



Community Group:CNMI

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

## **Education**

- Promote Agriculture in the classroom- start with the youth
- Promote sustainable livestock and aquaculture production
- Promote integrated system and agroforestry (silvopasture)
- Alternative Livestock Enterprise
- Licensure for Paravets
- Increase Agriculture Professionals
- Increase agriculture fairs/events

## **Marketing**

- Farmer's Cooperative
- Community Support Agriculture (CSA)
- Value Added Programs
- Effective Marketing Coordination between islands
- Increase participation in Open Markets

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

## **Local Government Support**

Incentive Program for Local producers

Improved laws on import regulation to support local produce

Improved labor laws and greater enforcement for farm laborers position

Better lease terms for leaseback area farmers/ranchers

Improved transportations

Improved Infrastructure such as irrigation system

Creation of Agriculture degree in college

## **2. What are the local food production trends on your island?**

**Do you think your island's farmers can produce enough food for its people 5-10 years from now? What areas of production need improvement?**

- Production Trends:

- Vegetable and Root crops has decreased due to high operation cost, marketing availability with foreign producers, foreign business caters to foreign producers,high risk area
- Livestock (cattle, goats, swine and poultry) have slight increased in the last five years because of lower management and production cost, no outside competitions

- No

- Needs Improvements on:

- Livestock Genetic Upgrading
- Pasture Management and Irrigation
- Weed Pest control
- Reliable Marketing system
- Local animal feed source
- Effective Outreach program
- Fruit fly suppression and inter-cropping system
- Soil enrichment
- Alternative livestock enterprise



**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?**

Limited success.

- Not much dissemination and awareness of the programs.

- Limited to selected producers involved due to poor outreach

- No follow-ups being made.

- Increase turn-over of coordinators

- Laziness of producers and dependency to government opportunities

- Lack of confidence on producer's side

Continued and aggressive outreach is needed to promote sustainable agriculture

Increase frequency of program promotion thru increased media attention

Highlights local success stories

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

More research and education is needed in the areas of:

- Tropical pest and disease management for crops and livestock
- Animal Waste Management practices
- Value Added Programs
- Improved processing and marketing
- Slug and rodent Infestations
- Environment protection measures
- Alternative Livestock Enterprise
- Aquaculture
- Small Business Programs
- Youth involvement in Agriculture
- Agriculture Diversification

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

- Increase Professional Development in areas of sustainable agriculture (distance education within western land grant colleges) introduced undergraduate scholarship and flexible graduate fellowship
- Regional projects on
  - Local Animal Feed Production
  - Livestock Genetic Upgrading
  - Effective Outreach Program
- Educational programs (at all levels – farmer, consumers, extension, and youth)