

PLAN OF WORK UPDATE

University of the Virgin Islands



Cooperative Extension Service

FY 2005 - FY 2006

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INTRODUCTION:

The University of the Virgin Cooperative Extension Service is pleased to submit its Plan of Work Update for FY 2005-2006. This is an update of the 1999-2004 Plan of Work. There have been some changes, which are reflected in this update based on the needs of stakeholders, input from the CES Advisory Council and farmers' groups represented in the U.S. Virgin Islands. These inputs have made it necessary to change some of the performance goals, output indicators and outcome indicators. The majority of the programs would continue the goals and objectives of the program from the previous years for the next two years. Some programs have made major changes but others have slight changes and would continue their goals and objectives for the next two years.

GOAL 1 - AN AGRICULTUREAL SYSTEM THAT IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

Program 1: Sustainable Agriculture

Statement of Issue:

In response to input from stakeholders (farmers), the next Plan of work implementation period will include training in organic farming methods, national standards and rules, etc.

Output Indicators:

1. The number of producers utilizing two or more sustainable agricultural practices will be increased by 25%.
2. The number of sustainable agricultural enterprises (e.g. organic farms, bee keeping operations) and / or value added products would be increased by 10%.
3. The number of new linkages with local and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations will be increased by 15%.

Outcome Indicators: Will remain the same as 1999-2004.

Key Program Components: This section remains relatively unchanged. However, our educational initiative did not previously include composting as a component of sustainable agriculture training. The science and art of composting will represent a new component of training in Sustainable Agriculture. Therefore, the third sentence should read as:

3. Conduct educational programs that promote sustainable agricultural practices, including composting.

Program 2: Beef Dairy and Small Livestock

The components of this program will remain the same as 1999-2004.

Program 3: Eastern Caribbean Extension Outreach and Interchange

The components of this program will remain the same as 1999-2004.

GOAL 2 - A SAFE AND SECURE FOOD AND FIBRE SYSTEM

Program 4: Food Safety Education

Statement of Issue:

A comprehensive food safety education program for food handlers in the U.S. V.I. has not been established to-date. Subsequently, many risks for food borne illness outbreaks continue to exist in these islands, including: (a) the tropical climate; (b) unpredictable power outages; (c) food vendors peddling their wares from vehicles; and (d) the selling of cooked food from booths during annual cultural observances (fairs/festivals/carnivals). Without more attention being given to food safety education, food borne illness will continue to be a problem and a potential menace to the health of the population at large.

Performance Goals:

The nine performance goals remain the same and although progress has been made during 1999-2004, the goals should be fully achieved during FY2005-2006.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW with special emphasis on recruitment of males from the community for various activities.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

Program 5: Basic Food Safety Education for EFNEP and EFNEP Youth

Statement of Issue:

Food safety education is a necessary component in preventing food borne illness outbreaks. Many areas of food safety need to be addressed, including personal hygiene, food storage, food preparation, as well as food handling. These concepts are not generally taught unless a person is interested in the field. Daily food borne illness risks to individuals include: inappropriate home storage, purchasing, and preparation practices. Individuals also need to be aware of food borne illnesses that they may encounter when eating away from home.

Performance Goals:

The three performance goals remain the same although progress has been made during 1999-2004, the goals should be fully achieved during FY2005-2006.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work with the exception of wording under #1 which should state Michigan State University.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

GOAL 3 - A HEALTHY WELL NOURISHED POPULATION

Program 6: Improving Nutrition, Diet and Health

Statement of Issue:

The Virgin Islands population does not have readily available nutrition-related information from qualified individuals (i.e. licensed or registered dietitians). As a result, this factor is one of several which exacerbates complacency regarding healthy dietary practices. This factor is evident in the findings from the 2002 Summary Report of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention report which indicates that the four leading causes of death in 1994 remain the same 10 years later- hypertension, cancer, heart disease and diabetes. All four diseases have inappropriate nutrition as a culprit in their development.

Performance Goals: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

GOAL 4 - GREATER HARMONY BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Program 7: Urban Forestry

Statement of Issue:

Currently, CES has no written material or visual aids available for public consumption regarding the subject of urban forestry. CES staff utilize available material from regional institutions and agencies which is not always relevant to Virgin Islands conditions and situations. Tropical storms have damaged many trees in the territory. Surveys of workshop attendees have indicated that as much as 70% of Virgin Islanders cannot identify more than two hazardous tree conditions.

Output indicators:

Increase number of publications and instructional materials developed to enhance public education efforts.

Outcome indicators:

1. Ninety five percent of the targeted audience will be able to recognize potential hazardous tree conditions
2. Sixty five percent of the targeted audience will be able to correct hazardous tree conditions without the aid of a professional assistance
3. Create two visual aids and two written publication per year to be used in publication campaigns

Program 8: Backyard Composting

Activities of this program would be transferred to Program 1 - Sustainable Agriculture.

Program 9: Urban Gardening

Statement of Issue:

CES has fact sheets pertaining to growing vegetables and other production practices. Many of these publications have not been updated or new material generated in keeping with advancement and improvements in research and technology.

Output indicators:

Increased number of publications and instructional materials developed to enhance public education efforts.

Outcome indicators:

1. Two hundred urban gardeners will improve their management practices
2. One hundred 100 urban gardeners will develop greater efficiency in the use of limited space (utilization of containerized production units)
3. One hundred fifty (150) urban gardeners will improve the production of their gardens (increased yields)
4. One hundred seventy-five (175) urban gardeners will adopt at least two recommended production management practices
5. Create two visual aids and two written publication per year to be used in publication campaigns

Program 10: Water Quality Protection

Statement of Issue:

A temporary reduction in staffing resulted in more conservative estimates of client contacts receiving general technical assistance, as well as numbers of publications and website updates produced in the **Output Indicators** (2005-2006). Some grant-related training and certification programs have been completed successfully and will not be repeated in 2005-2006. V.I. Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment staff training and development of educational materials during 2000-2004 have strengthened program outputs and client receptivity. VI*A*Syst outreach efforts and contacts are expected to increase in 2005-2006. Education and outreach initiatives focusing on: water quality impairment, on-site wastewater treatment, erosion/sediment control practices and watershed awareness will continue to be program priorities in 2005-2006.

Output Indicators:

1. VICES staff will disseminate V.I. Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment

(VI*A*Syst) information to at least three hundred (300) farmers, gardeners, landscapers, renters, and homeowners.

2. Will contribute to at least seven (7) **NPS Update** (V.I. Nonpoint Source Newsletters) will be produced providing outreach on non-point source pollution control efforts and issues in the territory, as well as national research and information on best management practices (BMPs.)
3. Eco-tours, farm tours and/or garden tours will be conducted for 5000 youths (either formal classes or youth groups) utilizing an innovative approach that disseminates resource conservation and aquatic ecosystem information by incorporating and building upon indigenous knowledge and practices.
4. Two (2) water conservation, drinking water protection, and pollution prevention materials that are locally-oriented and suitable for use by teachers in the classroom as well as in informal settings geared towards youth will be developed by staff. These will be distributed as they have been produced.
5. The Water Quality web page will be updated as needed.
6. Radio and television PSAs, television video spots, local talk shows (radio & TV), and videotapes of workshops, presentations, and symposia will be developed and distributed to promote Water Quality objectives and programs.
7. Technical assistance will be provided to 250 individuals (government personnel, community group representatives, business persons, and the general public) on a variety of topics, including but not limited to, erosion, sediment, and stormwater control; xeriscaping – incorporating native, drought-tolerant plants into the landscape; soil analysis and characterization; watershed planning; water quality assessment; drinking water protection; and environmental assessment.

Outcome Indicators:

1. Raised awareness of health risks associated with water quality impairment, water and wastewater treatment systems, and environmental justice especially in under-served communities.
2. Increase the public's knowledge of the characteristics and functions of aquatic ecosystems (guts, salt ponds, mangrove lagoons, bays and oceans), including their role within a watershed.
3. Increased requests for site visits and VI*A*Syst assessments.
4. Increased requests by individuals to be added to **NPS Update's** mailing list.
5. Increased implementation of effective stormwater, erosion and sediment control practices.
6. Decreased use of toxic household products.
7. Development and maintenance of productive partnerships to effect solutions to long-term water quality and quantity issues.
8. Increased youth and volunteer involvement in water quality protection and resource conservation.
9. Increased public involvement, especially amongst under-served communities, in decisions relating to the use and protection of water resources.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this plan.

Program 11: Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM)

NREM Statement of Issue Update: A temporary reduction in staff reduced estimates of client contacts through informal education and scheduled workshops. Growing demand from academic professionals and the general public for information about native plants and natural product development necessitates increased program development in that area during 2005-2006. The nearly completed, proposed VI Comprehensive Land Use Plan and recently approved Territorial Park Initiative will likely affect NREM program **Output and Outcome Indicators** (2005-2006) as education and outreach efforts will be united by and focus on the potential effects of this legislation on the natural environment and natural resource management.

Output Indicators:

1. Eco-tours, farm tours and/or garden tours will be conducted for four hundred (400) youths (either formal classes or youth groups) utilizing an innovative approach that disseminates resource conservation and aquatic ecosystem information by incorporating and building upon indigenous knowledge and practices.
2. Four hundred (400) individuals will complete non-formal education programs on native plants/habitats in the landscape.
3. One hundred and fifty (150) individuals will request program presentations or publications.
4. Technical assistance will be provided to three hundred (300) individuals (government personnel, community group representatives, business persons, and the general public) on a variety of topics, including but not limited to, xeriscaping – incorporating native, drought-tolerant plants into the landscape; environmental assessment; plant identification, selection and maintenance; native, naturalized, exotic, endangered and threatened plant species; environmental assessment; solid waste management and other resource conservation issues.

Outcome Indicators:

1. Programs at Magens Bay demonstrating habitat protection and restoration procedures will be exported to at least one (1) other critical habitat, park or area of particular concern in the territory.
2. At least thirty (30) people who complete non-formal education programs on native plants/habitats in the landscape will adopt at least one (1) recommended landscaping practice and/or incorporate native plants into their landscaping.
3. Relevant stakeholders (local government agencies, developers and community groups) will begin to address development issues and natural resource protection and conservation programs in a holistic manner, and projects on a watershed basis.

4. Residents will increase their understanding of human effects on native habitats and natural resources (soil and water resources, native plants); habitat preservation.
5. Development of an effective partnership between local government, community organizations, and residents to promote comprehensive solid waste management, use of least toxic household products, and the proper disposal of household hazardous waste in the territory will continue.
6. At least seventy (70) people who complete non-formal education programs on best management practices that conserve, protect and/or enhance soil resources for agriculture, construction, landscaping and gardening land uses will adopt at least one (1) practice.
7. Virgin Islands youth will increase their awareness of natural and cultural resources and other environmental issues in the territory and region as a result of interactive educational programs.

Program Duration: This program will continue for two years.

GOAL 5 - ENHANCED ECONOMICS OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AMERICANS

Program 12: Limited Resource Individuals and Families

Statement of Issue:

The Virgin Islands continue to experience a multiplicity of challenges, i.e. inadequate child care, substance abuse, high rates of unemployment, poverty, environmental issues, violence, school dropout, homelessness, STDs and HIV/AIDS and crime, etc. One example of the present challenge is the recent federal takeover experienced by the VI Housing Authority which is officially in receivership. Another, is the impending decision regarding securing a chief financial officer to manage the territory's government funds. These infrastructure problems serve as an indicator of the myriad of difficulties confronting the entire VI population's quality of life in both direct and indirect ways.

Poverty continues to be a critical, overarching issue in the Virgin Islands. According to the VI Labor Department, as reported in an October 2002 edition of the Daily News, 11.2 percent of the St. Croix workforce was unemployed; and the St. Thomas/St. John district rate was 7.2 percent.

In St. Croix, 47 percent of all families with children were headed by single parents in 2000. St. Thomas had 44 percent of families with children with one parent, while St. John had 40 percent. In 1999, over 25% of families had incomes less than \$10,000 per year; and about 6% received cash public assistance – twice the national average. (*Kids Count Data Book, 2002*)

Median family income rates in the U.S. exceed comparable rates in the VI by approximately \$15,000 per year, yet the cost of living is higher in the Virgin Islands. Also, in the VI, over 12,601 children under 18 lived in poverty in 2001. The rate of child poverty was 36.5%, more than twice the national average of 16%.

Sixty-eight percent of the population is over 18 years of age. As the population ages there is a greater challenge to meet the needs of senior citizens, and persons with physical, psychological and social needs.

Due to the continuing economic, educational and health care challenges, to name a few, and the concomitant social problems, i.e. family violence, divorce, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, infant mortality; there is an even more critical need for the services provided by the Cooperative Extension Service. The quality of life of families and individuals continues to be adversely affected by the aforementioned challenges. Because of these changes the goals and objectives of this program will remain the same for the next two years to give us more time to accomplish the goals and objectives.

Performance Goals: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: The key program components remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work with the exception of #6 which refers to workshops to be conducted in basic American sign language; this will be omitted.

#10 should read- Develop web page that relays information on program including a calendar and descriptions of events, workshops, etc. with pictures where appropriate.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

Program 13: Marketable Skills

Statement of Issue:

The national dropout rate in 2001 was 5%, however the dropout rate for the Virgin Islands was 15.7% as indicated by the Kids Count Data Book 2003. Furthermore, 1,167 youth between the ages of 16 and 19 did not finish high school, and nearly 500 reported not going past the 8th grade. The ninth grade continues to be the pivotal year for dropping out of school followed by the 10th grade as the second highest risk of dropout.

The poverty rate for children in St. Croix was 45%, St. Thomas 31%, and St. John 10.5%. The U.S. child poverty rate for 2001 was 16%. Teen girls between 15 and 17 had 97 births in 2001; 54 on St. Croix and 43 on St. Thomas.

In 2002 in St. Croix, which has the highest unemployment rate in the territory, it was 11.2% nearly twice the national average of 5.7%. Many youth are not receiving a high school education and find it difficult to ascertain employment especially in a depressed economy. It makes it even more imperative to provide assistance through community outreach.

Performance Goals: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW with the exception of:
#3 which should read –To establish partnerships between government and non-government entities, especially the UVI – Small Business Development Center.
#4 which should read –To actively promote and market relevant subject matter training and staff development especially computer technology and grantwriting.
#5 which should read – To provide seminars on “going into business” that are “user friendly” for the targeted audience.
#6 which should read – To help clientele successfully compete in a technological environment through various trainings.
#7 which should read – To collaborate with a community student volunteer service program at the university to supplement program delivery (utilizing both UVI and high school students, as appropriate).

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

Program 14: Volunteer and Youth Leadership

Statement of Issues:

The Volunteer and Youth Leadership program remains the same as indicated in the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work.

Performance Goals: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

Program 15: Club System

Statement of Issue:

There are 25 clubs and 7 special interest groups, 800 members and 35 volunteers. Club offerings include projects in arts and crafts, agriculture, foods and nutrition, environmental awareness, small livestock, and community service. Of the 25 clubs, eight are in the community, thirteen are in elementary schools and four are in junior high schools. Special interest groups are in the private schools (3) and public schools (4). A media campaign is being planned to attract more community-based volunteers and more teens to our clubs. Community clubs offer more continuity of membership in 4-H.

Performance Goals:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work with the exception of more emphasis on marketing of program, targeting of Boy Scouts and similar organizations; and placing special emphasis on including culturally relevant information from groups, such as Farmers In Action.

Output Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Outcome Indicators: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages: Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.

Program 16: 4-H Summer Day Camp

Statement of Issue:

The 4-H Summer Day Camp has been in existence for more than 30 years. In recent years focus has been placed on academic enhancement thus the name change to Summer Academy. Camp runs annually for six weeks, from June to August. Camp topics include computer technology, English, writing, agriculture, culture, sea environment, energy, foods and nutrition, clothing construction, modeling, art, music, health and wellness, physical education, Mini-Society, and teen career exploration. Camp serves children ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14. Senior and junior counselors, often college students, supervise each camp. Senior counselors are school teachers in local elementary and secondary schools. Camps are supervised by site coordinators and have in-class instruction, guest speakers, and field trips related to the specific aforementioned areas.

Performance Goals:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work with the exception of adding Health and Wellness and music components to the curricula.

Output Indicators:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 Plan of Work.

Outcome Indicators:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Key Program Components:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Internal/External Linkages:

Remain the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Target Audience: Remains the same as the FY 1999-2004 POW.

Program Duration: This program will continue for the two-year life of this Plan of Work.