

PALAU
Day 2
Tabletop Discussion

ISSUE:FOOD SECURITY

Comments for Western SARE Administrative Council

- Request funding assistance to establish assistant coordinator in Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia
- Request that position be full time
- Create SARE center in Palau

Professional Development Program

- Create better system for on-farm extension
- Create/offer workshops to bureau of Agriculture, Extension, and farmers for livestock and crop production
- Buy fresh, buy local
- Revitalize taro patches
- Better coordination among existing agriculture institutions
- Create buddy-to-buddy system
- Training in island cuisine (farmer/chef connection)

Land Grant

- Permaculture designer training and certification
- Reintroduce the agricultural census
- Open distribution of publications
- More research on local production and import; make statistics available

Island Teams

- Better coordination among existing agriculture institutions
- Develop/implement/publicize meaningful agriculture plan
- Improve policies (for example, establish internal markets)
- Revitalize agricultural education into current curriculum
- To bring more farmers into production

ISSUE:PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AS A NOBLE PROFESSION

Comments to Western SARE Administrative Council

- Create a special request for applications for work that promotes agricultural and farming careers, and social marketing program to help change attitudes about agriculture (for example, “farmers feed the world”)

Professional Development Program

- Train bureau of Agriculture, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Palau Community Action Agency (PCAA), farm management topics and farmer sensitivity (Farm Business Management)

Land Grant

- Reinstitute 4-H clubs/programs (explore Future Farmers of America)
- Broaden core curriculum or basic science curricula to cover more applied ag topics such as food production
- Institute a scholarship program in ag

Island Team

- Re-educate regulators and policy makers
- Showcase successful local farmers
- Institute a social marketing campaign (for example, taro patch kids program)
- Prize program for local framers
- TV programming on farming and paper media with photos and articles
- Training for “Begin Again” farmers and new farmers
- Farm-to-table education to help children and adults understand where their food is derived.

Question:

Why is it set up that all land grant funding goes through the College of Micronesia? Can this be amended? (USDA-CSREES response, no, not at this time.)