Carbon Sink Demonstration Project
Pauma Tribal Farms/Solidarity Farm
Our Approach:

- Carbon sink production strategies should not only sequester carbon but have additional resilience benefits that reduce risk and improve the viability of our farms.
- The food security and health of indigenous and other marginalized communities must be the gauge of our success; and
- Public resources should be unlocked to offset the financial burden of adapting to climate change and equitably compensate farmers for their environmental services.
Carbon Sink initiatives:

Initiative One: Develop a cover crop for SoCal.
Initiative Two: Legalize compost.
Initiative Three: Demonstrate no-till/reduced-till.
Initiative Four: Popularize resilient food crops.
Initiative Five: Document co-benefits.
Initiative Six: Unlock public resources.
Initiative one: Healthy Soils

Task: Three rounds of cover cropping 30-acres of tilled row crops to no-till/reduce till olive orchard.

Demonstrate practices to 100 farmers.
Challenges

1) Erratic weather
   ○ Funds allocated out of season, required irrigation to initiate.
   ○ Rainfall was insufficient in Feb-May 2018 to create substantial growth, and cold was challenge for barley planted in November.

2) Lack of local expertise
   ○ Need TA that is specific to Southern California conditions.
   ○ No till seed bed is out competing barley, will require top till to establish olive orchard and native seed cover.

3) Lack of appropriate equipment
   ○ Need access to rental equipment for healthy soils practices

4) Drought tolerant/resilient cover crop seed price
Successes

- Cover cropping completed on schedule according to the grant, despite significant challenges
- Significant new funding generated to attempt to resolve challenges of cover cropping in Southern California
- Farmer to Farmer field day in partnership with CAFF brought 22 farmers to learn about our project.
- Presentation at Rural Coalition Annual Gathering generated national interest in the Healthy Soils concept.
- Great interest at local and regional level in the Carbon Sink Demonstration Farm
Building Towards

November 4-5th

Carbon Sink Farming
Convergence

Pauma Tribal Farms/Solidarity Farm

Join us!