

What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Hawaii

Project Highlight: *Many benefits to diversifying farms*

Hawaiian farmers and ranchers produce only five percent of the state's nutritional needs, and because food and farm inputs are imported and expensive, producers tend to stay within their comfort zone by growing "a lot of a few crops."

That is why a team of University of Hawaii researchers used a SARE grant to work with five farmers who were growing one cash crop to diversify their production. Increasing diversity can make farms more economically resilient, improve the ecosystem and offer more local variety to consumers, but it requires higher levels of knowledge and skill.

Starting with one-eighth of an acre and slowly increasing in size, three of the farmers added taro and two added

kava root to their current monoculture system. The research team concluded that farmers should start with at least one-fourth of an acre of taro to minimize startup costs. Even after the first season, the farmers were able to sell 86 percent of their new crops locally.

The farms soon became demonstration plots for field days, site visits and training for other farmers and agricultural professors.

Researchers also taught farmers how to use local sources for inputs to nourish the soil, such as fishbone meal from a local renderer and coral lime from local quarries.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number SW09-502.

SARE in Hawaii

www.westernsare.org/hawaii

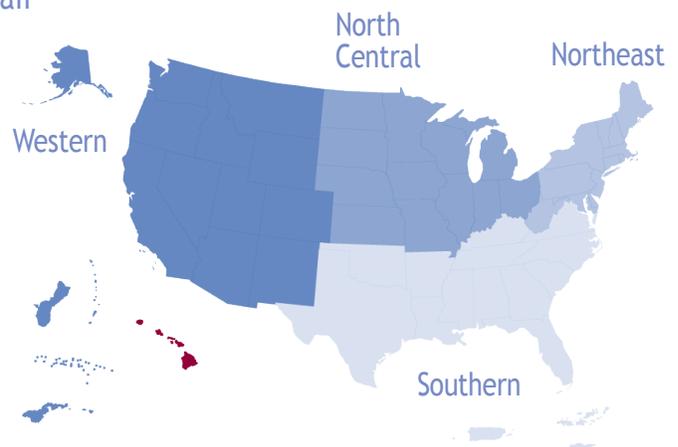
\$5 million in total funding

84 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

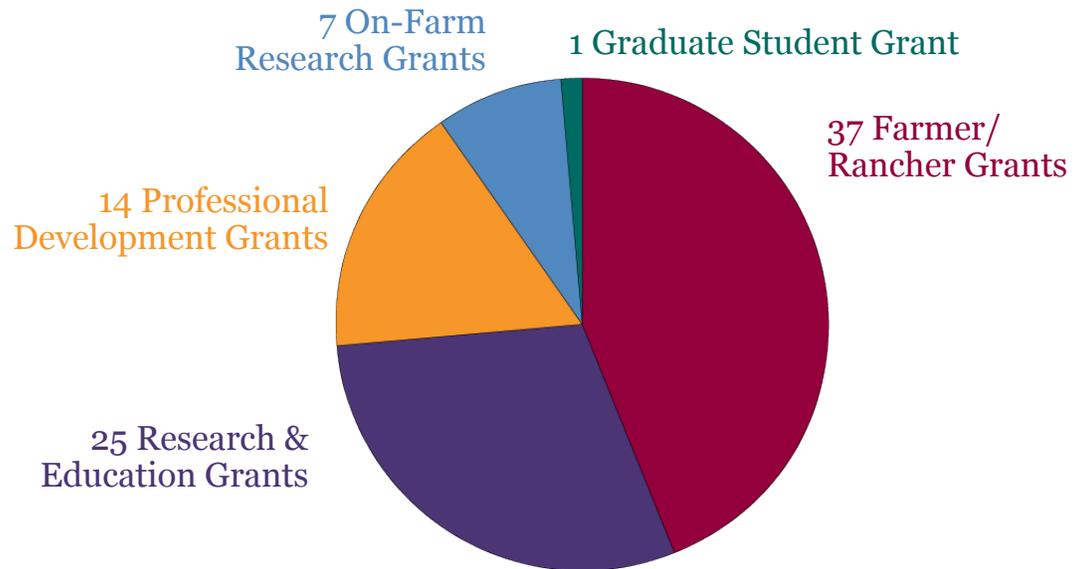
www.sare.org/state-summaries



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

SARE Grants in Hawaii

SARE has
awarded a
total of
84 grants
in Hawaii
since 1988



SARE's Impact



53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit www.westernsare.org/hawaii to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

www.SARE.org