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 $311 million to more than 7,449 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 an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

SARE in Tennessee

Project Highlight: Cover Crops Help Manage Appletree Borer

The flatheaded appletree borer (FAB) is a significant economic pest in orchards, nurseries, and urban landscapes, and in Tennessee’s production nurseries, red maples are one of the most problematic trees for FAB attacks. Determined to find a solution to this problem, Tennessee State University researcher Karla Addesso and her project team used a SARE grant to evaluate the efficacy of applying a winter cover crop to field-grown nursery red maple trees to act as a barrier to FAB oviposition, an aid to preventing leaching of imidacloprid (a commonly used insecticide) from the root zone of the trees, and as a natural weed suppression technique.

After trying a few mixes, the team determined that a ryegrass/crimson clover mix was extremely effective at camouflaging the tree trunks from the pest, making it less likely to lay eggs. The cover crops reduced pest attacks by 95 percent. In addition to acting as a barrier, the cover crop mix also reduced the temperatures of the tree trunks, making the trees a less preferable egg-laying site.

Based on their highly promising results, the team proposes a systems approach to in-field nursery tree production by incorporating a winter cover crop combined with optimized pesticide use to simultaneously maximize FAB control and plant growth while minimizing crop damage, weed competition, and insecticide runoff.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number OS14-084.

SARE in Tennessee

southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/tennessee

$2,634,570 in total funding

67 grant projects (since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries
SARE Grants in Tennessee

Total awards: 67 grants

- 23 Farmer/Rancher
- 14 Graduate Student
- 5 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 6 Professional Development Program
- 12 Research and Education
- 7 Sustainable Community Innovation

Total funding: $2,634,570

- $229,826 Farmer/Rancher
- $151,561 Graduate Student
- $74,772 On Farm Research/Partnership
- $429,818 Professional Development Program
- $1,622,395 Research and Education
- $126,198 Sustainable Community Innovation

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

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.

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

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-pages/tennessee to learn more.

- Roy Bullock
  Tennessee State University
  (615) 963-5449
  fbullock@tnstate.edu

- Rob Holland
  University of Tennessee
  (931) 486-2777
  rwholland@utk.edu

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

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

This report includes summaries of competitive grant programs only. Some competitive grant programs that are no longer offered may be included or excluded from the totals in this report depending on the grant program and SARE region.
Tennessee has been awarded $2,634,570 grants to support 66 projects, including but not limited to, 11 research and/or education projects, 6 professional development projects and 23 producer-led projects. Tennessee has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LS20-335</td>
<td>Cover Crops and Cropping System Sustainability in a Changing Global Climate</td>
<td>$299,995</td>
<td>Dr.Samuel Haruna Middle Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Dr.Song Cui Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr.Audrey Gamble Auburn University</td>
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<td>Dr.Seockmo Ku Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr.Chaney Mosley Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<td>Dr.Edwin Ritchey University of Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS18-287</td>
<td>Cover Crops in Woody Ornamental Production: Impact on Plant Growth, Arthropod</td>
<td>$284,869</td>
<td>Dr.Karla Addesso Tennessee State University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pests, Soil-Borne Pathogens and Weeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS13-254</td>
<td>Improving Fitness in Meat Goat Herds through Better Genetic Management</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
<td>Dr.Richard Browning, Jr. Tennessee State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS12-253</td>
<td>Breeding Organic Corn varieties to resist GMO contamination</td>
<td>$48,183</td>
<td>Dr.Dennis West University of Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS05-172</td>
<td>Forage systems for the sustainable production of uniform goat carcasses</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Richard Joost University of Tennessee at Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS03-147</td>
<td>Bioactive Natural Products: A feasible method of organic disease management</td>
<td>$19,883</td>
<td>Kimberly Gwinn University of Tennessee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>in float bed production systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS03-152</td>
<td>Improving Organic Crop Production with Enhanced Biofumigation and Composting</td>
<td>$273,440</td>
<td>Carl Sams The University of Tennessee</td>
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<td>Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS95-068</td>
<td>Using Farm Family Studies to Teach Sustainable Agriculture</td>
<td>$146,630</td>
<td>Tim Cross University of Tennessee, Ag Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS94-064</td>
<td>Development of Sustainable Area-Wide Weed Management Practices for Improved</td>
<td>$3,760</td>
<td>Jerome F. Grant University of Tennessee, Entomology &amp; Plant Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Utilization (AS93-08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LS93-052</td>
<td>Utilization of Dairy Manure in Low-input, Conservation Tillage Animal Feed</td>
<td>$90,635</td>
<td>Michael D. Mullen University of Tennessee, Plant and Soil Science</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Production Systems</td>
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</table>
Influence of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) On Low-input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) in the Southern Region

$25,000
Charles H. Hadden
University of Tennessee

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES18-141</td>
<td>Soil SMaRTS (Specific Management and Resources Training for Sustainability) for Soil Health in Tennessee</td>
<td>$77,413</td>
<td>Dr. Jason deKoff Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES14-121</td>
<td>Sustainable ACEs (Agriculture,Curricula,Energy) for Tennessee</td>
<td>$77,757</td>
<td>Dr. Jason deKoff Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES03-069</td>
<td>Training Educators to Protect Honey Bee Pollinators with Sustainable Pest Management</td>
<td>$126,648</td>
<td>Dr. John Skinner Univ. Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES02-061</td>
<td>A Statewide Journey of Sustainable Success: Hands-On Training</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>Rob Holland Center for Profitable Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES97-029</td>
<td>Implementing Tennessee’s Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture: Utilizing On-Farm Case Studies for Teaching Advanced Management and Marketing to Extension Staff</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Dr. Clark Garland University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST94-004</td>
<td>Sustainable Dairy Systems Manual and Training</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>Dr. Clark Garland University of Tennessee</td>
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</table>

### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS19-315</td>
<td>A Study of the Effects of Black Woven Polypropylene on Soil Biota</td>
<td>$9,670</td>
<td>Tera Kurtz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS18-310</td>
<td>Increasing Farm Fertility and Profits with Mushroom Mulches</td>
<td>$9,774</td>
<td>David Wells, III Henosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS17-294</td>
<td>Adaptive Winter Squash</td>
<td>$1,822</td>
<td>Megan Allen Care of the Earth Community Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS17-295</td>
<td>Incorporating Conservation Solutions into Alternative Crop Transplant Systems</td>
<td>$9,999</td>
<td>Sarah Bellos Farmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS17-297</td>
<td>Bacillus thuringiensis var. Israelensis as a Larvacidal on a Rotational Grazing System for Ruminants to Combat Haemonchus contortus</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Jo Ann Harris Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS12-263</td>
<td>Selective breeding of honey bees for multiple traits with a priority on nosema disease resistance</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Michael Wilson Rosecomb Apiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS10-241</td>
<td>Sustainable Cultivation of Plant-derived Indigo for Diversification and On-farm Value-added Dye Pigment Production</td>
<td>$9,871</td>
<td>Sarah Bellos Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS07-214</td>
<td>Sustainable Low-Cost Heating for Season Extension Structures</td>
<td>$14,928</td>
<td>Steve Hodges Clinch Appalachian Farm Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project #</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>SARE Support</td>
<td>Project Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS07-221</td>
<td>Natural Comb Management of Honey Bees for Varroa Control</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Michael Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS06-200</td>
<td>Establishing Natural Controls of Competitive Fungi in the Production of Shiitake Mushrooms</td>
<td>$8,832</td>
<td>James D'AY</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS06-203</td>
<td>A Demand-Driven Approach to Specialty Crop Market Development</td>
<td>$12,324</td>
<td>Dianne Levy, Appalachian Spring Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS05-189</td>
<td>Salsa Pepper Project</td>
<td>$9,660</td>
<td>Sara Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS05-188</td>
<td>Aquaculturally Derived Products as Fertilizers for High-value Organic Crop Production</td>
<td>$9,953</td>
<td>Marc Cardosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS04-181</td>
<td>Selection of Hygienic Honey Bee Queens Resistant to Tracheal Mites</td>
<td>$9,987</td>
<td>Edwin Holcombe</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS02-155</td>
<td>Cooperating for Success: Building a Value-added Marketing Cooperative for Advantage in the Marketplace</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Paul Miller, Appalachian Spring Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS02-157</td>
<td>Northern Tennessee Farmer’s Association Cooperative Farmers Market Project</td>
<td>$13,755</td>
<td>Michael Osborne, Northern Tennessee Farmer’s Assn. Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS01-131</td>
<td>Fungicidal Effects of Compost Tea on Organic Strawberry Production</td>
<td>$9,814</td>
<td>John Dysinger, Bountiful Blessings Organic Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS99-087</td>
<td>The Effect of Municipal Compost on Christmas Trees</td>
<td>$6,985</td>
<td>Curtis Buchanan</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS99-103</td>
<td>Evaluating the Cost of Production of Row Crops Using Precision Farming Technologies</td>
<td>$7,816</td>
<td>J. Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS96-042</td>
<td>Low Input Sustainable Agriculture Short Course</td>
<td>$9,650</td>
<td>Alexander McGregor</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS96-043</td>
<td>Sustainable Cultivation of Medicinal Herbs as a Cash Crop Alternative to Tobacco</td>
<td>$5,004</td>
<td>Paul D. Miller, Tamsen Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS96-045</td>
<td>Grazing Alternatives to Tall Fescue for Stocker Cattle</td>
<td>$9,982</td>
<td>Chris Pitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS94-012</td>
<td>Swine Lagoon Management System</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Kenneth Moore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS20-228</td>
<td>Sustainable Management of Phytophthora Cinnamomi and Ambrosia Beetles Under Stress Conditions</td>
<td>$16,335</td>
<td>Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel, Krishna Neupane, Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS17-168</td>
<td>Evaluating Soil Microbial Communities and Cropping Systems for Biomass Feedstock Production on Degraded Lands</td>
<td>$14,838</td>
<td>E. Kudjo Dzantor, Ekundayo Adeleke, Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project #</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>SARE Support</td>
<td>Project Leaders</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| GS17-175   | Investigating the Impact of Plant Spacing on Yields of Sweet Potato Produced in Organic Systems | $16,443      | Dilip Nandwani  
Tennessee State University  
Sochinwechi Nwosisi  
Tennessee State University |
| GS16-155   | Sustainable Management of Soil-borne Diseases in Nursery Production           | $11,000      | Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel  
Tennessee State University  
Prabha Liyanapathiranage  
Tennessee State University |
| GS16-157   | Integration of Silvopasture and Nut Production in the Southeast              | $7,906       | Dr. Hill Craddock  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Conrad Blunck  
Tennessee State University |
| GS14-128   | Assessment of beneficial microorganisms: Trichoderma, Actinomycetes, and Bacillus in anaerobic soil disinestation (ASD) | $10,993      | Dr. David Butler  
The University of Tennessee  
Utsala Shrestha  
University of Tennessee, Plant Sciences |
| GS13-124   | Examining the Influence of Farmers’ Market Managers Perceived Roles on Business Opportunities for Small- and Moderate-size Farms and Access to Healthful Foods for Low-income Households | $6,479       | Dr. Deborah Slawson  
East Tennessee State University  
Rachel Ward  
East Tennessee State University |
| GS10-095   | Efficacy of entomopathogenic fungi in an integrated pest management plan for cucumber beetles in melons and pumpkins | $8,154       | Annette Wszelaki  
University of Tennessee  
Mary Rogers  
University of Tennessee |
| GS09-086   | Testing the efficacy of three new alternative treatments for Nosema disease of honey bees in Tennessee | $9,963       | Dr. John Skinner  
Univ. Tennessee  
Paul Rhoades  
University of Tennessee |
| GS08-077   | Providing habitat for native pollinators and determination of native pollinator contribution to pollination of cucurbits and blueberries at farm sites | $10,000      | Dr. John Skinner  
Univ. Tennessee  
Michael Wilson  
Rosecomb Apiaries |
University of Tennessee  
Candice Jones  
University of Tennessee |
| GS02-016   | Collaborative Learning among Farmers as an Approach to Alternative Agricultural Education | $9,540       | John Peters  
University of Tennessee  
Robin Fazio  
Sonrisa Farm |
| GS01-011   | Suppression of Soilborne Phytopathogenic Fungi of Tomatoes via Integrated Production Systems that Utilize Biofumigation, Composted Amendments, Solarization, and Chemical Fumigants. | $10,000      | Carl Sams  
The University of Tennessee  
Martin Lyons  
University of Tennessee |
| GS00-002   | Control of Soilborne Plant Pathogens of tomatoes with incorporation of Indian Mustard (Brassica juncea) | $10,000      | Carl Sams  
The University of Tennessee  
Stephanie G Harvey  
Georgia Southwestern State University |

ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| OS18-112   | Biofumigants for Sustainable Soil-borne Disease Management in Nursery Production | $15,000      | Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel  
Tennessee State University |

Project Title: Investigating the Impact of Plant Spacing on Yields of Sweet Potato Produced in Organic Systems

Project Leaders: Dilip Nandwani  
Tennessee State University  
Sochinwechi Nwosisi  
Tennessee State University

Project Title: Sustainable Management of Soil-borne Diseases in Nursery Production

Project Leaders: Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel  
Tennessee State University  
Prabha Liyanapathiranage  
Tennessee State University

Project Title: Integration of Silvopasture and Nut Production in the Southeast

Project Leaders: Dr. Hill Craddock  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Conrad Blunck  
Tennessee State University

Project Title: Assessment of beneficial microorganisms: Trichoderma, Actinomycetes, and Bacillus in anaerobic soil disinestation (ASD)

Project Leaders: Dr. David Butler  
The University of Tennessee  
Utsala Shrestha  
University of Tennessee, Plant Sciences

Project Title: Examining the Influence of Farmers’ Market Managers Perceived Roles on Business Opportunities for Small- and Moderate-size Farms and Access to Healthful Foods for Low-income Households

Project Leaders: Dr. Deborah Slawson  
East Tennessee State University  
Rachel Ward  
East Tennessee State University

Project Title: Efficacy of entomopathogenic fungi in an integrated pest management plan for cucumber beetles in melons and pumpkins

Project Leaders: Annette Wszelaki  
University of Tennessee  
Mary Rogers  
University of Tennessee

Project Title: Testing the efficacy of three new alternative treatments for Nosema disease of honey bees in Tennessee

Project Leaders: Dr. John Skinner  
Univ. Tennessee  
Paul Rhoades  
University of Tennessee

Project Title: Providing habitat for native pollinators and determination of native pollinator contribution to pollination of cucurbits and blueberries at farm sites

Project Leaders: Dr. John Skinner  
Univ. Tennessee  
Michael Wilson  
Rosecomb Apiaries

Project Title: Determining Cost-Effectiveness of Best Management Practices in Sustainable Watershed Management: A Decision-Making Tool for Restoring Bullrun Creek

Project Leaders: Joanne Logan  
University of Tennessee  
Candice Jones  
University of Tennessee

Project Title: Collaborative Learning among Farmers as an Approach to Alternative Agricultural Education

Project Leaders: John Peters  
University of Tennessee  
Robin Fazio  
Sonrisa Farm

Project Title: Suppression of Soilborne Phytopathogenic Fungi of Tomatoes via Integrated Production Systems that Utilize Biofumigation, Composted Amendments, Solarization, and Chemical Fumigants.

Project Leaders: Carl Sams  
The University of Tennessee  
Martin Lyons  
University of Tennessee

Project Title: Control of Soilborne Plant Pathogens of tomatoes with incorporation of Indian Mustard (Brassica juncea)

Project Leaders: Carl Sams  
The University of Tennessee  
Stephanie G Harvey  
Georgia Southwestern State University

Project Title: Biofumigants for Sustainable Soil-borne Disease Management in Nursery Production

Project Leaders: Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel  
Tennessee State University
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).