MICRONESIA PLANS OF WORK UPDATE FOR FY 2005-2006

OVERVIEW STATEMENT

The FY 2005-2006 Plans of Work Update for the College of Micronesia (COM) is a continuation of the integrated approach to addressing social, economic and ecological issues of the Micronesia region. Research and extension activities will continue to address critical needs and problems that are unique to small island communities. Programs have been developed based on stakeholders' inputs and are consistent with priority economic, social and ecological problems identified by the various islands through their Economic Development Plans. Implementation of programs will continue at locations currently served and will continue to be extended to remote and isolated areas to reach people from all walks of life, including both the underprivileged and the underrepresented. The following tables show existing and potential research and extension programs associated with the five goal areas:

1862 Extension	
Goal 1	1. Sustainable Agriculture Program and Food Security in Support of Small-Scale Farming 2. Cultivation of Vitamin A-rich Banana Variety 3. Agroforestry Applications and Practices 4. Swine improvement 5. Crop improvement
Goal 2	1. Prevention of Food Borne Illnesses 2. Food Sanitation Certification Training 3. Food Safety Education 4. Pesticide Application Training 5. Safe Snack for School Lunch
Goal 3	1. Family Food Production and Nutrition Education 2. Food Safety and Quality 3. Water Quality Program 4. Nutrition, Diet and Health 5. Promoting Physical Exercise
Goal 4	1. Water Quality and Nutrient Management 2. Plant Protection and Quarantine 3. Animal Waste Management 4. Agroforestry Applications and Practices 5. Integrated Pest Management for Crops 6. Environmental Education
Goal 5	1. Sewing and Handicraft Program 2. Professional Workforce Preparation 3. Home Gardening **4.** 4-H/Youth Program 5. Black Lip Pearl Oysters Farming for small island communities

1862 Research	
Goal 1	1. Tissue Culture and Micropropagation of Economic Crops 2. Development of Protocol for Grafting in Breadfruit Cultivars of Marshall Islands 3. Generation of Know-how for In-vitro Multiplication of Food Crops 4. Edible Mushroom Cultivation: Right Technology for Food and Nutrition Security in the Marshall Islands 5. Biotechnological development and introduction of leaf blight resistant taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) in the Marshall Islands 6. Vitamin A rich and pathogen-tested micropropagated sweet potato (*Ipomaea*) *batatas (L.)* Lam.): Introduction and field evaluation in the Marshall Islands 7. Studies on the reproductive cycle of black lip pearl oyster Pinctada margaritifera in selected atolls of the Marshall Islands 8. Setting up and operating demonstration cum training pearl farms 9. Low-land Agroforestry 10. Studies on the reproductive cycle of black lip pearl oyster 11. Biological Control of Weeds and Other Pests of Crops 12. Integrated Control of Red Spider Mites Attacking Cassava 13. Evaluation and Propagation of Root Crop Varieties Adaptable under Palauan Environment 14. Banana Trials for Disease Resistance 15. Freshwater Prawn Aquaculture 16. An integrated approach to conserve important crop genetic resources 17. Dry corm-rot disease of swamp taro
Goal 2	
Goal 3	
Goal 4	1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)-Cultural methods, etc. 2. Pesticide Impact Assessment 3. Tissue Culturing of Banana and Other Economic Crops 4. Lowland Agroforestry 5. Plant Protection and Quarantine 6. Animal Waste Management 7. Crop/plant biodiversity conservation
Goal 5	

1862 Joint Research/Extension	
Goal 1	1. Sustainable Taro Production Systems 2. Integrated Control of Taro Corm Rot 3. Sustainable Marketing Strategy in Micronesia
Goal 2	1. Pesticide Management
Goal 3	
Goal 4	1. Animal Waste Management
Goal 5	1. Water Policy and Economics

As noted in the tables above, not so much research and joint research/extension activities are planned for implementation in some of the goal areas. This is due to understaffing and the uncertainty of recruitment for research expertise in those program areas.

FTE ESTIMATES FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	12.00	0.0	0.0	46.00	0.0	0.0
2006	12.00	0.0	0.0	46.00	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years			Research Assistants		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	10.00	0.0	0.0	6.00	0.0	0.0
2006	10.00	0.0	0.0	6.00	0.0	0.0

GOAL 1 - TO ACHIEVE AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM THAT IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture, and tourism are important industries in the growth and development of Micronesia's economy. Agricultural programs are mostly on a subsistence level and economic development is largely dependent on the outside world. The increase in the consumption of imported foodstuff has led to an overall decline in local food production. From inputs of the stakeholders and from environmental scan, the following issues continue to directly or indirectly lead to the declining contribution of agriculture, aquaculture and marine resources to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Micronesia:

- lack of available arable land due to low soil fertility
- lack of appropriate infrastructure, especially good roads, electricity and storage facilities in remote areas
- stiff competition between local and imported produce
- introduction of pests and diseases on agricultural commodities
- rapid population growth
- lack of agricultural professionals
- lack of locally available techniques in aquaculture and fast propagation of economic crops

Most of the islands in Micronesia are atolls and atoll soil chemistry is almost difficult to understand and almost impossible for food production. Future of food security in Micronesia is dependent on the domestic production of staple foods such as banana, yam, taro, cassava, breadfruit, pandanus, etc. Teaching and adoption of new practices to ensure improvement in subsistence agriculture will go a long way in contributing to the economic growth.

PERFORMANCE GOALS:

1. Increase the research and knowledge base on food production and new and value-added commodities and products in the agriculture/aquaculture sectors.
2. Increase agricultural/aquacultural producers awareness, understanding and information on improving the productivity of the Micronesian agricultural/aquacultural production systems
3. Develops media suited for micro-propagation of certain tropical fruit crops
4. Develop appropriate agricultural technology suitable for coral atolls

OUTPUT INDICATORS:

1. Develop research projects that will support the development of new and value-added agriculture and aquaculture commodities.
2. Increase number of persons enrolled in educational programs in agricultural and livestock production sciences.
3. Increase the number of reports or publications on local food production, processing, and marketing
4. Raising awareness on conservation issues

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

1. Increase in food production through adoption of new practices or new technology
2. Reduction of pesticide usage and environmental contamination
3. Increased profitability
4. Policies developed for improvement of local markets
5. Number of workshops and seminars on conservation issues

ALLOCATED RESOURCES

Fiscal Resources

Extension

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	223,165	50,483	40,000	0
2006	223,165	50,483	40,000	0

Research

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	323,303	10,000	20,000	0
2006	323,303	10,000	20,000	0

Formula fund allocations to Micronesia remain about just the same as they were in the first POW cycle and State and local matching funds dwindled, so there is no major shift in fund allocation for research, extension and integrated programs for all 5 Goals.

Human Resources (FTEs)

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	4.73	0.0	0.0	13.73	0.0	0.0
2006	4.73	0.0	0.0	13.73	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years			Research Asst.		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	4.40	0.0	0.0	3.12	0.0	0.0
2006	4.40	0.0	0.0	3.12	0.0	0.0

GOAL 2 - A SAFE, SECURE FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

Food-borne illnesses contributed to a lot of the health issues in Micronesia. The warm and highly humid climate in Micronesia provides a favorable environment for the growth and development of microorganisms, particularly microorganisms that are known to cause food and waterborne illnesses. The persistence of these food-borne illnesses is attributed to the following: unreliable power and water supply which cause food spoilage; lack of adequate kitchen facilities in most houses; inadequate knowledge, information and expertise on animal diseases as they relate to meat production and storage; vast distances among islands which limit access to programs and services of the people; inadequate knowledge and skills about food safety procedures and practices; and the weather pattern, which has been very unusual over the years.

Communicable diseases continue to be a major problem, due to overcrowding and poor sanitation and hygiene. Waterborne diseases continue to increase at greater than the population growth. This is a situation that lends itself to intervention provided that basic issues in water quality, food handling and personal hygiene are understood. Accessibility to affordable food that is nutritionally appropriate is another concern in this area, as more and more people preferred imported processed food over food that are high in nutrients and readily available. Thus, food quantity and quality is a very real food security issue. Educating Micronesian families and policy makers on the importance of practicing food safety and quality control measures is fundamental to the important task of promoting and maintaining a healthy society to live.

PERFORMANCE GOALS:

1. Increase the research and knowledge-base available on food accessibility and affordability.
2. Increase consumer awareness and understanding on food safety and food borne risks and illnesses
3. Increase consumers awareness and understanding on food accessibility and affordability

4. Increase local food production and consumption

OUTPUT INDICATORS:

1. Develop research programs on food accessibility and affordability
2. Provide training programs for families to improve eating habits
3. Conduct food safety demonstrations on healthy local food
4. Develop programs on water quality and quantity
5. Increase local food production

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

1. Decrease in number of people contracting food related illnesses
2. The reduction in the number of people contracting waterborne diseases.
3. Change in public policy in school lunch programs
4. Number of clientele who increased knowledge on food handling and storage
5. Increase in local food production and consumption

ALLOCATED RESOURCES:

Fiscal Resources

Extension

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	112,836	25,000	20,000	0
2006	112,836	25,000	20,000	0

Research

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	32,244	2,000	2,000	0
2006	32,244	2,000	2,000	0

Human Resources (FTEs)

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	3.00	0.0	0.0	6.50	0.0	0.0
2006	3.00	0.0	0.0	6.50	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years					
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
2006	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0

GOAL 3 - A HEALTHY, WELL-NOURISHED POPULATION.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:
Malnutrition and diet related illnesses continue to be a major health problem in Micronesia today due to the following reasons:

1. New lifestyles which shift from a subsistence economy to a wage economy
2. High preference of low nutrient content imported food over locally grown nutritious food.
3. Convenience in obtaining, cooking and storing of imported food.
4. Socio-economic and cultural restrictions.
5. Illiteracy
6. Isolation from the rest of the World and geographical distances between the islands.
7. Lack of knowledge in planning and preparing nutritious meals for the families and children.

In the past, Micronesians worked hard to obtain their nutritious and fresh food by farming and fishing. It is no longer true as people buy food that is fast-cooking and are rich in saturated fat, sugar, salt and preservatives. These kinds of food continue to contribute to an increased risk for malnutrition and diet-related illnesses among both adults and children, such as hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, liver diseases and kidney diseases. Among both the adult and children population, overweight and obesity are becoming major concerns.

Diet plays a key role in the increasing health related illnesses in the islands. Appropriate nutrition education programs remain an important issue, including the benefits of increased physical activity. How this education is delivered to affect a change in behavior will continue to be a major challenge for this program.

PERFORMANCE GOALS:

1. Increase the research and knowledge-based made available on health sciences and health promotion.
2. Increase awareness on healthy lifestyles practices through educational programs to improve dietary habits and physical exercise practices
3. Increase awareness and understanding of healthy food choices, food selection, food purchasing, and appropriate sanitary practices.
4. Prevent overweight and obesity among children and adults, including pregnant mothers thereby reducing their risk to NCD, i.e. diabetes, hypertension and heart diseases.
5. Increase the availability of health education programs to communities

OUTPUT INDICATORS:

1. Develop research programs on health science and health promotion.
2. Prepare nutrition education programs that provide dietary guidance to consumers.
3. Prepare education programs on food selection, food choices, food purchasing,
4. Prepare nutrition education programs targeting people who are at risk of developing heart disease, hypertension, and stroke
5. Produce a diet and weight management program

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

1. Number of families who increased their consumption of high fiber content
2. The reduction of malnutrition and a reduction of the severe and chronic malnutrition incidence
3. Number of persons who improved eating habits
4. Decreased in the number of infant mortality
5. Decreased in food poisoning cases

ALLOCATED RESOURCES:

Fiscal Resources

Extension

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	77,105	20,000	15,000	0
2006	77,105	20,000	15,000	0

Research

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	21,496	2,000	2,000	0
2006	21,496	2,000	2,000	0

Human Resources (FTEs)

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	1.00	0.0	0.0	5.25	0.0	0.0
2006	1.00	0.0	0.0	5.25	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years					
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.00	0.0	0.0
2006	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.00	0.0	0.0

GOAL 4 - TO ACHIEVE GREATER HARMONY (BALANCE) BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

The expansion of agriculture within Micronesia must be done with careful consideration of its fragile island ecosystem. Eco-friendly approaches and farming practices must be selected carefully to ensure harmony between farming and the environment: for example pesticide use, deforestation, and topsoil erosion. Project implementation should not only conserve the island natural resources, but should also contribute positively to the enhancement of the environmental. The continuing trend of importing non-biodegradable materials and packaging, such as aluminum cans, pampers plastics and Styrofoam products have led to enormous environmental degradation. Small islands cannot survive for long if ecologically unhealthy agricultural practices are carried out. Blending traditional wisdom and practices with improved technologies may serve as a solution to the problem of increasing ecological disturbances as a result of unhealthy agricultural practices.

Deforestation for developmental projects and agricultural programs not only destroys the habitat, but also reduces the quality of the soil and increase soil erosion. Additionally, sedimentation resulting from erosion has negatively impacted on aquatic resources. The increase in demand for water could also lead to dam building, which also affected the ecology of rivers and lakes. On low-lying islands, the depletion of fresh water supply has led to the intrusion of salt water into the water lens and the rise in the sea level also causes saltwater intrusion into taro farms on many small islands.

Balance between agriculture and the environment is of great concerns to small island communities. The Development Plans of some of the island nations clearly stated that the preservation of their natural resources and biodiversity, including both flora and fauna, is a critical component to achieving the goals of economic, social and cultural development.

There is limited or even lack of knowledge about pests, damage to crops, control and IPM methods/tools/practices considered effective in reducing pest, but still get the economic yield without the use of chemical control. There is a recognized need to protect Micronesian environment through the

strengthening of its quarantine process. The continuing influx of pests and diseases is of great concern as reliance on subsistence agriculture to supply the necessary foods based on edible aroids, sweet potato, breadfruit, bananas, coconuts, a variety of vegetables and tropical fruits is made vulnerable. The nature of the small subsistence holdings exacerbates the ability to control pest and disease outbreaks. The use of chemical pesticides is further prohibited by legislation in some places, like the Marshall Islands. The results of regional projects and institutions, other than some biological controls, on plant protection have yet to make a noticeable impact. This Strengthening of Plant Protection/Quarantine Services Project intends to address this issue in collaboration with the Secretariat for Pacific Communities (SPC) and the Agriculture Divisions in each of the Island States. Other control measures will be implemented whenever appropriate, including cultural practices. The availability of toilets continues to be of concern not only for the comfort and well being of homes, but the impact on the environment can be an issue given the lack of infrastructure to manage sewage outflow. The desire for flush toilets has been repeatedly expressed for households that are located beyond the urban systems. The environmental impact of this situation and its connection to overall health remains a sensitive issue that will be addressed.

PERFORMANCE GOALS

1. To annually increase research and knowledge-based available on environmental sciences and agriculture, including conserving, maintaining, and protecting ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.
2. To annually increase agricultural producer awareness, understanding, and information regarding the adoption of agricultural production practices that sustain and/or protect ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.
3. To annually increase producer adoption of agricultural production practices that conserve and/or protects surface and groundwater supplies.
4. To annually ensure ecosystem integrity and biodiversity (Pesticide Applications).

OUTPUT INDICATORS:

1. Develop research programs on environmental sciences and related topics.
2. Conduct training on quarantine issues
3. Conduct training programs on public policy issues affecting agricultural production and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity
4. Increase number of commercial farms and home gardens that use ecologically friendly technologies
5. Commercial farms will adopt production management using IPM approaches

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

1. Increased awareness and adoption of technologies, practices, and policies that help ensure the balance between human activities and ecosystem integrity.
2. Reduction in the incidences and levels of exotic pests
3. Increase in the number of persons completing programs on sustaining and/or protecting the quantity and quality of surface and ground water supplies.
4 Increase in the number of persons completing education programs on sustaining and protecting ecosystem biodiversity while improving the productivity of the agricultural production system
5. Reduction in pesticide use and contamination in the air, water, and soil
6. Increase in publications and reports on ecosystem biodiversity

ALLOCATED RESOURCES

Fiscal Resources

Extension

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	200,000	45,000	35,000	0
2006	200,000	45,000	35,000	0

Research

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	207,000	5,000	13,000	0
2006	207,000	5,000	13,000	0

Human Resources (FTEs)

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	3.50	0.0	0.0	12.45	0.0	0.0
2006	3.50	0.0	0.0	12.45	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years					
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	2.30	0.0	0.0	2.60	0.0	0.0
2006	2.30	0.0	0.0	2.60	0.0	0.0

GOAL 5 - TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

The three independent countries of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (ROP) in Micronesia are still very much dependent on the transfer of payments under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the government of the United States of America. Compact I agreements with FSM and RMI have recently been terminated and Compact II agreements with the two governments have just gone into effect, while the ROP's Compact Treaty with the U.S. government is still continuing for the next five years. The declining of Compact funds over the years has had severe impacts and implications on the economic developments of the island nations in Micronesia.

The three Micronesian nations must implement stringent policies and strategies that will enable employment, and provide essential services to their respective growing populations. The National Development Plans of the three nations must provide the strategic framework for their development over the next 20 years and beyond. The aim is to develop a self-sustaining national economy capable of replacing Compact revenues from their domestic sources, while promoting a high level of human development. Training people with relevant skills to utilize their potentials through income generating activities will improve their financial status and increase their family or individual economic stability, and therefore lead to improved quality of life.

Traditionally, the Micronesian families were supported by a very intricate but strong and sustainable socio-economic system that kept the Micronesian families together and allowed them to share their wealth among relatives. Micronesia has survived the influence of foreign colonialism with only remnants of its unique culture of shared wealth, adulterated with foreign influences and values. Although still alive today, the customs on childbirth rituals, marriages, and funerals are becoming great financial burdens on families because of excessive spending which robs the families of meager means necessary for the raising of small children, putting them through school, and providing them with preventive health care. The excessive and extravagant spending for customs need to be cut down for the long-term survival of the three developing nations.

The breakdown of the traditional support system also resulted to youth friction and negative social problems. There is also a shift from subsistence to cash economy, which has resulted in the erosion of the extended family structure, which gives support to all family members. Teenage pregnancy is increasing at an alarming rate and has resulted in the complication during parturition and low birth weight and undernourished children. One of the most alarming youth problems is the high number of youth suicide. This social problem is so deeply rooted and so complex that there is a need for a comprehensive and individualized approach to this very serious problem.

The college is cognizant of the vital role that the rural and subsistence sectors play as viable safety nets in providing sustainable livelihood opportunities both for customary obligations and for social and family aspirations--e.g. health, education, source of cash to augment income, youth and women participation, etc.

PERFORMANCE GOALS:

1. Increase research and knowledge-based available on the economic well being of communities and their citizens
2. Improve the financial status of families through financial management education programs.
3. Increase the incidence of strong families resulting from non-formal education programs
4. Increase understanding of roles of parents and their children
5. Create and strengthen networking and collaboration for program support

OUTPUT INDICATORS:

1. Develop research programs on economic well being of consumers, families, and communities.
2. Increase the capacity of communities, families, and individuals to improve their own quality of life
3. Increase the number of students taught lessons in topics generally covered in a 4-H program
4. Increase the number of participants completing and adopting programs on financial management education programs

OUTCOME INDICATORS:

1. The number of new businesses starting as a result of economic development programs and the number of existing businesses maintaining or expanding operations.
2. Decrease in the incidence of abuse
3. Reduction of violence against women.
4. Decrease in the number of children dropping out of school and increase in academic scores

ALLOCATED RESOURCES

Fiscal Resources

Extension

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	127,254	28,000	22,000	0
2006	127,254	28,000	22,000	0

Research

Year	Federal	State	Local	Other
2005	77,386	2,000	5,000	0
2006	77,386	2,000	5,000	0

Human Resources (FTEs)

Extension FTEs

Year	Professional			Paraprofessional		
	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	3.10	0.0	0.0	7.10	0.0	0.0
2006	3.10	0.0	0.0	7.10	0.0	0.0

Research SYs Only

Year	Scientist Years					

	1862	1890	Other	1862	1890	Other
2005	1.10	0.0	0.0	1.00	0.0	0.0
2006	1.10	0.0	0.0	1.00	0.0	0.0

Stakeholders Input:

The stakeholders input process will continue through open forum and interviews with government and traditional leaders, collaborating agencies, and community-based organizations. Solicitation for input will also occur through direct written invitations to Ministries, Senators and Mayors, and through announcements that will be placed in local newspapers and will be aired over radio stations. The three college presidents and the vice-residents for Cooperative Research and Extension will continue to conduct visits to the different islands throughout the Micronesia to meet with island leaders and community members to solicit input on their needs. The College of Micronesia Board of Regents acts as an advisory body to the COM land-grant program. The board met more frequently during the years as renegotiation of the Compact of Free Association for FSM and Marshall Islands were in progress and the status of land-grant program was still in limbo. The COM BOR evaluates the relevance of priorities and concerns of the island governments with those set by the funding sources. These sources are the USDA, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Australian Center for International Research, Agricultural Development in the American Pacific and local donors, like the National Congresses, local legislatures, Board of Trustees/Regents for the three Colleges, COM Board of Regents and local governments.

The review of programs was an integral part of the recently completed renegotiation of the Compact of Free Association between the Governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and the U.S. Government. The College of Micronesia Land Grant Programs is viewed as an entity that had contributed well to the social and economic development of the islands and will continue to serve the needs of the people and the communities throughout Micronesia in the next 20 years of the new relationship. Research and Extension administrative and program staffs located at the six program delivery sites (islands) have continued to interact with local collaborators or external groups. Most of the program administrators and program staff are members of government and private organizations and they received feedback periodically through interactions with these different organizations. At meetings conducted at the county level, feedbacks were received from stakeholders on issues and concerns unique to the different islands.

As a response to stakeholders input, research and extension staff undertook the task of drawing up local plans of work to address concerns and problems that are unique to the different islands or groups of islands. Stakeholders input is also use to determine what research and extension programs that will be funded by local matching funds as government and private organizations demand the most out of their contributions to these projects.

Program Review Process:

Merit Review:
Proposals and new programs are subject to an in-house review by an internal review team composed of researchers, specialists and extension agents. The review team edits and makes comments and suggestions on the program/project proposal before it is finalized. Once finalized, the program/proposal goes through a review process, this time with College administrators, the local College Board of Trustees, through the College of Micronesia (COM) administrator, and finally through the COM Board of Regents before it is sent to the USDA or non-USDA funding agencies. Advisory committees established at the

three colleges continued to review plans of work as they relate to agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and community economic development needs of the three nations under the College of Micronesia system. Advisory committees situated at the three colleges provided the review of programs based on the priorities of the governments and non-governmental organizations. The COM Board of Regents and the local Board of Regents at the three colleges were involved in these reviews, as they are also members of these advisory committees. The COM administration and faculty served in these committees as resource persons. All attempts were made to include a broad based advisory group, which represents a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary effort.

Scientific Peer Review:

A peer review process has been in use for research proposals. The peer review team includes administrators and researchers. The team will continue to review proposals for their potential impact and their relevancy to the needs of the communities and their fragile ecosystems. A project proposal goes to the internal review team and outside experts who also specialized in the field of the proposed project. Once the comments and suggestions of the reviewers are included in the final project proposal, it goes to the AES Director at COM Central Office for his comments and final endorsement before it is send to CSREES-USDA for approval. Other professionals at land-grant institutions through the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific (ADAP) coalition and other collaborating agencies in the South Pacific region were always invited to review and comment on proposals, in order to satisfy the need for a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary requirement.

Internal and External Linkages:

For programs to achieve their intended goals, COM Land Grant Program supports extensive internal and external collaboration and partnership with local, regional, and international organizations, both public and private. Through these collaborations and partnerships, COM-LGP will be able to maximize outputs in implementing these goals and other community-based programs to address priority needs and critical issues. It will also be in the best interest of all parties involved in this collaborative efforts as financial resources are becoming scarce and everywhere, government and private organizations are going through the unpopular and painful task of streamlining services by reducing manpower. Collaboration is a common thread that runs through all of the programs. This will enable the different agencies to capitalize on existing resources by sharing information to avoid duplication of efforts, learning from each other, using local expertise to solve problems and to coordinate activities so that the limited fiscal resources are used appropriately.

The requirements for multi-state, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary approaches to program planning and implementation has been the thrust of a collaborative effort with other American Pacific Land Grant institutions through the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific (ADAP) Project. Through ADAP, there are agreements with non-land-grant institutions like the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP), which recognize the need to share expertise in collaborative activities and projects, joint participation in administrative and planning meetings, and sharing and use of networks for communication, collection and dissemination of information.

Targeted Audiences:

Targeted audiences are the farmers, fishermen, homemakers, community groups, students, women groups, traditional leaders, policy-makers, NGOs, importers, and other underrepresented and underprivileged audiences.