

Pacific Subregional SARE Conference



Successful Applicants

Bob Barber, extension economist with the University of Guam, and **Manny Duguies**, extension veterinarian at the university, filed the successful application to coordinate a Pacific conference on Guam October 16-18, 2007. Their conference planning team included **Paul Bassler**, director of the Guam Department of Agriculture, **Joycelyn Bamba** of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and **Ernie Wusstig**, a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District.



Manny Duguies



Bob Barber

Strategies to Ensure Attendance

Barber and Duguies proposed strategies designed to promote broad and representative attendance from across the Pacific.

1. Because travel in the Pacific is a major constraint, with its high cost in time and dollars, the planners outlined a two-tier set of travel awards for each Pacific Land Grant Institution beyond the shores of Guam: Northern Marianas College, American Samoa Community College, the University of Hawaii and the College of Micronesia (Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau).
 - a. The first tier included 18 full travel awards, six for each of the Land Grant Institutions.
 - b. The second tier, called travel supplement awards, were to be awarded to 24 participants, four from each institutional area, including farmers, NRCS staff, Resource Conservation and Development, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Land Grant faculty from extension and experiment stations. Additionally, 30 small awards were made available for local agency staff supporting agriculture on Guam.

2. A second strategy was to schedule the Western SARE subregional conference on the heels of the 2007 Pacific Basin Soil and Water Conservation Districts meeting in Guam. This would allow many participants to reduce travel costs by using one ticket to attend two meetings. It would also bring to the conference many island farmer participants who otherwise would not be able to attend.



The view from the Guam Hilton, site of the Pacific conference.

Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

What follows comprises the initial proposal. As conference plans unfolded, through discussions with the Western SARE staff and conference moderator Jerry Dewitt, the strategies were adapted to achieve intended outcomes.

- A. Compile a handbook of short descriptions for all SARE grants funded in the American Pacific (nearly 80 in all since the program began in 1988).
- B. Schedule time at the beginning of the conference for a PowerPoint that briefly describes each grant.
- C. Provide poster presentations of sustainable agriculture activities and grants in the Pacific, with a focus on farmer grants.
- D. Make a presentation on each of the grant categories provide by Western SARE.
- E. Conduct small group sessions focusing on each SARE grant type, allowing participants to ask questions and discuss their needs.
- F. Conduct a tour of sustainable agriculture activities in the afternoon of the first day, followed by a fiesta prepared by local chefs.
- G. Conduct facilitated listening sessions to collect participant input on future SARE plans and emerging needs and issues in the Pacific.
- H. One or two months before the conference, solicit participant input through a list of prepared questions to discuss with island peers.