SARE
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 $1.6 million to more than 29 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...

U.S. Virgin Islands

Project Highlight: *Cover Crops Can Thrive in the Tropics*

When you live on an island perpetually faced with high import costs and limited resources, producing food in sustainable systems that rely little on off-farm inputs is more a necessity than a choice. But even then, sustainable production for growers in the U.S. Virgin Islands comes with its own challenges, as the tropical climate fuels an endless onslaught of weeds, pests, diseases and low soil fertility.

“Anything we can do to help our farmers sustainably manage these burdens and become more successful is important to us,” said Stuart Weiss, an agroecologist with University of Virgin Islands Extension. This need has prompted Weiss to explore the use of cover crops as a means to tackle issues with soil fertility and pests. Using two SARE grants, he has led efforts to find cover crops, many of them legumes, that could thrive in tropical conditions and bring the most benefit to farmers, and to identify effective ways to manage them in no-till systems.

The researchers demonstrated the value of cover crops enough that 18 small-scale farms began using them during the course of the projects. Sunn hemp showed the most promise. Requiring no external inputs to grow, it provided excellent weed suppression and contributed more to soil fertility than other cover crop species.

For more information on these projects, see sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers OS11-062 and LS12-252.

SARE in U.S. Virgin Islands

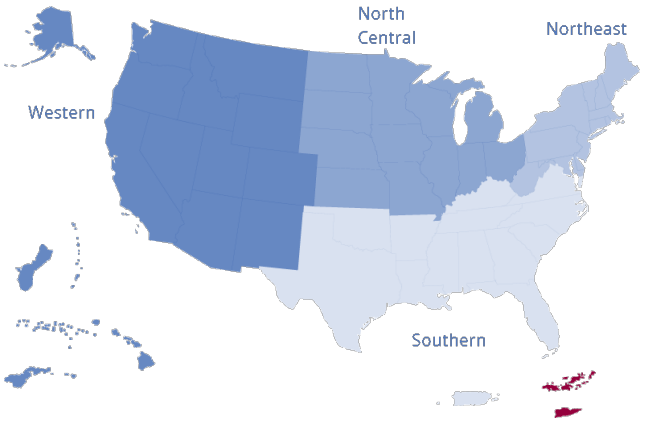
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/u-s-virgin-islands/

$1,604,410 in total funding

29 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of U.S. Virgin Islands 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 U.S. Virgin Islands, 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 U.S. Virgin Islands visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **14 grants**

3	Farmer/Rancher
2	On Farm Research/Partnership
7	PDP State Program [2]
2	Education Only

Total funding: **$407,021**

$59,910	Farmer/Rancher
$49,226	On Farm Research/Partnership
$197,886	PDP State Program [2]
$99,999	Education Only

[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.

For a complete list of U.S. Virgin Islands awards, visit: projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

316 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

71 farmers changed a practice



Learn about local impacts at: southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/u-s-virgin-islands/

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/u-s-virgin-islands/ to learn more.

Stafford Crossman
University of The Virgin Islands
(340) 692-4071
scrossm@uvi.edu

SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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