

WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM 2026



OCTOBER 26-28, 2026

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE
375 YORK AVENUE

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

REGISTRATION

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**PANEL
SPEAKER**

ABIDAS ASH

Co-Owner, Columbia River Source Farm, and Avian Biologist,
Environmental Research Institute, University of Belize
Belize

INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE INC.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Abidas Ash is the manager and co-owner of Columbia River Source Farm (CRSF), located in San Pedro Columbia, a small Q'eqchi' Maya village in the Toledo District of Belize. She co-developed the business alongside her father, Ignacio, drawing on a foundation the whole family has built: her mother, Zenobia, brings decades of experience in business and customer relations, and her sister plays a central role in keeping day-to-day operations running. Together, they are transforming land the family has stewarded for over 50 years using traditional Maya farming methods into a working demonstration of what sustainable, biodiverse agriculture can look like. Where Ignacio and Zenobia's vision laid the groundwork for the farm's living model, Abidas took the lead in shaping CRSF into a viable business, building it around eco-tourism, organic cacao production, and farm-based education.

Growing up on the farm gave Abidas an early understanding of how agriculture and conservation work together rather than against each other. That grounding led her to study Natural Resource Management and to build a career in biodiversity conservation in Belize. Her upbringing and professional training now feed directly back into CRSF, where she is developing new approaches to running an agroecological business that benefits nature, supports people, and preserves her cultural heritage.

As Manager, Abidas has grown CRSF from a family operation into a business with export reach. The farm now ships small batches of cacao to the UK and directly to individual customers in the United States. She represents CRSF at national platforms and continues to lead business development aimed at expanding the farm's social and environmental impact.

Through CRSF, Abidas is working to show that a family's inherited knowledge of the land, combined with modern conservation practice, can produce a genuinely one-of-a-kind model: a farm that sustains both its people and its biodiversity, while offering a different way of making a living from the resources already in your hands.