

Farming is Life - Dá'ák'eh Bee Iiná Seed to Harvest Program



Seeking partnerships with Diné Farmers to monitor their corn, water, and soil on their farms for from seed to harvest for Spring-to-Fall Season 2018.













What is the Gold King Mine Diné Exposure Project?

On August 5, 2015, 3 million gallons of mine waste containing high levels of metals, such as lead and arsenic, were accidently released from the Gold King Mine in Colorado. The goal of the Gold King Mine Spill Diné Exposure Project is to see if there is human exposure from the Gold King Mine Spill. The results of this study will inform the Navajo Nation on the impacts of the Gold King Mine Spill.

What is the purpose of the Farming is Life-Seed to Harvest Program?

The purpose of the Farming is Life-Seed to Harvest Program is to measure arsenic and lead in the corn, water, and soil of Diné Farmers in the Shiprock area.

You are eligible to participate if you:

- ✓ Have a farm and are planting corn in the 2018 Season
- ✓ Use irrigation water from the San Juan river to irrigate corn

What are participants' responsibilities?

Participants must be willing to have their corn, water, and soil sampled multiple times from their farm and to provide relevant information.

What are the benefits to participants?

You will receive information about the levels of arsenic and lead in your corn, water, and soil samples.

All participants will receive compensation for corn samples.

What does participation entail?

Interest Form

You will be asked to complete an interest form for participation in the program.



Corn Samples

You will be asked to provide corn kernels before they are planted. Once the corn is harvested, you will be asked to provide no more than 10 corn cobs. You will be compensated for the corn.



Water Samples

Water: We will collect samples from the irrigation canal used for your farm.



Soil Samples

Soil: We will obtain a sample of the soil around your farm (12 trowels).



What will be done with the samples that are collected?

1. Corn, water, and soil samples

Corn, water, and soil will be collected from your farm will be processed and analyzed for arsenic and lead.



2. Follow-up Visit

Once the samples have been analyzed and the appropriate quality controls have been completed, we will return to your farm, to explain the results and the overall study findings in person. This visit may be several months after when the samples are collected.



Who do I contact to sign up?

Contact Dr. Karletta Chief at (800) 263-4872 (toll-free) or goldkingproject@gmail.com

When will samples be collected?

• Water samples: March through August 2018

• Corn kernels: March 2018 (before planting)

• Corn: August 2018 after harvest

How much time will each visit take?

Each visit should last 15-30 minutes of personal time while our team collects samples and information from you. With your permission, we can collect water bi-weekly without bothering you.

Who can answer my questions about the study?

The project coordinator is Dr. Karletta Chief at (800) 263-4872 (toll-free) or (520) 222-9801. You may call her to ask about the status of your sample results and other questions you may have regarding the study.

Funded By:





For More Information, Contact:

Karletta Chief
University of Arizona
1177 E. Fourth Street
Tucson, AZ, 85721
goldkingproject@gmail.com
800-263-4872 (toll-free) or 520-222-9801