

MIDWEST VALUE CHAIN COORDINATION: STRENGTHENING FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH SHARED VALUES

and some examples of those values in action

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY AND HONESTLY ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS

To illustrate this, **Savanna Institute's** work includes communicating honestly with stakeholders about the benefits & challenges of agroforestry. Their resources include info on cost, yield, and profits of twelve key tree crops.



FINDING PRACTICAL PATHS TO ECONOMIC VIABILITY, OWNERSHIP, & WEALTH CREATION



Putting this value into practice, the **Forever Green Initiative** is developing and improving winter-hardy annual and perennial crops and cropping systems that protect soil and water while driving new opportunities for growers, industry and Minnesota communities.

FOCUSING ON REGIONAL COMMUNITY-LED NETWORKS THAT ARE MAKING GOODS THAT SUPPORT HEALTH, STEWARD NATURAL RESOURCES, AND HAVE OTHER POSITIVE IMPACTS

As one example, the **Wallace Center** supports diverse value chain actors and professionals to connect, learn, and pursue common goals. This includes providing curriculum-based trainings, conducting value chain analyses, facilitating collaborations, and offering evaluation frameworks



DECENTRALIZING POWER AND DEMOCRATIZING DECISIONS

An example of this value in action: **Grassland 2.0** is engaging communities through Learning Hubs to assess the current landscape of livestock farming and decide together about strategies to move towards a better future.



Demonstrating these values, **Green Lands Blue Waters** connects, collaborates, convenes, and communicates so partners can work jointly on continuous living cover projects they can't tackle alone.

BUILDING JUST, FUNCTIONAL, AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT ADAPT TO CHANGE



Case in point, the **Artisan Grain Collaborative** is built on deep connections across the grain chain. As the pandemic began, this network was immediately able to launch an effort to distribute thousands of locally grown, milled, and baked loaves to neighbors in need.

This list of shared values was developed jointly by a group of peer organizations building value chains for small grains, perennials and other crops that provide continuous living cover on the farm landscape: Artisan Grain Collaborative, University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative, Grassland 2.0, Green Lands Blue Waters, Savanna Institute, and Wallace Center at Winrock International. It shows the shared vision of what we are collectively working toward with an aim for greater connectivity across and impact in value chain coordination work at the landscape-scale in the Upper Midwest.