



COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA – FSM

P.O. Box 159, Kolonia, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia 96941

Tel: (691)320-2480/2481/2482 (Ext. 138)
320-8181 (Direct Line)

Fax: (691)320-2479
Direct Fax: 320-2972

Office of Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension

Date: 07.23.15

To: Dr. Joseph M. Daisy, EdD. President and CEO

SUBJECT: CRE narrative report of high level accomplishments to the COM-FSM BOR for the period of May 01-July 17, 2015

The third quarter report indicates that although there have been on-going activities at all state sites of Cooperative Research and Extension program, some actions stand out and should be recognized.

- a) The Kosrae extension office continues to focus on economic development and sustainability at the local level. Even in the depressed economy of Kosrae, the CES staff have assisted community members through simple entrepreneurial training in the areas of sewing, food processing and crop production. Their report indicates that one homemaker earned \$1165 during the period from selling home food products while another sold \$150 of home-made clothing. 27 new gardens were established and although no income is reported for these gardeners, the produce may have been used within the home to improve diets. Also at Kosrae campus, the researcher has developed new techniques for tissue culture of black pepper and pineapple under a multi-site program funded through USDA Hatch grant program.
- b) Pohnpei extension agents and researcher staff have been heavily involved in assisting the state and national governments to address recovery needs following Typhoon Maysak and Typhoon Dolphin. Agents were also closely involved in policy development with the Office of Economic Affairs of Pohnpei state and Resources and Development at the national level. The Aquaculture research team was able to recover sufficient sea cucumber breeding stock after Typhoon Dolphin to allow spawning which resulted in 3.1 million fertilized eggs.
- c) Chuuk CRE agents, besides providing regular assistance to clients, responded to assist the recovery following Typhoon Maysak. That effort is on-going. The researcher has submitted a third Hatch research proposal for consideration. The researcher and agents are collaborating with the Secretariate of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme to prioritize strategies to enhance resilience of the vulnerable atoll communities.
- d) Yap CRE office has been busy developing the Marine Lab in collaboration with the state R&D office. Equipment and supplies are being purchased and the facility has been renovated. Dr. Murukesan attended the 28th Pacific Islands Environment Conference in Pago Pago American Samoa to support his special projects in Climate Smart Farming and in Outreach to underserved communities project.

- e) This office (VPCRE) has been specifically involved with our special projects funded by USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Specifically, we have provided travel support under the Resident Instruction in the Insular Areas (RIIA) program for one student, Ms. Elizabeth Augustine of Pohnpei, to attend the three week long Experiential Learning activity in American Samoa. Preparations are also complete for 5 agriculture students and one staff to attend a one-week experiential learning activity at the University of Guam. (This activity will be complete before the BOR meeting). These students will share their experience with their colleagues early in the fall semester. Both of these activities are collaborative efforts with our regional partners and both are fully funded through the USDA RIIA grant.

- f) VP-CRE office through funding from USDA RIIA grant has provided scholarship funds for summer courses to 15 COM-FSM students for a total of 20 courses at a level of \$250 per course. In addition, three Bachelors level students at UOG received funding of \$1500 and one BEd. student at COM-FSM received scholarship for two courses for the summer semester. A total of close to \$10500 was provided fro these students.

Thank you

Jim

CC:

