Agriculture has not played a large role in Guam’s economy since the significant changes brought by World War II. For example, bananas sold in the past few years were mostly imported. Today, local farmers on Guam and other Pacific Islands are growing more bananas and the number of banana plantations is on the rise. But as Guam’s banana industry is on the rise, so too is the banana weevil, a pest that can decimate the crop and cause a complete loss of yield if not controlled.

To help producers cope with the pest, the University of Guam’s Gadi Reddy used a 2009 SARE grant to advance local agriculture professionals’ knowledge of semiochemicals in pest management. Semiochemicals are pheromones and other chemicals used to attract insects to physical traps, a potentially low-cost way of managing the banana weevil without resorting to over-use of pesticides.

Reddy increased his colleagues’ knowledge base by creating a variety of training publications on the use of semiochemicals. In conjunction with the publications, he led a four-month class for 10 agricultural professionals on the benefits and methods of trapping the four most prominent weevil pests. Twenty-four ag professionals also attended a shorter workshop. Of those workshop participants, 67 percent reported leaving the event prepared to implement techniques learned.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number EW09-012.
SARE Grants in Guam

SARE has awarded a total of 42 grants in Guam since 1988.

22 Farmer/Rancher Grants
10 Research & Education Grants
7 Professional Development Grants
3 On-Farm Research Grants

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/guam to learn more.

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SARE is funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

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