

Examples of Agricultural Projects in Seed Commons' Current Portfolio

California Harvesters

[California Harvesters, Inc \(CHI\)](#) is an employee benefit company supplying agricultural labor to growers in California's Central Valley. This first-of-its-kind farm labor contracting company is designed to create high-quality farm labor jobs connected to an ecosystem of support. CHI's value proposition is based on respect, dignity, and opportunity for workers and their community. CHI believes that open communication and transparency are the keys to creating a cooperative and successful business. The driving question behind California Harvesters is how to make farm work a good job that provides benefits, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and respect. California Harvesters is governed by a trust, of which workers become members once they log a certain number of hours with California Harvesters. Eventually, trust members will be elected to the Board of Directors and will participate in making major business decisions. [Here's a four-minute movie about them.](#)

Seed Commons' role in California Harvesters is two-fold: We have provided loans totaling \$360,000 for start-up and bridge purposes, and we've provided technical assistance during the formation and growth of the project, through Seed Commons' Co-Director Brendan Martin's service on the California Harvesters Board.



LINC Foods

[LINC Foods](#) is a worker and farmer owned food hub based in Spokane, Washington that provides the Inland Northwest with a robust local food system and is building a vibrant ecosystem, through three avenues. First, the LINC Foods wholesale team sources produce, dairy, eggs, meat, and grains of exceptional freshness and quality from local member farms. LINC then connect them with local buyers in the Inland Northwest, including restaurants, grocery stores, and institutions. Second, retail customers can access a farm-to-table options called the LINC Box. Each week, LINC Box members can take home a box full of farm-fresh produce, dairy, meats, and artisan items. Together, LINC Box members make a significant impact on the local food system. Third, LINC Malt provides craft malt with a great story, great flavor, and a regional character. All LINC malts are processed in small batches with cereal grains grown in the Inland Northwest, offering brewers and distillers single-varietal, single-farm malts of distinct character and exceptional quality.

Seed Commons has made loans totaling \$393,200 to LINC Foods. And because LINC foods is a pivotal player in their regional eco-system, they are now in discussions with Seed Commons about launching a Seed Commons member loan fund to bring non-extractive finance to their region.



Rocksteady Farm & Flowers

[Rocksteady Farm & Flowers](#) is a women and queer owned cooperative farm, rooted in social justice, growing sustainable vegetables, flowers and herbs. Rock Steady celebrates the identities of its worker owners, and makes safer spaces for LGBTQAI+ and BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) farmers to thrive. Rock Steady feels the urgency of the climate crisis, and strives to steward their land with sustainable, regenerative agriculture practices. Their 275-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) feeds their local upstate neighbors as well as their New York City community. Rock Steady offers weekly vegetable shares, plus egg, fruit, meat, cheese and yogurt share options from neighboring farms. Sliding scale pricing, fundraising and strong community partnerships ensure food reaches people across all income levels and lived experiences. Rock Steady's Food Access Fund provides free or subsidized produce to low-income community members, including seniors, families with young children, and people living with serious health concerns.

Seed Commons has made a total of \$337,470 in financing to Rock Steady over the last several years, mostly in the form of a revolving line of credit.

