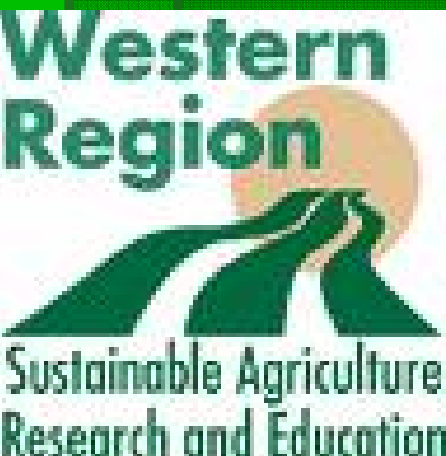




# Western SARE

## Subregional Conference

# American Samoa's Views



1) What will be needed to create stronger local food systems that are less reliant on imports from elsewhere?

- More people to join the farming workforce
- Education and outreach to motivate people to farm and grow more local produce
- Grow your own produce and do not depend on imports
- Increase local and off-island market outlets for local produce
- Create opportunities for farmers to secure small loans for farm operation and sustainability.
- Development of value-added product from local produce
- Increase production of local nutritious crops and other specialty crops
- Build inter-agency partnership, for example/ DOA, CNR, NRCS, to educate farmers on improved farming techniques, while DOA, DOE (SFS), and DOC improve marketing outlets

# 1 Continue.....

- More Education on the value of locally produced fresh vegetables/fruit.
- Educate the people about the nutritional value of the traditional staple foods.
- Create new ways of preparing them that would appeal to the younger generation.

2) What are the local food production trends on your Island? Do you think your local farmers can produce enough food for your area 5 to 10 years from now? What areas of production need improvement?

- Except for taro, which has taken a back strike since the taro blight struck, there is still abundance of banana (several varieties) plus the always dependable breadfruit tree. though it is seasonal. Farmers should always be helped with new farming practices.
- Local produce to SLP vs. local markets (prices). Yes, we can produce enough for ourselves in 5-10 years time. Improved varieties and quality. Production management to build capacity (education).
- Mostly fruits and vegetables. Farmers can produce enough
- In the next five to ten years, farmers will be planting more and produce enough
- Increase Piggery and Poultry production

# <sup>2</sup>Continue.....

- Food production is on the rise. I think local farmers can produce enough food for our area 5-10 years from now. However, external forces such as natural disasters and economic crises may impact the farmers' abilities to produce food and fiber. Need more work on fruit and vegetable production.

3) The SARE program was commissioned, by Congress, to get its research results to the farmer and rancher. Has this been a success in your area of influence? Why or why not?

- It does from time to time in American Samoa. There were several farmers who applied for grants, and it helped them with projects.
- YES, because the help from the SARE program enabled them to improve their production
- NO, Lack of information sharing amongst project. No accountability of projects.
- I don't think so locally. I haven't read anything locally related to local farmers success.
- The CNR department of ASCC is doing its best through its Extension division to disseminate these result to farmers.
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- Yes it is a success because of the support from the ASCC Land Grant Cooperative Extension Services. However, there is a need for more extension staff and other resources (financial and capital) to get the research results to farmers on remote areas.



4) What type of research, education, and development is going to be needed over the next 10 years to help economically sustain farming and the environment?

- We need to teach basics on vegetable production, no till or reduced till methods/use of correct pesticide. Breeding programs to develop disease/pest resistant vegetable crops. We should try to learn what areas similar to us with longer population such as Western Samoa and other Pacific Island Nations. Also we should learn from their mistake.
- When the canneries leave, we need good stewardship of the land, need more educational outreach on good environmental protection.
- Education be expanded with visitation to the community.
- Community awareness programs and give out enough information at all times.

# <sup>4</sup>Continue.....

- The environment; sustainable farming; sustainable economies; sustainable cultures and societies.
- Focus on organic farming
- Proper and judicious use of natural resources
- Recycle as much as possible.
- More emphasis on Extension Education Programs about the importance of protecting and conserving



5) If Western SARE received (from Congress) an additional \$1 million per region, what types of project should be targeted or emphasized?

- Mini scale Vertical Farming integrating modern technology; it will take up less land space--more room for population growth.
- Education
- Educational scholarship opportunities for student and staff from the Pacific Islands.
- To pursue undergraduate and graduate degree program in agriculture, sustainable agriculture, agriculture development, agriculture Extension and related programs.
- More educational programs and outreach programs for the community.

# 5 Continue.....

- More Educational opportunities for improved farming methods
- More educational outreach on environmental protection
- Local vegetable and breeding programs for disease and pest
- More education of the public of importance/value of environment
- More enforcement on pesticide mis-use

# Tofa Soifua