

Accelerating Forest Farming in Central Appalachia: Strengthening Market Connections and Collaboration for Long-Term Sector Impact and Sustainability

PROJECT SNAPSHOT



GRANTEE

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



STATES IMPACTED

Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, and West Virginia



ARC FUNDING

\$490,647



PARTNERS

Appalachian Sustainable Development, Mill Creek Creative, Organic Association of Kentucky, Grow Appalachia, North Carolina State University, Organic Growers School, Rural Action, United Plant Savers, Future Generations University, Yew Mountain Center, Sustainable Herbs Program



ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

June 2023

STATES IMPACTED



PROJECT SUMMARY

This planning project will examine the economic viability of individual and collective forest farming business ventures across 125 counties in six Central Appalachian states and examine the long-term sustainability of a value-added Nontimber Forest Products (NTFP) supply chain. This project will establish the roadmap for programs and services to deliver a broad spectrum of market-centered opportunities for Appalachian residents and localities, evaluating a deeply rooted, traditional economic sector into a sustainable platform for continued growth.

Virginia Tech and partners are bringing \$327,093 in matching funds to this project. The project will produce seven plans—an implementation plan based on six separate sector plans – over the course of 12 months.