



April 2023

{{First Name}},

It's been a big month at Foodshed Capital, but in a different way than you might expect. Things are [a little] quieter on the lending front as temperatures warm and many farmers are already in full swing for the season. This slight reprieve has allowed us to **focus additional attention on creating solutions for BIPOC land security and laying the groundwork for [the LND Initiative](#)**.

When we think about creating more regenerative food systems, the focus is often on the specific practices of majority white farmers who have had exponentially fewer challenges and consistently easier access to land, capital, targeted technical support, and higher education.

Building equity into food systems is conceptually gaining ground, but the realization of what that means has yet to take root. For farmers who have faced centuries of discrimination and intentional denial of resources, it's critical that we take a step back and focus on the absolute basics. Land tenure, autonomy, and having a community of funders and resource providers ready to support.

Through [our campaign to support direct land ownership for Liberation Farm](#), we're enlisting the philanthropic community to help them create a permanent home. Beyond their as regenerative farmers is a dedication to creating safe spaces for people of color to reunite with the land. Co-owners Nadia and Omowale have touched thousands of lives through their events, trainings, and workshops, and we know that **with the strong foundation of land they own, their programming will make waves and offer a new generation of Black agrarians a safe place to explore, learn, and grow.**

We are immensely grateful for the upswell of small gifts and positive feedback you all have given toward this land reparations work. **Truly, thank you to those of you who "get it" and show it.**

Candidly, despite literally scores of conversations, **we are still waiting for those with disproportionate wealth to step up and walk the talk by the property closing date of June 1st.** Redistributing wealth from those who have more of it than they could ever use to those who were most harmed by its production is, at its core, what this work is about. We know that when that happens, we can really begin to scratch the surface on building foodsheds that are more regenerative *and* more equitable.

With hopefulness,

Erica Hellen
Director of Strategy & Development



FoodCap in the News



The Transformative 25 T25 | 2023

Foodshed Capital is so pleased to share that **we've been named one of 25 funds transforming finance for people and planet** by the [Integrated Capital Investment network](#).

The 2023 cohort of T25 funds spans **a range of focus areas including climate change, structural racism, economic inequality, and gender justice**, among others. Selected funds go beyond basic impact investing by engaging with at least 3 of the following 4 criteria in their work to advance social and economic justice and regenerative finance: integrated capital, creative finance, social, relational and ecological returns and democratic ownership and governance.

We're so proud to have been selected for this accolade among a group of incredible peers. **Download the full report and check out the full list of funds here:**

2023 T25 Report

Welcoming a New Board Member



Say hello to **Nikeya Thomas**, the newest member of the FoodCap board. Ms. Thomas brings considerable expertise in agricultural leadership to our team. She currently works as the Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator at VDACS, and has a bachelor's in food science and nutrition and a master's in biosecurity and agricultural life sciences.

With over 10 years' experience in food science and safety, **Ms. Thomas works with farmers to provide regulatory guidance and assistance in developing their crop into food products.**

She is an author of published research and has worked with the FDA on national recalls and research of food borne illness outbreaks. Well versed in food safety from farm to table, **Ms. Thomas is excited to engage with our work to support transformation and equal access in regional foodsheds. Welcome!**

Farmer Feedback

We recently completed a rigorous due diligence process conducted by a consulting group as part of consideration for a substantial foundation grant. (Exciting news on this to come next month!)

The group shared with us a comprehensive report of their findings; in it, **they noted we could spend more time sharing with you all the perspectives of the farmers we work with and the lasting impact our work has on them, rather than just a highlight when we close each loan.** Point taken!

With that, we'll humbly share **two smile-inducing quotes featured in the report, with our sincere thanks to the farmers who took the time to provide this feedback:**

“The first thing that the FoodCap team did was come to the farm and do a site visit. They asked questions like I was a person. I have a tendency to bare bones everything, but they were like, 'if you had access to the funds you need and didn't have to cut corners, give us some low-end and high-end sides of how you can make it work for you.' [I really felt] it would make them feel better as lenders knowing I actually got what I needed. I've never had an experience like that with a financial lender.”

“Commercial lending was so painstaking. Dealing with FoodCap was like, 'Wow, this is quick and simple. They fit us.' And what really helps is we got [the loan] interest-free. That makes a big difference. Very, very simple, streamlined, and convenient.”

Support Our Work

**We need your financial support to seed the LND Initiative
by June 1st!**

If you believe regenerative farmers of color deserve tenure, autonomy, and an equal shot at building wealth, please consider making a gift to support this campaign.

Support Now



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

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