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First training program on carbon trading held in SA

A new training program which aims to empower Indigenous people by assisting Indigenous landholders to participate in the Australian Government's Carbon Farming initiative took place for the first time in South Australia earlier this month.

Ten participants from Murray Bridge, Mannum and the Sugar Shack farming property near Swan Reach in South Australia were the first to complete the program.

"Doing this project really encouraged us in many ways. In the near future we can teach others to join in with what we have learnt," said one of the participants, Ivy.

The three day carbon market training program delivered by South Australia's Greening Australia is made up of one day "in the classroom" and two out "in the field".

It's run in partnership with Canopy and the

Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia.

Day one is structured to help communities understand the "what" and "why" of climate change action and the new carbon market.

Days two and three are held "on Country" with practical workshops to support the community in vegetation association and soil-type identification, seed collection and planting for a viable biodiverse carbon sink.

"It's an excellent opportunity for our Aboriginal community," said another participant, Isobelle. "We may be a small community but we are full steam ahead to make carbon trading work on our land."

And the last word goes to another participant, Samuel: "After three days it makes me feel that we can do it ourselves."

You can follow the project's progress on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.