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**For the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae
Cooperative Research and Extension Service**

Report to the COM-FSM Board of Regents

Nov. 18, 2013 – March 10, 2014

W. James Currie, VP-CRE

Summary of Activities

- Student involvement
 - Internships – Students from the AS/ agriculture and Natural Sciences Program and the Agriculture and food Technology program are required to have an internship experience prior to graduation. Pohnpei Extension and the new Pohnpei Researcher are particularly active in providing this assistance to these students. During this period, the Extension office assisted 10 students and at this time the AES Researcher is assisting 2 students.
 - Resident Instruction in the Insular Areas - Internships: 4 teaching interns are hired through funding from the Resident Instruction in the Insular Areas program. Interns are assigned to each campus where agriculture is being taught. The interns are assigned for a 7 month period until the end of July. They are to assist the instructors, research curriculum materials, tutor science students and assist with recruitment by preparing a summer science fair or activity for high school students. In return, the instructors are to mentor these interns and guide them toward further education in agriculture or education with the intent that they will return as teachers in the future.

- COM-Land Grant Program Board Directives
 - Budget increases for all CES sites - \$10,000 per year
 - Budget increase for AES researchers – \$5,000 per researcher
 - BOR approved \$85,00 request from COM-FSM for accreditation related activities – equal offer to PCC and CMI
 - BOR Approved a compensation plan for those researchers and agents publishing various levels of articles either peer reviewed or extension level publishing.
 - BOR approved a proposed incentive plan to encourage multi-site research projects the first proposal is for the

Kosrae researcher to assist with black pepper improvement in Pohnpei. The initial review survey has been conducted and Dr. Verma is preparing his research proposal.

- VP-CRE is required to submit quarterly inventory updates for all sites.
- BOR officers were elected with no change in the structure for this year.

- Resident Instruction in the Insular areas and distance education
Grant accomplishments:
 - 5 agriculture students are now attending University of Guam and one is at UH Hilo.
 - Grant proposals for RIIA Phase X was submitted requesting \$110,000
 - Grant proposal for DEG Phase V was submitted requesting \$70,000

- HR issues for CRE
 - New Hires include:
 - Pohnpei Researcher
 - Pohnpei Agriculture agent
 - Yap Agriculture agent
 - Chuuk nutrition agent
 - Chuuk clerk/typist
 - Proposed for hiring –
 - Yap nutrition agent
 - Chuuk agriculture agent
 - A review of the salary situation of new hires for CRE has been completed by HR. Dr. Daisy and I will meet to discuss the results and prepare for a discussion with Exec. Director Singeru Singeo as soon as possible after this BOR meeting

- Agriculture Fairs – both Pohnpei CRE and Yap CRE have provided judging and logistical support for community fairs in their states during this period.
 - Call for Matching Funds - The COM-Land Grant Program call for local matching fund has been issued. At this time COM-FSM sites have provided as follows:
 - Pohnpei State Extension - \$50,000
 - COM-FSM conversion funds - \$34,000
 - COM-FSM support for VP-CRE office - \$15000
 - Kosrae – Dr. Verma – AES project - \$20,000
 - Kosrae - Dr. Verma – AES project - \$15000
 - Total to date - \$134,000
- There is still opportunity for state sites to provide funds for matching if any can be found.

