE IN NUMBER  
OF FARMS WITH AN  
AI/AN PRODUCER  
FROM 2012 TO 2017**

*Stable growth in horticulture operations in Indian Country will improve local food access for everyone in Tribal communities.*

**CHECK OUT THE NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION'S REPORT [GAINING GROUND](#) TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON INDIAN COUNTRY'S PRIORITIES: [www.nativefarmbill.com/gaining-ground](http://www.nativefarmbill.com/gaining-ground).**



The Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) brings together the voices of Tribes, intertribal organizations, other Native organizations and non-Native allies around the country to advocate with a strong, unified voice in Washington, D.C., to advance investments in Native agricultural production, rural infrastructure, economic development, conservation, and forestry.