

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Guam

Project Highlight: *Researchers strive to save threatened tree species*

Ironwood trees, which have populated Guam for thousands of years and serve critical functions for island farmers, have been dying off mysteriously in recent years. To reverse this trend, University of Guam Extension specialists used SARE funds to launch a multi-year effort to both understand the problem and share stewardship information with farmers and others.

Farmers plant ironwood trees as windbreaks and to reduce erosion on hillsides. The trees are also common on municipal and residential properties, where they can help protect buildings against typhoon damage. Researchers estimate it will cost Guam more than \$1 million per year to remove sick trees.

The research team found that ironwood decline is being caused by a com-

ination of factors, including diseases and pests, and a lack of genetic diversity and poor site selection for newly planted trees. They developed methods for detecting early signs of decline, and early detection can lower the cost of removal.

Critical information on tree stewardship—for example, how to prepare the soil when planting new ironwoods—has reached an estimated 20 percent of the island’s farmers, and will give newly planted trees a chance to thrive.

Researchers’ early success during their SARE project has helped them earn additional USDA grants to continue their work.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number SW08-067.

SARE in Guam

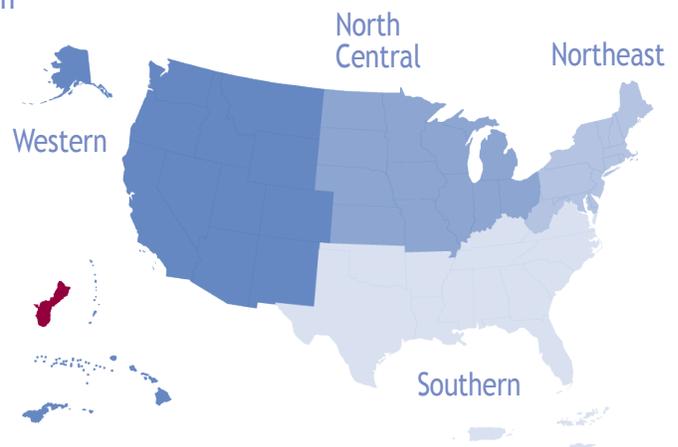
www.westernsare.org/guam

\$1.4 million in total funding

38 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

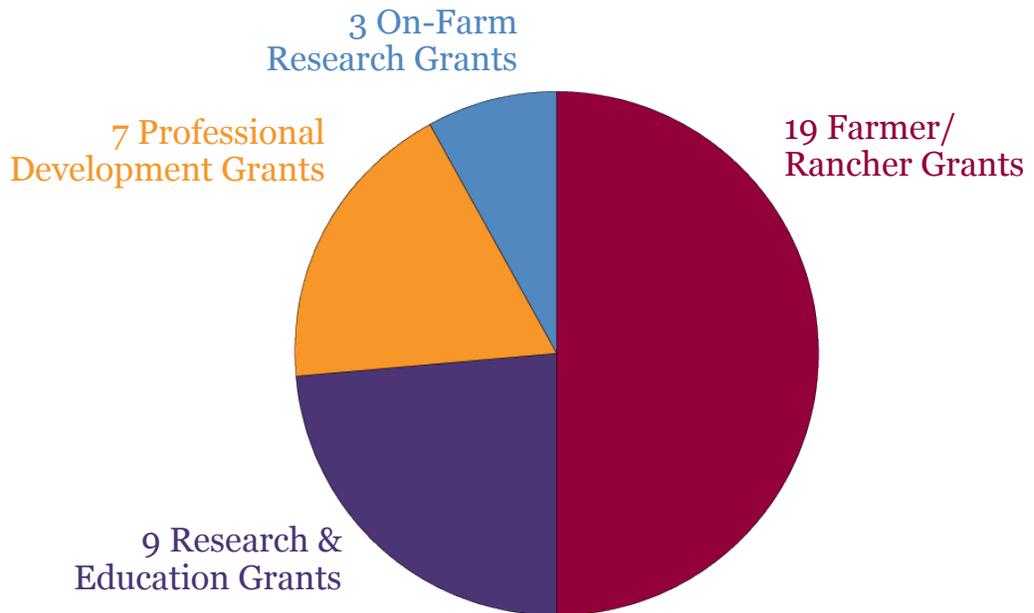


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE Grants in Guam

SARE has
awarded a
total of
38 grants
in Guam
since 1988



SARE's Impact



53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit www.westernsare.org/guam to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to
www.SARE.org