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



Report to the Board of Regents of the COM-FSM

August 15, 2007- November 15, 2007

W. James Currie, VP-CRE

Office of the Vice President:

Administrative Activities:

- VP-CRE prepared Terms of Reference for the required COM-FSM CRE Committee
- VP-CRE as a member of the Presidents Cabinet reviewed all TOR for the 23 standing committees of COM-FSM
- The COM-FSM fy '09 budget, including the projected CRE budget was prepared reviewed and submitted to the President.
- VP-CRE attended all COM-FSM President's Cabinet meetings
- a review of the Natural Sciences programs at COM-FSM was held to envision the future of all NR subjects including a review of the RI funds for the Agriculture Program. The VPIA is developing the expected changes.
- VP-CRE attended the Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) sub-regional meeting in Guam Oct.16th to 19th then hosted three of the administrators in Pohnpei Oct. 21-23. The difficulties of administering a program across Micronesia from a single office were recognized by the WSARE administration and a request was made for consideration of different support for this region. While touring in Pohnpei the visitors were taken to the sites of the current WSARE projects including the Breadfruit Feeding Project; the Black Pepper Support Post Evaluation Project; The PDP Composting Project; potential projects at the Black Pearl Facility and a Bio-Fuels processing center. The visit was capped with a reception hosted by Pohnpei Campus at the WSARE funded Medicinal Plant Botanical Garden.
- VP-CRE collaborated with SPC to conduct a workshop to develop a Sustainable Development Training Manual for COM-FSM to use in the training of FSM Land Planners
- VP-CRE and Pohnpei Agriculture advisors met to discuss the pending change of focus for AES Research in Pohnpei
- VP-CRE and Pohnpei CES continue efforts to collaborate with COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus and Office of Economic Affairs PNI to improve the funding for the JICA Volunteer in Food Processing. The volunteer has developed products from Breadfruit that have proven of interest in the Japanese markets, has helped with the Breadfruit feeding project by preparing feed samples for analysis and has prepared jams and pickles while supporting the EFNEP Agents and the Medicinal Plant Garden of Pohnpei Campus. He has recently been assigned to assist with demonstrating Food Processing to the RI Program Ag. Students.
- CRE Budgets were presented as requested with matching fund requests
- All fy'06 accounts are closed and are being reconciled
- annual Reports are being prepared by all sites for submission through the VP

Project Activities:

Water Quality: The Summer H2O Science projects have been successfully completed with many valuable lessons learned by students and administrators.

WSARE Medicinal and Traditional Plant Botanical Garden: This project has been completed and handed over to Pohnpei Campus. Recent developments include processing of tumeric to powder, Lemongrass for both tea and essential oils and the making of Jams and Jellies from the Mountain Apples – all with the assistance of the JICA volunteer.

USDA-RI Distance Education Project: A Special Services Contract is on-going with UoG. In this most recent period, equipment such as SmartBoards were purchased for to each campus, a contract was established with the provider of the Illuminat program for 25 seats to share information across campuses. A DE coordinator is being hired by VPIA

WSARE Replacement of Energy Feeds with Traditionally Stored Breadfruit: The high protein premix and all equipment has been delivered and the actual testing should begin early in 2008. A no-cost extension has been requested.

WSARE Sweet Potato Tissue Culture for the Atoll Islands: A Compost demonstration site has been established at the Pohnpei Agriculture site in Kolonia.

Major Administrative Concerns:

Research facilities: (see update from Francisco Mendiola)

1. Progress is being made in construction of the Pohnpei AES laboratories in Kolonia after considerable negotiations between COM-FSM and the Pohnpei state government. The facility should be completed within the next 6-12 months
2. Renovation of the MPPRC in Kosrae should proceed fairly soon now that the MOU for the site has been signed by the Kosrae Government. Further funding is still being sought.
3. Chuuk site remains a concern as per the update by Francisco Mendiola

Personnel:

Hiring:

1. the AES position in Chuuk – the advertising period is complete, 4 applications have been received and are being reviewed. Ansina Kony, CRE Assistant Director Chuuk has been tasked to identify a screening committee and carry out the interviews with the preferred candidates.
2. the CES Agriculture Agent position in Chuuk has been advertised again.
3. the Youth Agent position in Kosrae was advertised and an applicant was selected. At this time they are awaiting confirmation that he will accept the position.

Retirement/ termination/Personnel actions:

1. AES Researcher Dr. Flordeliza Javier has requested retirement to begin January 08, 2008 from her post as AES Researcher in Pohnpei. She is required to complete the two outstanding reports for the Hatch funded projects assigned to her. A meeting was organized with Pohnpei state and other professionals in agriculture in Pohnpei to consider the consequences and to identify the research preference before recruiting a replacement researcher. The group requested VP-CRE to explore the possibility of changing the position to be one of Food Processing and Marketing.
2. Retirement requests have been received from two CES staff in Yap,
3. Retirement is being considered by one agent on Kosrae
4. One agent in Chuuk has expressed her intention to retire within the year
5. Three agents in Chuuk are on long-term leave for various medical or other reasons without officially resigning.
6. One agent in Pohnpei has unofficially resigned.
7. The replacement process through COM-FSM HRO is agonizingly slow.

Actions:

1. All identified open positions have been advertised
2. action to terminate those staff who have effectively abandoned their posts is being taken through COM-FSM HRO

3. If the change of research focus for Pohnpei is authorized a Food Processing and Marketing Research position description will be developed and advertised
 4. State governments are being encouraged and solicited to provide one single year Extension Trainee position with follow-up scholarship access to encourage more entry level interest in Agriculture and Food Sciences. Gov. Weilbacher was very supportive of the idea and it is hoped that at least in Kosrae it might happen soon.
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**College of Micronesia-FSM
Cooperative Research & Extension Services
Cooperative Extension Service-Pohnpei
4th Quarter Report 2007**

Activities in Pohnpei are varied and unlike the other FSM states. Livestock including animal health and para-veterinary services are of higher profile as is the Black pearl project and the Black Pepper projects. A complete report is available from VP-CRE. In general the following areas are addressed on a regular basis.

Knowledge Areas addressed:

Animal Health and Well-Being
Plant Management System
Black Pepper Productions
Banana project
Yam production and propagation project
Home Gardening
Integrated Pest Management
Aquatic & Terrestrial Wildlife
Human Nutrition

**COM-Land Grant, Chuuk Campus
July – Sept. 2007 Report**

One of the strategies that Land Grant Chuuk adopted to be able to reach out to a bigger population and therefore reach its performance target is to train volunteer leaders. The trainings were conducted at the end of July and 2nd week of August 2007. These leaders were briefed on the different programs with Health and Nutrition as the point of entry. After the training, they will become Land Grants' extension arms in the community.

It is also worth reporting that Land Grant Chuuk was able to submit its 4th quarter performance report to Chuuk State Budget Office. This report is for Land Grant's budgetary allocation from the Private Sector Grant. The annual 2006-07 EFNEP Report has also been finalized and exported.

Areas of Focus:

Agriculture and Natural Resources:
Health and Nutrition:
Youth Development Program
Sewing and Handicraft Project
