



NAFSN

**Pilot
Program
2024**



CARAT

Community & Agriculture
Resilience Audit Tool



The North American Food Systems Network will host a **pilot program** of its CARAT tool with **six (6)** US communities in 2024.



This pilot will be conducted in partnership with the Food and Agrarian Systems group at **Indiana University**.

The objective: to learn from the collective experiences of six community-based CARAT lead facilitators and their collaborators to:

- **support** six communities to fully complete CARAT audits;
- **create** a CARAT facilitation training for national release;
- **improve** the CARAT tool based on pilot user input;
- **strengthen** CARAT's accessibility for all communities.

TIMELINE OF THE PILOT:



Call for communities to apply

Feb 1-29, 2024

Pilot information session

Feb 12, 2024

Selection of pilot communities announced

Mar 11, 2024

Pilot orientation for selected cohorts
CARAT audits begin

Mar 18, 2024

Monthly cohort meetings, dates TBD
CARAT audits completed

Apr-Nov, 2024

Findings shared with cohorts & others

Dec, 2024

ELEMENTS OF THE PILOT:



- **Team Approach** - Pilot facilitators will prioritize the activity of pulling together diverse stakeholders to contribute to their CARAT audits.
- **Transparency** - Pilot communities will share their findings with cohorts. Organizers will spotlight participating communities.
- **Technical Assistance** - Pilot organizers will provide guidance monthly in cohort meetings and on-call as needed.
- **Turn Toward Transformation** - Pilot communities will use their CARAT audit to identify and commit to work on priorities discovered in the process.



ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PILOT:

- **Experienced Lead Facilitator** - Eligible communities will have a committed lead facilitator with experience in stakeholder collaboration and project coordination.
- **Support from Community** - Eligible communities will have the capacity to support their lead facilitator by ensuring that their paid role includes an average of 10 hours/week for CARAT facilitation throughout the six month pilot timeline.

COSTS FOR THE PILOT:



- **No Charge from Pilot Organizers** - NAFSN and IU will provide guidance to CARAT pilot communities free of charge.
- **No Charge for Use of CARAT** - CARAT is offered to the public as a [free, open-access tool](#).
- **Costs of a CARAT Audit** - In addition to supporting the work of their CARAT lead facilitator, communities will also be expected to cover any additional costs incurred for collaboration work.

VISIBILITY OF THE PILOT:



CARAT pilot communities will have the opportunity to:

- **share their knowledge** with a national audience;
- **feature their approaches** to community engagement;
- **help other communities** learn from their experiences.



USING CARAT AS A COMMUNITY

CARAT can be used to establish a baseline, set priorities, and measure change over time.

CARAT can be matched with technical support to guide a community through discovery, regardless of entry point or level of expertise.

CARAT results in a summary that can be easily shared to convey complex discoveries to other community stakeholders, funders & decision-makers.

CARAT adopts a social-ecological systems perspective on the interdependency of humans and the environment.

OUR TEAM



This pilot will be coordinated by a team of three through the North American Food Systems Network.



Jodee Smith
Indiana University
CARAT Circle Chair



Kim Hines
North American Food
Systems Network
CARAT Pilot Coordinator



Liam Du
North American Food
Systems Network
CARAT Technology



APPLY

To be considered for selection as a CARAT Pilot Community, please fill out [this application](#) no later than February 29, 2024.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kim Hines, kim@foodsystemsnetwork.org