



Western SARE Program

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ISLAND GUIDE FOR TOMATOES ETC.

Situation

Fresh eggplant, pepper and tomato (solanaceous crops) are becoming more popular among Pacific island consumers. They are easy to grow and their seeds can be collected and used the next year. But growers in the Pacific region often struggle to find production information that applies in the tropics.

Objectives

1. Establish a working group of people from the private and public sectors interested in educating people about solanaceous crops
2. Publish a guide on producing eggplants, peppers and tomatoes in the tropics
3. Disseminate information on these crops over the Internet, in classrooms and in newspapers

Actions

Robert Schlub, the principal investigator, solicited expertise on producing solanaceous crops from several experts located in Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and American Samoa. In addition, growers on Guam were surveyed about diseases, pests and current farming practices.

With this information and assistance, a 188-page soft-cover guide, "Eggplant, Pepper, and Tomato Production



A tomato crop on Guam.

Guide for Guam," was published. It contains 17 chapters and five appendices and features 42 color plates, 54 figures, 47 tables and 16 recipes. The chapters and appendices are:

Part 1. Getting Started

Chapter 1 Getting Started
Chapter 2 Growth and Development

Chapter 3 Production
Chapter 4 Irrigation, Fertigation and Drainage
Chapter 5 Harvest and Post-harvest Handling
Chapter 6 Container Gardening and Horticultural Therapy

Research and Education Grant

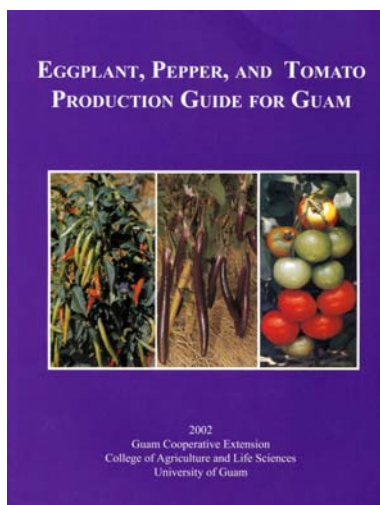
Project Number: SW99-047

Project Title: Strengthening Through Education the Sustainability of Solanaceous Crop Production in the Western Pacific Region

Project Coordinator:

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Western SARE, a USDA organization, funds grants for research and education that develop or promote some aspect of agricultural sustainability, which embraces

- *profitable farms and ranches*
- *a healthy environment*
- *strong families and communities.*

The Western Region, one of four SARE regions nationwide, is administered through Utah State University.

Western SARE:
<http://wsare.usu.edu>

National SARE
www.sare.org

Chapter 7 Nutrition and Recipes

Part 2. The Economics of Farming

Chapter 8 Developing Budgets

Chapter 9 Economic Assessment

Chapter 10 Financial Assistance to Guam's Farmers

Part 3. Plant Problems and Solutions

Chapter 11 Trouble Shooting Problems

Chapter 12 Plant Diseases

Chapter 13 Animal Pests

Chapter 14 Insects and Mites

Chapter 15 Weeds

Chapter 16 Regulations Regarding the Importation of Propagative Plant Material

Chapter 17 Pesticide Safety

Part 4. Appendices

Appendix 1 Eggplant, Pepper and Tomato Production Survey

Appendix 2 Guam Variety Evaluation Trials

Appendix 3 Guam Farmer Survey

Appendix 4 Seed Company Information

Appendix 5 Helpful Resources

Selected References



Extension agents Jesse Bamba, right front, and Pheobe Wall, center, talk with local farmers at a workshop on a Guam farm.

Color Plates

Glossary

Results

- 2,000 copies of the guide were published, a number of which were distributed free to Integrated Pesticide Management coordinators and college libraries in the Pacific
- A poster highlighting the guide was presented in August 2002 at the annual

meeting of the American Phytopathological Society

- In September 2002, the guide was presented to growers and government agencies, and a consortium was formed to promote the production of eggplant, peppers and tomatoes on Guam
- Guides were distributed in October 2002 to the steering committee of the American Pacific Pest Management Information Network

Potential Benefits

The publication should increase the level of knowledge about solanaceous crops among farmers, extension agents, students and homeowners. Tables listing all of the known insects and plant diseases of eggplant, pepper and tomato in the Pacific will help with diagnostics. If the publication contributes even a 2% gain in production of these plants, it could increase sales by \$100,000.



Solid-set tomato plants on a Guam farm.