In American Samoa, where economic opportunities are limited and imported goods are expensive, farmers must seek out ways to produce food in low-cost, environmentally sustainable systems. Tilapia, a freshwater fish, has been popular there for decades, and to address food security by using local inputs, tilapia farmers are looking increasingly to integrated aquaculture systems.

Using SARE grants, two farmers belonging to the Samoan Family Sun Fish Co-op built new systems to test and show to the local community. To reduce the amount of land, water and feed needed for a successful system, Troy Fiaui converted his tilapia tanks to greenwater aquaculture. This practice recirculates water, and the fish waste flows to banana and taro fields as a source of nutrients.

A second farmer, Joseph Fuamatu, also built a demonstration greenwater hatchery with SARE funding. His demonstration project was used to teach sex identification, spawning practices, larval rearing, feeding and broodstock management. Fuamatu found that people from his village, after observing the technology, agreed that raising tilapia in tanks is possible and better for the environment than catching fish with a spear gun, which also destroys the coral. The tanks used by Fiuai and Fuamatu help feed their families and villages, and provide the community with an important model for tilapia production.

For more information on these projects, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FW07-035 and FW07-036.
SARE Grants in American Samoa

SARE has awarded a total of 36 grants in American Samoa since 1988.

- 33 Farmer/Rancher Grants
- 1 Research & Education Grant
- 2 Professional Development Grants

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to www.sare.org.

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/american-samoa to learn more.

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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.

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to www.SARE.org

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