Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

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 over $3.2 million to more than 59 initiatives [1].

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 an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

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

Puerto Rico

Project Highlight: *Cover Crops Improve Soil in Plantain Crops*

Cover crops bring many benefits to farming systems, from protecting the soil against erosion to suppressing weeds to improving yields and profitability through healthier soil. In Puerto Rico, a team of researchers, educators and service providers used a SARE grant to start bringing these benefits to one of the island's main crops, the plantain.

Starting In 2013, the research team conducted on-farm experiments to identify cover crops species that could be intercropped with plantains to improve soil health. They focused on jack beans, sunnhemp and sorghum, planted as cover crops both individually and as mixes. The team collected soil samples to measure soil fertility, microbial activity and other indicators of soil health, and they made some important discoveries that should help Puerto Rico farmers make informed decisions about using cover crops. Jack beans established most successfully and showed the most promise overall, whereas rodents and heavy rains impacted the sorghum, and the sunnhemp performed well but was more susceptible to weather conditions than the jack beans.

Most importantly, the cover crop trials revealed an economic benefit. To achieve yields of high-quality plantains by market standards, no nematicides were needed and fungicide applications were reduced 78 percent—representing a cost savings to the farmer.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number FS13-271.

SARE in Puerto Rico

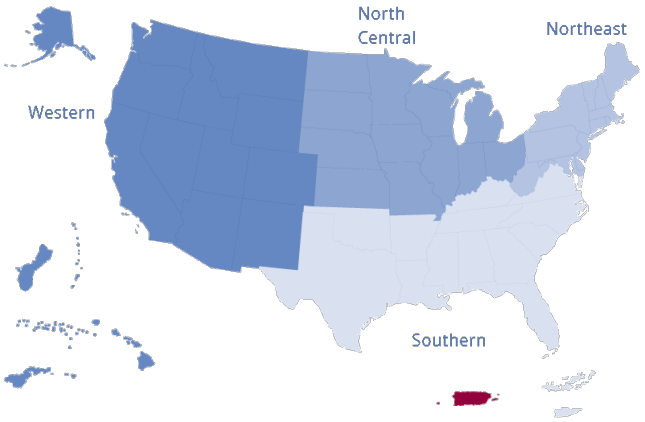
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/puerto-rico/

$3,232,070 in total funding

59 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Puerto Rico grant projects, go to projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/



[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

SARE in Puerto Rico, 2021–2026

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit projects.sare.org. For a list of all projects in Puerto Rico visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **32 grants**

4	Farmer/Rancher
1	Research and Education
1	Professional Development Program
1	On Farm Research/Partnership
6	Graduate Student
8	Education Only
10	PDP State Program [2]
1	Community Foods Project

Total funding: **$1,999,427**

$72,887	Farmer/Rancher
$399,934	Research and Education
$59,999	Professional Development Program
$29,901	On Farm Research/Partnership
$126,178	Graduate Student
$349,091	Education Only
$461,889	PDP State Program [2]
$499,548	Community Foods Project

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

3,008 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

221 farmers changed a practice

For a complete list of Puerto Rico awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Learn about local impacts at:
southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/puerto-rico/

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 southern.sare.org/state-profiles/puerto-rico/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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