

**Office of the Vice President
Cooperative Research and Extension
P.O. Box 159, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
Tel: 691-320-8181 Fax: 691-320-2479
Email: jimc@comfsm.fm**

**For the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae
Cooperative Research and Extension Service**



Kosrae Campus Power re-Charge Station

Report to the Board of Regents of the COM-FSM

May 08 – August 23, 2013

W. James Currie, VP-CRE

VP-CRE Office:

Following are the major accomplishments of the VP-CRE Office and the State CRE offices for the period:

- Resident Instruction in the Insular areas grant
 - Survey of all students registered in AS Ag., Ag. & Natural Resources and Ag. and Food Technology Certificate at any campus of COM-FSM since 2004 was conducted. Focused on revealing recruitment strategies, retention options and post COM-FSM activities
 - Provided 17 summer course scholarships for COM-FSM science students
 - Provided 2 Summer scholarships for UOG students
 - Provided 2 ‘start-up’ scholarships for COM-FSM graduates entering Agriculture or Food Sciences at UOG and UH Hilo
 - Provided 2 travel scholarships for COM-FSM Agriculture and Natural Resources students to attend Experiential Learning attachment in Saipan
 - Provided three travel scholarships for COM-FSM ANR or Ag. and Food Technology students to attend experiential learning week at UOG
 - Funded 6 COM-FSM Ag. & Natural Sciences or Ag. and Food Technology Certificate students to collaborate in the AHEC Summer science program

- Distance Education Grant
 - Funded a joint meeting of COM-FSM and UOG instructors and administrators to discuss collaboration on DE delivery of Agriculture courses
 - Satellite dishes for improved communication potential have been installed at
 - Chuuk Campus
 - National Campus
 - Kosrae Campus
 - (Yap will be set up in mid-Sept.)
 - Solar Powered Re-charge stations have been set up at:
 - Chuuk Campus
 - Pohnpei Campus
 - Kosrae Campus
 - (Yap to be set up in mid-Sept.)

Collaboration is with UOG installation and connectivity license is with PacTel of Australia. The satellite dishes offer increased connectivity especially for the remote campuses and an alternative connection if TelCom for some reason is not transmitting.

The solar re-charge stations offer approximately 30 watts capacity for students to re-charge laptops, iPods/pad/phones etc. without accessing the college utilities

- Water Quality Grant
 - Demonstration water catchment systems were established in:
 - Yap – 3 systems established
 - Chuuk – 1 system established at Chuuk Campus
 - Pohnpei –
 - one system upgrade at National Campus dining hall
 - one system installation at national campus Agriculture building with solar hot water heater to serve the Food Processing center
- Western Sustainable Agriculture Professional Development
 - Professional development training of trainers received at UH by one agent
- Development of the Agent activity and client list data base in collaboration with COM-FSM Computer instructor
- Recruitment of the Pohnpei Researcher – Dr. Nat. Tuivavalagi from Fiji

AES Research Accomplishments:

Briefs from Yap AES:

- A Hatch Proposal on 'Role of Biochar in increasing the fertility of degraded volcanic soils in Yap' has been approved by NIFA.
- 2. Supervised, evaluated and course-level assessment completed and final grades submitted for AG096 Internship course
- 3. Five extension/research activity reports submitted online.
- 4. Yap AES equipment/fixed assets stock-taking completed and now tagged with COM-FSM tags. New tag numbers will be reflected in the next inventory update.
- 5. Attended and participated in Pacific Islands Environmental Conference (Guam), PREL Water Quality Training Workshop (Chuuk) and Project Design Workshop on 'Increasing Coastal Water and Food Security for Climate Change in Selected FSM State Islands' (Yap).

Briefs from Kosrae AES:

The KAES worked on three research and extension projects.

Collected germplasm of different varieties of swamp taro, soft taro and sweet potato. Selected and collected almost 192 taro plants of various varieties from Yap and Majuro.

1,700 cultures of sweet potato, swamp taro and soft taro were sub-cultured on multiplication media or transferred on screening media.

3,000 seedlings of swamp taro and soft taro were prepared for screening to study salt tolerance level as greenhouse/ nursery experiments.

Presented research work on salt tolerance in taro and sweet potato in the 2013 In Vitro Biology Meeting. The abstract of the presented paper is published in In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology, Vol 49, Issue Abstract, Spring 2013 published by Springer.

CHUUK CRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM MAY 08 TO AUGUST 23, 2013

**COM-FSM Chuuk CRE program activities achieved the following
from May 8 to August 2013-----**

1. Childhood Obesity

- Under Executive Order No. 03-2013 signed on April 15, 2013, Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo appointed Chuuk CRE to be among the 10 government and non-government agencies to constitute the Children Healthy Living Program Advisory Committee tasked to create policies, guidance and priorities for this program. CRE Coordinator Mike Abbe acted as Vice Chair and Researcher Lolita Ragus as CRE member.

2. Climate Change

- Coordinated efforts of CRE and local governments recommended plant management about new locally evaluated introduced varieties of sweet potato and taro tolerant under drought and salt spray.

3. Families, Communities and Youth

- The following villages gained skills in making mwarmwar, necklace and earring from seashells and coconut leaves wall decors from pandanus and seashell—Total--- 120 participants
- Various participants mostly from Weno villages learned to make hats, pillows and necklaces from recyclable solid wastes like plastics and empty soda - Total---250 participants
- Forty two participants were trained at the Chuuk Women Council Center at Weno learned to use sewing machine.
- Youth program - Recruitment of 30 students for Youth –at –Risk program on July 1- August 23

4. EFNEP/Health and Nutrition

- Participants learned about healthy foods to eat , physical activities like exercise and eating less salt fat and sugar

Total--- 271 participants

5. Global Food Security and Hunger

- CRE with assistance from local governments distributed eight newly evaluated tissue-cultured varieties of sweet potato and two sweet taro and established eight multiplication plots serving as demonstration of recommended crop practices.

Total-----117 participants

CES PNI HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITES (MAY TO AUGUST 2013)

Between May to August 2013, CES PNI Extension staff conducted series of workshops, farm visits and provided technical advices and assistance to farmers, schools, community groups and interested individuals. Most notable accomplishments include:

- 1. Artificial insemination project. The project started in June 2013 and frozen semen depleted early August. To date, 89 sows/gilts have been inseminated through-out Pohnpei. Final assessment of the project has not been carried-out, awaiting due date for next estrus, delivery and final counts on piglets delivered.**
- 2. Internship Program. During spring semester, CES PNI had 5 agriculture interns students all successfully completed their hands-on training and assisted in the Pohnpei Campus Exhibit 2013 with great confident.**
- 3. Agent working with four farmers which were selected from amongst Pohnpeian farmers to have greenhouse canopy built in order to grow vegetable crops under protection. These farmers have received training from JICA volunteer and CES Agents on compost making, planting plan, crop rotations practices and staggering. With these canopies erected, these farmers have a great advantage among other farmers in that they will be able to plant vegetable year around without fear of too wet or too dry season.**
- 4. CES PNI EFNEP staff completed another community training in Wone, Kitti with 14 clients receiving certificate of completion from the program.**
- 5. Three CES PNI Extension Agents travel to the Eastern and Western Islands of Pohnpei to follow-up and assess condition of planting materials delivered and planted during previous visits. On all three islands (Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi) plants are including coconuts plants, bread fruits, yams, bananas, dry land taros, sweet potato, etc. These crops have proved important to the islanders as alternative stable food sources, however, on Mwoakilloa and Pingelap, major activities were focus on EFNEP program activities such as cooking demonstrations and agro-processing.**
- 6. CES PNI Agents conducted presentation for the TSP Program with its new initiative for High School Drop-Outs. Most High School Drop Outs failed their subjects because they were not motivated to go to school. With the assistance of TSP staff, coupled with CES PNI Agents presentations, these numbers may change and students will see the importance of having a good education.**
- 7. CES PNI Agents have planned and organized a workshop on Dry Litter Piggery to be held at 10 different sites around PNI starting August 22-30. These 10 sites are among other farmers adopting the 'Dry Litter' practices.**

Accomplishment highlights for Yap CES – May 08 to August 23:

- Started implementation of FMI Garden Demonstration Project
- Started implementation of Guest Speaker Program targeting 3 elementary schools and 1 secondary school
- Started implementation of Yap Sea Cucumber Mini-hatchery at Yap Marine Resources Management Division
- Provided extension services and conducted outreach activities under the program of Families, Youths, and Communities to 296 clients (youths and adults)
- Provided extension serves and conducted outreach activities as Aquaculture Extension Agent and CRE Coordinator under the programs Global Food Security and Hunger and Aquaculture to 112 clients
- Supervised 4 students under COM-FSM Work Study program
- Became member of Yap Local Advisory Committee for Children Healthy Living (CHL) program

Kosrae CES Highlight of activities:

- Distributed seedlings and extension materials.
 - Organized farm visits for on-site recommendations, technical assistance and support.
 - Acclimatized tissue-cultured plantlets.
 - 2,000 taro, 300 sweet potato and 250 black pepper seedlings were produced, and 1,193 taro and 3 black pepper plants were distributed.
 - 844 vegetable seedlings were produced, and 648 seedlings were distributed
-