

**Office of the Vice President  
Cooperative Research and Extension  
P.O. Box 159, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941  
Tel: 691-320-8181 Fax: 691-320-2479  
Email: jimc@comfsm.fm**

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



**Conference at High Tide Conference Room- Chuuk**

**Report to the COM-FSM Board of Regents**

**Dec. 15-2012Feb. 15, 2013**

**W. James Currie, VP-CRE**

## Acronyms used:

<b>VP-CRE</b>		<b>Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension</b>
<b>CRE</b>		<b>Cooperative Research and Extension</b>
<b>COM-LGP</b>		<b>College of Micronesia - Land Grant Program</b>
<b>CRD Agent</b>		<b>Community Resource Development Agent</b>
<b>HRO</b>		<b>Human Resources Office</b>
<b>SC</b>		<b>(CRE) State Coordinator</b>
<b>PNI</b>		<b>Pohnpei (CRE)</b>
<b>EFNEP</b>		<b>Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program</b>
<b>ECE</b>		<b>Early Childhood Education</b>
<b>R&amp;D</b>		<b>Resources and Development (state or national offices)</b>
<b>BBTV</b>		<b>Banana Bunchy Top Virus (Yap)</b>
<b>WSARE</b>		<b>Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education</b>
<b>GED</b>		<b>General Education Diploma</b>
<b>CTAHR</b>		<b>College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources – University of Hawaii</b>
<b>CariPac</b>	<b>(refers to)</b>	<b>Consortium of US Insular Areas colleges in the Caribbean and Pacific Regions</b>
<b>CES</b>		<b>Cooperative Extension Services</b>
<b>AES</b>		<b>Agriculture Experiment Stations</b>
<b>JICA</b>		<b>Japanese International Cooperation Agency</b>

### Accomplishments during this period:

- Jackson Phillip presented the Piggery Advisory Council of Pohnpei information at the Soils Conference at University of Guam, January 14-15, 2013
- Two CariPac Project proposals have been completed and submitted through the Administrative universities.
- All CRE vehicles have been inventoried and insured
- Personnel issues: Vacant position report
  - Chuuk – 3 positions
    - State Coordinator position has been filled – Mr. Mike Abbe
    - Nutrition Agent III position – to be downgraded to a Nutrition agent II – the screening committee has made a selection however it has not receive final approval through the system
    - CRD Agent II has been accepted through HR for announcement
    - Chuuk Agriculture Agent has resigned to move to California
  - Yap -3 positions
    - State Coordinator was terminated due to poor performance
    - Acting State Coordinator responsibility has been taken on by Steven Young Uhk
    - Personnel requisition forms for SC Yap have passed through HR and should be announced this week
    - Yap Agriculture Agent position to be announced at the Agent II level to provide a more competitive starting salary
    - Yap Home Economics Agent to be renamed Nutrition Agent II to allow a more competitive starting salary
  - PNI – 2 positions
    - Pohnpei Nutrition Assistant position filled by Rosalinda Sylbanuz – an AS graduate from COM-FSM
    - PNI Researcher position – we have received 6 applications. State coordinator has called a meeting of the review committee for Tuesday next week.
    - PNI Agriculture Agent position to be posted as Agent II to provide a more competitive starting salary
  - Kosrae – 1 support position
    - Administrative Assistant position – awaiting Personnel Requisition form from State Coordinator
- The issue of position vacancies is a concern as the salaries being offered is not appealing for AS graduates let alone BS graduates. A proposal has been discussed with HRO to review all position descriptions, develop a graduated scale from Agent Assistants. Agents I, II and III to allow staff to enter at higher levels of responsibilities and also to graduate from one level to the next based on increased education and/ or acceptance of higher responsibilities. This plan has been introduced to Director Singeru of COM-LGP and he reserves comment until more clear guidelines are provided. VP-CRE will complete the proposed position descriptions by May 01, 2013.
- The Researcher positions were assigned a higher placement on the salary scale with PhDs starting at the same level as PhDs in the instructional faculty.

- The FY'13 COM-LGP Budget and the FY'14 COM-FSM budget have been submitted. COM-LGP budgets are awaiting BOR approval while CRE is working on a continuing resolution from FY'12
- Fund Status Reports for all accounts have been distributed to State Coordinators and Researchers for balances and expenditures to February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- CRE offices across Micronesia hosted Dr. Greg Nylasi of Melbourne University (Australia) conducting social Science research into environmental perceptions of Micronesians
- PNI-CRE/ Extension agents began trainings for farmers on black pepper production. All three trainings have been completed.
- PNI-CRE/ EFENP training and home gardening in the community of U, Nan Welin Rohi. Training covered cooking demonstrations, nutrition and home gardening. Additionally, agent conducted training at schools, ECE parents, and community people. ECE parents, to upgrade skills and knowledge on nutrition and health related issues. The total number of participated were 185. EFNEP PROGRAM
- PNI-CRE/ The community pearl farm training have been conducted 3 times in this quarter at Peniou & Pakin.
- Yap CRE has submitted two project proposals with Logic models to LGP for consideration for funding (have now been funded)
- Yap CRE collaborated with Yap State R&D, the governor and community members to test a suspected Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) concern. Proof negative.
- Yap CRE has collaborated with the Public Safety to set up a garden training center for inmates at the central prison.
- Yap CRE - Conducted survey of small chicken farmers in Yap. Results were: There are currently 11 small family production units ranging from 4 to 21 chickens per family (average of 11 chickens) producing a range of 3-19 eggs per day. 8 farmers sell their eggs at a price range of \$3.75 to \$4.20 per dozen and/or \$0.40 to 0.50 per fresh or boiled egg earning extra income. 9 farmers use their eggs for home consumption. 8 farmers use commercial feed, 2 farmers use combination of commercial feed and local feed materials, and 1 farmer uses only local feed materials. Housing is simple with an enclosed pen using bamboo, wire, or plastic fencing, thatch or tin roof and either wire or dry litter flooring. Future plans for these farmers are similar with high interests in increasing their production level.
- Yap CRE Youth Agent collaborated with Youth Services office and Yap Sports Council in planning an After-School sport tournament for boys and girls. Martin Ruwniyol is training new referees and coached the COM-FSM Volleyball team to a win at the tournament.

- Yap CRE Youth Agent started the Guest Speaker Program at St. Mary's Elementary School. Subject taught to 37 students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class was on Human Nutrition.
- Coordinated, facilitated and assisted in the local produce market survey conducted by Frank Cruz, Bob Barber and Frank Maloney and a WSARE grant presentation by Bob Barber
- Hands-on training was provided to two farmers who wanted to know how to build simple solar dryers for drying local materials to feed chicken. Technical assistance was provided to a group of farmers who are cooperatively importing chicken feed thereby significantly reducing costs to about 30% less than local vendors.
- Chuuk CRE Agriculture extension agents worked with the Environmental Protection Agency in teaching and monitoring Mwan, Mechitiw and Iras communities in segregating wastes and using biodegradable wastes for compost making. The community women learned basic gardening including composting through actual demos and power point presentation.
- Agroforestry nurseries established and maintained in five regions of Chuuk are providing planting materials of local crops (taro, tapioca, banana, eggplant, long beans, papaya) to interested community residents.

**COM-FSM/ CRE Activity Table**

	1.1 Conducted hands-on Training (# of Training Sessions & # of Clients)	1.2 Conducted/Facilitated structured Workshop (# of Workshops & # of Clients)	1.3 Provided Recommendation/advise to clients not included in hands-on training or workshops (# of session & # of Clients)	1.5 Organized Provided technical assistance (# of session & # of Clients)	Provided non college Classroom teaching (# of sessions & # of Clients)	Worked on building network/Collaboration (# of building sessions & # of Clients)	Indirect Contacted	
							Conducted Radio or TV program	Distributed Printed Information or Extension materials
Yap CES	15 sessions; 107 clients	2 workshops; 27 clients	203 sessions; 634 clients	144 sessions; 131 clients		72sessions; 115 clients		25
Yap AES								
Chuuk CES	0/0	1-15	0-0	139-1190	48-63	20/119		141/1433
Chuuk AES	1/15	0/0	0/0	44/892	0/0	2/6		2/6
PNI CES	125-275	8-393	166-395	85-162	3-55	2-3		11-85
PNI AES								
Kosrae CES								
Kosrae AES	5/26	4/57		23/41				200
Ntional		3-12				3-26		1

**Conducted extension/training** = individual or small group training, informal setting and limited scope without a formal agenda; usually provided by individual agent. **Conducted/facilitated workshop** = more formal both in setting and agenda, larger group and may include more than one resource person. **Provided advise to clients** = in response to an identified problem or concern. **Provided non-college classroom teaching** = refers more to the level of accreditation than to the physical setting. This refers to short term instruction, non-credit courses, assisting formal teachers with support information or demonstration. **Provided technical assistance** = this refers to assistance given for planning and/or management for decision making purposes. **Working on building network/collaboration** = this includes meeting with other agencies to discuss program and projects activities; may include community meetings, advisory meetings, and field visits....**Disseminate information/documents** = this could be an activity by itself or a component of another activity, e.g. training or workshop.

**MICRONESIA PLANT PROPAGATION RESEARCH CENTER  
KOSRAE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION,  
COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM, KOSRAE CAMPUS**

---

Date: February 11, 2013

**Accomplishment Report for the period of December 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 - February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013**

The Kosrae Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension concentrated on three research and extension projects on In Vitro Selection for Salt Tolerance in Taro; In Vitro Selection for Salt Tolerance in Sweet Potato; and Multiplication and Distribution of Banana, Taro, Sweet Potato and Noni in the State of Kosrae.

More germplasm of different varieties of swamp taro, soft taro and sweet potato have been collected, planted and maintained in the greenhouse for research projects. Various types of media formulation and preparation for maintenance, sub-culture and screening for stress tolerance are under progress for swamp taro, soft taro and sweet potato cultures. More than 1,200 cultures of sweet potato, swamp taro and soft taro were sub-cultured on multiplication media or transferred on screening media. In vitro screening to study salt tolerance level in collected and tissue culture maintained germplasm of taro and sweet potato has been started.

The Kosrae Agricultural Experiment Station continued seedling distribution, farm visits for on-site recommendations, and extension brochure distribution. During visits, technical assistance and support, and extension brochure(s) were provided to farmers on appropriate farming techniques and practices. Transfer of tissue-cultured plantlets from growth room to greenhouse for acclimatization, from greenhouse to nursery for maintenance, and distribution are being continued. In the reporting period, more than 1,500 taro and 400 sweet potato seedlings were produced, and 580 taro and 200 sweet potato plants were distributed to interested farmers. In the reporting period, more than 200 vegetable seedlings were produced, and 50 seedlings were distributed to interested farmers.

---





**College of Micronesia-FSM**  
**Cooperative Extension Service-PNI Campus**  
**Highlight Activities**

CES PNI continues to collaborate with Dr. Dennik and Fukumoto, CTAHR in the project entitle: Developing Farmers Field Schools to promote the adaptation of pig manure composting in Pohnpei. The project is going well, though has been difficult to implement. Gaps have been identified and Investigators and collaborators have discussed plans for intervention.



*Agriculture intern students leaning soil testing from Dr. Deenik, Rico collecting soil sample to be tested by soil scientist*

CES PNI agents provided support and assisted in the crop judging of Pohnpei DOE Elementary Schools and ECE Annual Agriculture Fair.



*DOE Elementary School/ECE Agriculture Fair Display crops from each school and municipality around Pohnpei*

CES PNI Agents continued with the Artificial Insemination project and providing support to local farmers on other livestock needs and technical assistances and training. Additionally, continued with community trainings and promotion of CES PNI Program activities.

CES PNI Aquaculture staff continued works on black pearl and culturing of sea cucumber at Nett Point around the community of Pohnpei. Many interested individual from three (3) communities have participated and been trained on half pearl pendent crafting.





*Aquaculture staff observing seeding techniques*



*staff siphons feces from raising tank, sea cucumber*



*Senior JICA volunteers at community training*



*Participants from community training-Kahmar, Nett*



*Livestock agent performing castration procedure*



*farmer using estrus tester to test his sow for estrus*



*Rosalinda Silbanuz, new CES PNI recruit- Nutrition Assistant*

---

## **Kosrae Cooperative Extension Service Accomplishment Report**

### **Accomplishment Report for BOR Meeting:**

**Food Processing:** During the reporting period, four clients were recruited and engaged with the program. They have learned appropriate techniques of taro flour (grinding, drying, blending and shifting) and storage. They have learned and tasted cookies made from the taro flour. They have learned proper food preparation, safety in the kitchen and proper food storage. All in all they have learned the new food processing techniques such as taro flour and banana ketchup.

**Home Gardening:** Recruited six backyard gardeners. The Ext. Agent continued to maintain seedling production and maintenance in the nursery; conducted field visits and provide technical assistance to gardeners engaged in the program. Improved collaboration with local partners and worked Kosrae Women in Farming.

**EFNEP:** The EFNEP Agent continued to work with three groups whom were recruited early November. There were two groups from the communities, and one group consisted of twelve COM-Kosrae campus students and staff. Two groups successfully completed the EFNEP sessions on January. The other community group still continuing with the program. Altogether there were twenty three completed and eight continuing.

Attended a WebNEERS training with the EFNEP Coordinator Ms Margaret Weital from 1/14-18/13. The training included how to input homemakers reporting forms to the new reporting system which is WebNEERS. The EFNEP staff found the WebNEERS more efficient than the ERS.

**Sewing Program:** The Ext. Assistant has recruited two groups (3 and 12 members). The group of 3 participants have learned the measurement and pattern cutting techniques and have completed 3 balloon skirts at the end of training. Demonstrated how to measure and cut the simplest style of pillowcase to 10 students and 2 school teacher during the reporting period.