

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Pacific Basin Summary

Overview

The Pacific Basin Area Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides funding to three United States Territories: Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. Primary concerns being addressed are water quality and animal waste management.

Accomplishments

Most of the land users are minority limited resource farmers. In FY 2000, \$131,159 was allocated between the three territories for EQIP contracts. Guam allocated \$44,034 in contracts, CNMI contracted \$62,740, and American Samoa \$24,385. Three educational assistance grants were also developed. They will provide information on the value of proper manure handling generated from family piggeries, the use of the composted waste as fertilizer, and the benefits to human health of keeping animal waste out of local streams and reefs. Some of the video, fact sheets, posters, and brochures used to convey this information will be produced in three native languages other than English.

Customer Focus

The water on Rota, a small island in CMNI, got a little bit cleaner and the air a little bit fresher thanks to the efforts of a local farmer who was willing to do whatever it took to eliminate a serious environmental problem on his property. With financial assistance through EQIP, Mr. David Mendiola installed a modern animal waste management system for his 15-head hog operation. The Luta Soil and Water Conservation District provided technical guidance for the project, and NRCS provided engineering designs, advice, and maintenance and operation guidelines for the construction and use of the facility.

The project began when Mendiola approached the NRCS Rota Office and requested assistance in dealing with the waste produced by his hog operation. Besides raising hogs, Mendiola operates a botanical garden for tourists that supports a wide variety of flowering plants and fruit trees. Visitors can sample the fresh fruits grown in the garden year round or simply walk along many trails and enjoy the tropical flowers. Mendiola realized the animal waste was a valuable nutrient resource to improve the quality of his soil and plants, but that left untreated it would pose a threat to ground water quality on the island. He was also concerned about the odor interfering with his guest's enjoyment. When the NRCS representative told him about EQIP, Mendiola knew he had found a solution to his problem.

Mendiola's animal waste management system includes a solids separator, underground liquid waste storage tank, sewage pump, over 200 feet of buried distribution pipe, and several drip irrigation outlets. Drip irrigation allows slow application of liquid wastes to specific areas, eliminating erosion and the potential for nutrients to leach into the aquifer or the sea. It also allows the delivery of nutrients directly to the plant roots so that fruits and vegetables remain uncontaminated and safe to eat. The storage tank stores enough liquid to provide Mendiola's garden with water during the dry season, and the plants benefit from the extra nutrients as well. The solids are composted to provide high quality mulch for the fruit trees. Animal waste is not applied to the land until a Department of Environmental Quality permit is obtained, and all applications follow recommendations set forth by the Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service of the Northern Marianas College.

Outlook

Proper handling of animal waste and soil erosion reduction continue to be critical resource issues in the Pacific Basin territories. Limited resource land users will continue to need financial assistance to accomplish the many conservation practices needed to sustain the scarce land resource. EQIP educational assistance funds will play an important role in the continuing education and communication of conservation programs and practices.

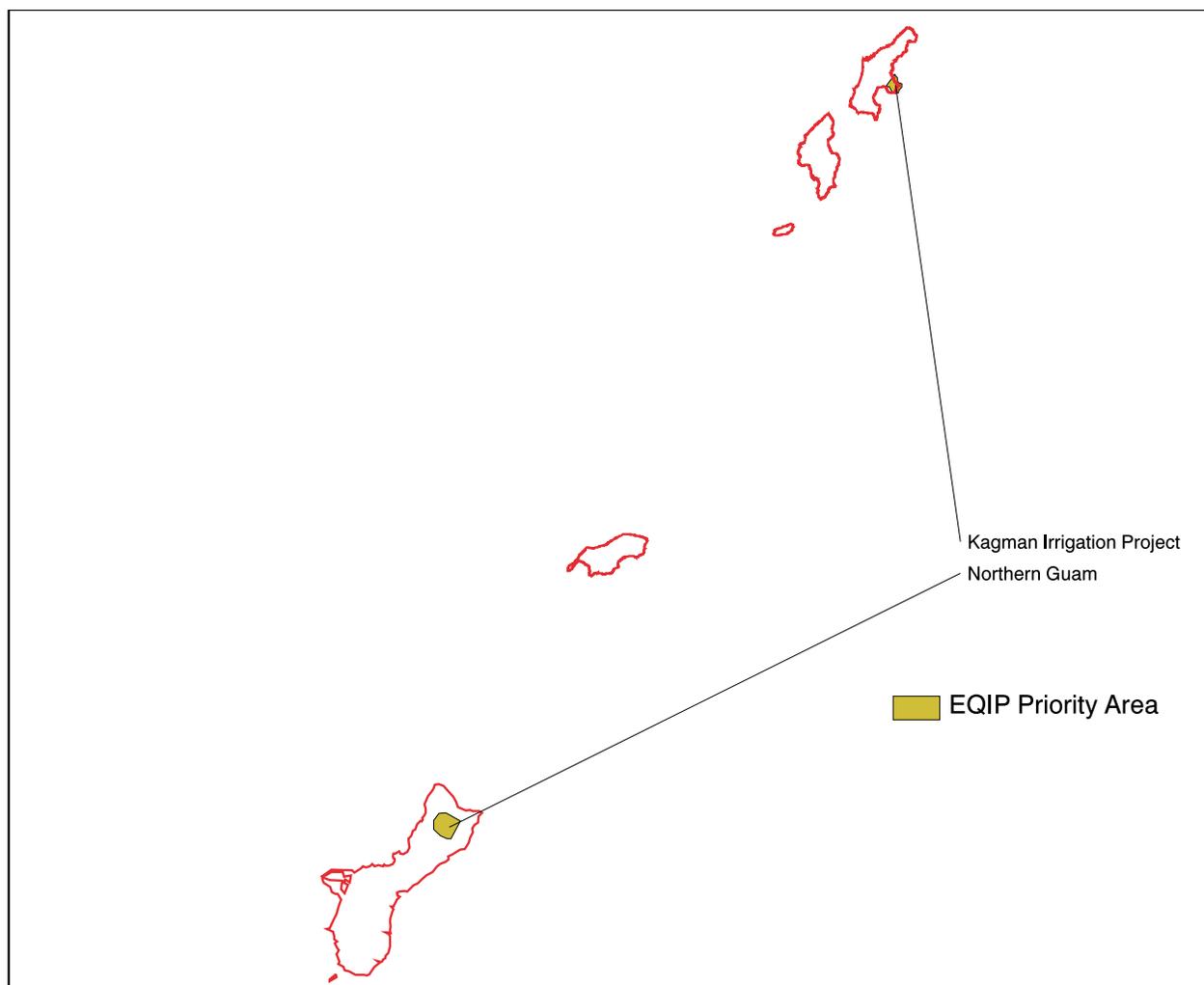
State Contact

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David Mendiola is already seeing some benefits of his new animal waste management system. Because it is an entirely closed system, odor is no longer a problem, which means his botanical garden customers can now enjoy the lush garden and fresh air.

Pacific Basin EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional District



Pacific Basin EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$131,159	34	\$291,463	96
State Totals	\$131,159	34	\$291,463	96

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas that may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP contracts for statewide natural resource concerns that can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000.

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