



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Ramon B. Camacho raises vegetables on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although Saipan receives nearly 100 inches of rain annually and temperatures allow growing crops year around, rains come in seasons. January through June is known as the "dry season", when rainfall is limited and unpredictable. Shallow porous soils do not hold enough water to guarantee a successful crop.

Ramon farms within the Kagman Watershed project where water good water is available for irrigation but is very expensive. Ramon secured an EQIP contract in order to install conservation practices on his 1 hectare vegetable plot. Included in the contract will be the installation of a trickle or drip irrigation system, windbreaks, and nutrient and pesticide management.

Ramon's crops include okra, wingbeans, tomatoes, peppers, pearsai, green onions and yams. He will have several of these crops growing at any one time.

Trickle irrigation has many benefits beyond water savings in Saipan. Applying water directly to plant roots limits excessive weed growth and evaporation losses in a climate where the temperatures seldom dip below 70 degrees even at night.

Ramon is one of the first to implement trickle irrigation on Saipan and is considered an early innovator and leader in the farming community.

Pacific Basin Area Summary

Overview

EQIP in the Pacific Basin Area is only offered in the three U.S. Territories of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa. There are two Geographic Priority Areas, one in CNMI and one in Northern Guam. The remaining areas in Guam, CNMI and American Samoa are included in the "Statewide" Natural Resource Concerns area.

EQIP resource concerns include water quality degradation from improper handling of animal manure, commercial fertilizers and proper irrigation water management.

EQIP Educational Assistance funds play an important role in the transmittal of information to the Basin's large number of limited resource farmers.

Accomplishments

EQIP accomplishments in fiscal year 2001 include the signing of 11 contracts totaling over \$218,000. Contract amounts ranged from a low of \$5,000 to near the maximum \$50,000 limit.

The completion of FY 2000 and 2001 Educational Assistance contracts in American Samoa provided much needed resource and conservation practice information on the island. The effort provided assistance to a newly formed swine council that continues to address the problems of animal waste in American Samoa. The Educational Assistance program also allowed the completion of a booklet describing use of animal waste as fertilizer and how to build and operate a new, low technology animal waste system developed in the Federated States of Micronesia. The booklet was previously only available in Pohnpeian.

Outlook

EQIP Financial and Educational Assistance will continue to play a critical role in getting conservation applied in the Pacific Basin Area. New legislation that is aimed at allowing first year contract payments will be of great benefit to local limited resource farmers.

State Contact

Bob Bartholomew, State Resource Conservationist, 671-472-7447, bob.bartholomew@pb.usda.gov



Pacific Basin EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Pacific Basin Area EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
American Samoa	\$13,084	1	\$252,950	24
CNMI	110,703	6	413,841	50
Guam	87,818	4	344,319	27
State Totals	\$211,605	11	\$1,011,110	101

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