Awards issued prior to January 20, 2025, were funded under previous Administrations and may not reflect the priorities and policies of the current Administration.

United States Department of Agriculture
Project Initiation

Project Data for Accession Number 1034780

Project Title

Rapid Response for Hawaii Flood-Impacted Agricultural Systems

Project Details

Sponsoring Institution National Institute of Food and Agriculture	**Project Status** ACTIVE
Funding Source NIFA Non Formula	**Grant Year** 2026
Grant No. 2026-69019-46686	**Cumulative Award Amt.** $300,000.00
Proposal No. 2025-14767	**Multistate No.** (N/A)
Project Start Date Sep 01, 2026	**Project End Date** Aug 31, 2027
Program Code [A1712] Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems	

Project Director

EDIGER, L.

Recipient Organization

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
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Performing Department

(N/A)

Non Technical Summary

In March 2026, two major storms caused severe flooding across Hawaii, damaging farms, crops, infrastructure, and agricultural land, particularly on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island. Farmers faced difficult questions about what crops could be safely harvested, whether flooded land could be returned to production, how to document losses, and how to plan for recovery. Existing disaster recovery resources were often fragmented or designed for larger mainland farming systems, leaving Hawaii's small- and medium-scale diversified farms without practical, locally relevant guidance.This project will help farmers make informed recovery decisions by developing a practical Rapid Response Toolkit, providing workshops and individualized technical assistance, and offering targeted soil, water, and plant testing to identify potential food safety and contamination risks. The project will also help farmers document losses, evaluate recovery options, connect with financial resources, and identify ways to reduce their vulnerability to future storms. Information gathered through the project will be used to improve the tools and identify lessons that can strengthen

future agricultural disaster response. By helping farms recover and make better-informed decisions following severe weather, the project aims to support the continued viability of Hawaii farms, support informed food safety decisions, and strengthen the resilience of Hawaii's agricultural system and local food supply.

Animal Health Component

Animal Health Component: 0%

Research Effort Categories

Basic	0%
Applied	0%
Developmental	0%

Classification

Knowledge Area (KA)	Subject of Investigation (SOI)	Field of Science (FOS)	Percent
807	2410	3100	100%

Knowledge Area

[807] Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery

Subject Of Investigation

[2410] Cross-commodity research--multiple crops

Field Of Science

[3100] Management

Keywords

Agribusiness, producer training, emergency technical assistance, food safety risk mitigation

Goals / Objectives

The major goal of this project is to support storm-impacted agricultural producers in Hawaii through rapid deployment of practical tools, targeted technical assistance, and testing services that improve recovery decision-making and strengthen preparedness for future weather events.To achieve this goal, the project will pursue the following objectives:1. Develop and deploy a Rapid Response Toolkit that provides practical, field-ready tools for crop, infrastructure, and revenue loss estimation; documentation of immediate and ongoing recovery needs; recovery planning; and farm-level risk assessment and mitigation.2. Deliver coordinated extension, training, and communication through workshops, training sessions, one-on-one technical assistance, and actionable guidance materials to support producer use of project tools and informed recovery, food safety, and risk mitigation decisions.3. Provide integrated food safety and financial recovery support through post-flood food safety assessment and testing, guidance on crop disposition and marketability, identification of appropriate capital resources, and assistance preparing documentation

for financial recovery.4. Generate applied learning to strengthen future risk reduction and rapid response efforts by documenting drivers of loss and system vulnerabilities, analyzing recovery challenges and decision-making, identifying practical mitigation strategies, and using lessons learned to improve future disaster response.

Project Methods

Develop and Deploy Rapid Response Toolkit (Months 1-3)GoFarm Hawaii will develop and deploy a field-ready Rapid Response Toolkit addressing loss estimation, recovery needs documentation, recovery planning, post-flood food safety, farm-level risk assessment and mitigation, and sampling protocols. Initial tools will be deployed within the first 90 days and refined based on producer use and feedback.Conduct Outreach, Education, Technical Assistance, and Testing (Months 1-12)Producers will be engaged through GFH's statewide farmer and partner networks. A standardized intake and triage process will assess flood impacts and needs and help prioritize assistance based on factors such as flood exposure, crop type, and food safety risk. Workshops and individualized technical assistance will support recovery planning, food safety, loss documentation, financial recovery, and risk mitigation. Targeted soil, water, and plant testing will assess flood-related contamination risks, with results and guidance provided to producers to inform crop safety, land use, remediation, and recovery decisions.Refine Tools and Share Applied Learning (Months 3-12)Tools will be refined based on field use and producer feedback. The project will document tool use, recovery experiences, system vulnerabilities, and practical mitigation strategies and share refined tools, case examples, and findings through Extension and partner networks to strengthen future agricultural disaster response. Evaluate Project Outcomes and Effectiveness (Months 1-12)Evaluation will assess reach, adoption, and changes in producer knowledge, confidence, decision-making, and actions. Data will include participation in outreach, training, technical assistance, and testing; distribution and use of project tools; producer feedback; and documented tool-informed recovery actions. Surveys, interviews, and technical assistance interactions will be used to assess usefulness, changes in knowledge and confidence, barriers to adoption, and implementation of recovery and mitigation strategies. Where feasible, baseline and follow-up data will be compared