

National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration

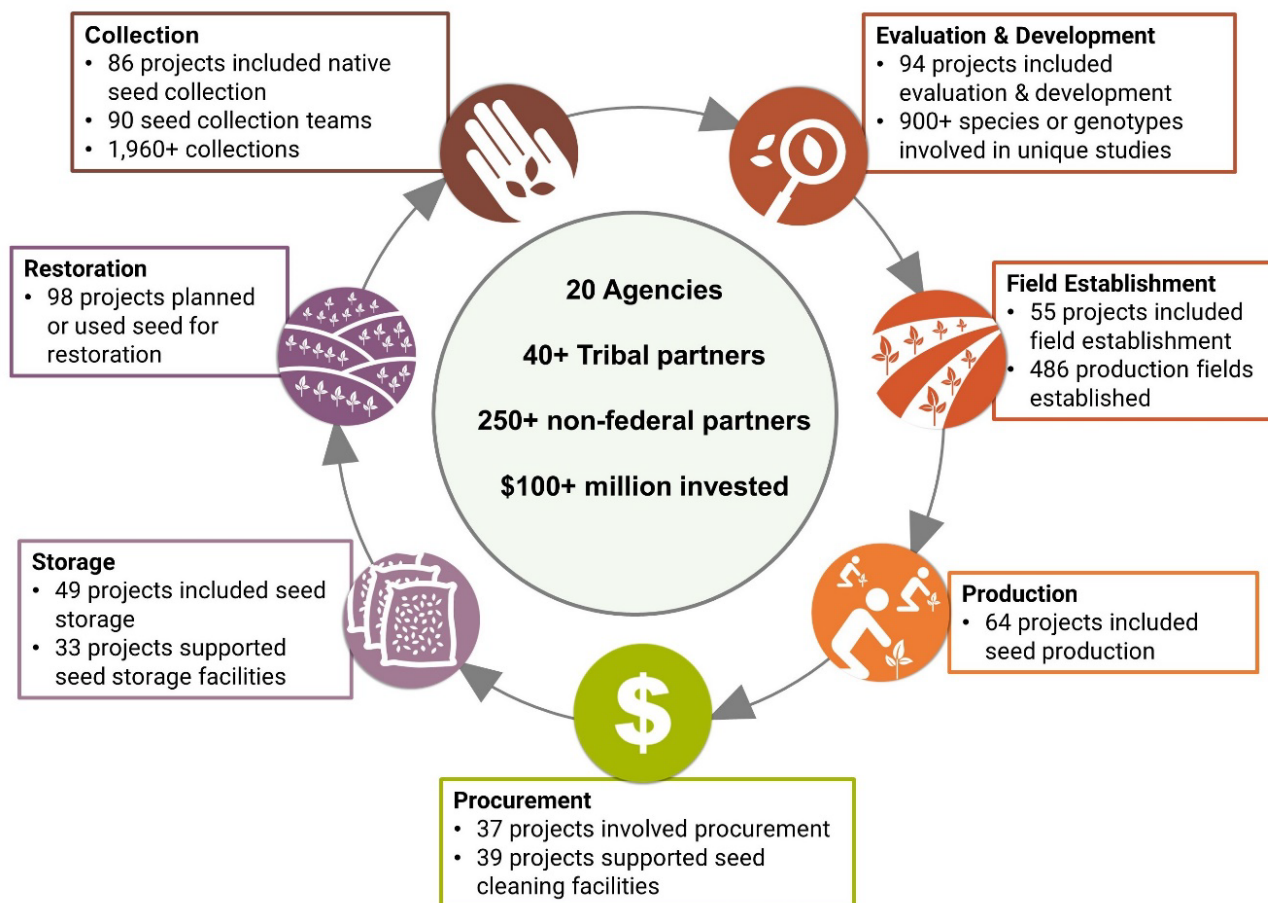
PROGRESS REPORT 2022 & 2023

Restoring healthy, resilient, biodiverse ecosystems is crucial for our Nation's future. Native plant communities provide essential environmental benefits, such as buffering against extreme weather, improving air, soil, and water quality, and habitat for wildlife. However, the limited availability of locally adapted native plants hampers effective ecological restoration. To address this need, the Plant Conservation Alliance released the National Seed Strategy in 2015 to foster coordination to increase the supply of native seeds for restoration on public, Tribal, state, and private lands. Developing and using native seeds nurtures a growing restoration economy that creates jobs, stimulates rural economies, and reduces risks from environmental hazards.

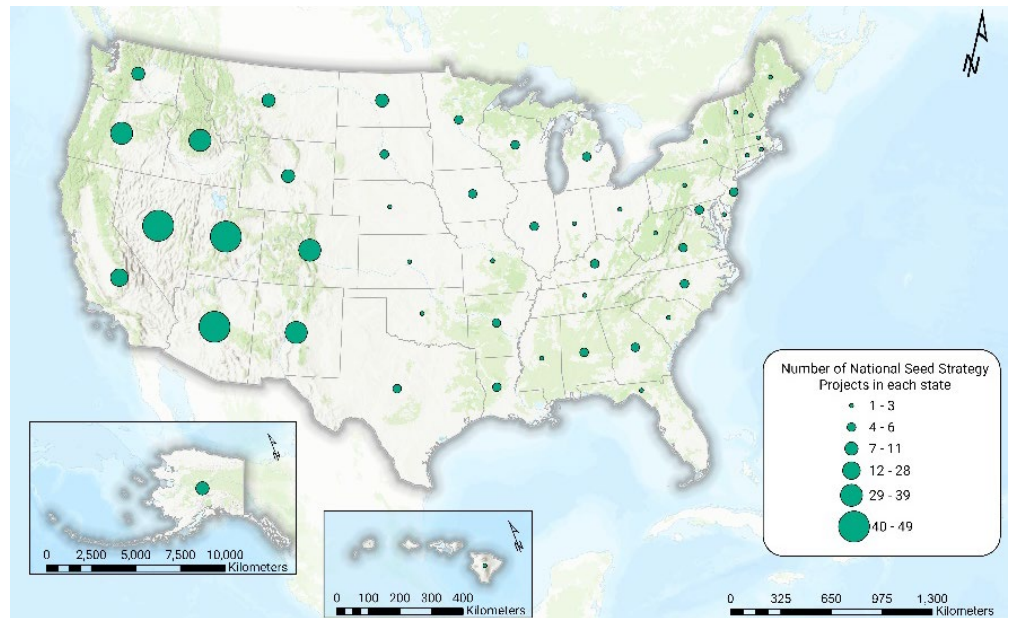
National Seed Strategy achievements in 2022 and 2023 include the following major developments:

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine released a [report with 10 recommendations](#) to strengthen the U.S. native seed supply chain.
- The Department of the Interior advanced the National Seed Strategy by developing an Action Plan to enhance implementation across Interior bureaus.
- Federal investments funded nationwide implementation of the Seed Strategy.
- The 2023 National Native Seed Conference drew over 500 attendees and over 170 presentations.
- "[Native Seeds: Supplying Restoration](#)" was released as a documentary film exploring the native seed supply chain across the western U.S.

The Progress Report for 2022 and 2023 summarizes information on over 170 projects with federal agencies, Tribal Nations, and non-federal partners contributing to native seed development:



Projects to enhance native seed restoration occurred across federal, Tribal, state, and private lands in all 50 states, aligning with the objectives of the 2021-2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to enhance biodiversity and restore resilient ecosystems for future generations. Through these projects, a coordinated approach to seed sourcing, project planning, and habitat restoration is meeting the Seed Strategy vision of ensuring that native plants are available to restore U.S. ecosystems.



Other notable accomplishments during 2022 and 2023 include:

- Agency program funds were responsible for most project funding, followed by increases in federal investments, such as the \$10 million boost for the Bureau of Land Management's Plant Conservation and Restoration Program. These legislative measures highlight the critical role of dedicated funding in coordinating efforts to enhance seed availability for restoration.
- Over 59 research publications cover diverse themes in native plant restoration and ecosystem recovery, especially in sagebrush steppe and drylands, emphasizing the importance of functional composition and genetic diversity in enhancing restoration outcomes. Additionally, a focus on practical applications—such as decision-support frameworks for seed selection and the use of drones and thermal imaging for plant health monitoring—deepens our understanding of restoration ecology and effective strategies for sustainable practices.
- Over 1,900 native seed collections were made using the science-based Seeds of Success protocol, including collections from 6 new states, bringing the total number of collections to over 28,000. Seed collections build the foundation for a sustainable U.S. native seed supply for restoration, climate resilience, and disaster recovery.
- Agencies have been actively working to implement the National Academies' recommendations and DOI Action Plan to advance the Seed Strategy. This includes efforts to establish the National Interagency Seed and Restoration Center (Recommendation 1.0), develop native plant programs and improve ecoregional collaboration (Recommendation 2.0), promote responsible seed collection (Recommendation 4.3), and conduct research to enhance the use of native seeds in restoration (Recommendation 6.0).

A sustainable U.S. native seed supply depends on collaborative efforts, with funding and staffing for botanical programs, and federal commitment to implement the National Academies' recommendations and the DOI Action Plan, fueling the restoration economy. Incorporating genetically suitable and diverse seeds is vital for successful restoration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Seed Strategy, Business Plan, & Progress Reports

www.blm.gov/seedstrategy

Plant Conservation Alliance

www.blm.gov/pca



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