

## Crops and forages in Río Loco

### Lower Watershed

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Pumpkin
- Water melon
- Pickles
- Onion
- Okra
- Cabbage
- Papaya
- Corn
- Beans
- Cassava
- Sweet yam
- Aji (Sweet perennial pepper)
- Coriander
- Squash
- Lemon
- Peas
- Grapes
- Avocado
- Breadfruit
- Hayland
- Pastureland



Plantains



Riparian herbaceous vegetation along a segment of Río Loco

**Soil Bioengineering:** the use of live and dead materials, in combination with natural and synthetic support materials, for slope stabilization, erosion reduction and vegetative establishment. Soil bioengineering will help in native plant restoration as part of the stream corridor restoration, facilitating the process of habitat, conduit, and filter/barrier.

For more information visit: [pr.nrcs.usda.gov](http://pr.nrcs.usda.gov)

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Caribbean Area

## Río Loco Lower Watershed Floodplains



*Helping People Help the Land*

# Río Loco Lower Watershed-Floodplains

## Río Loco Watershed Conservation Objective:

Improve and protect coral reefs ecosystems from non-point sources of pollution from agriculture.

Benefits:

- Reduce contaminant loads to the bay
- Reduce soil erosion and sediment deposition
- Improve filtering capacity of riparian areas

## Resource Concerns

- Soil erosion
- Sediment Deposition
- Water Quantity and Quality
- Domestic Animals
- Plant Condition
- Fish and Wildlife (Habitat fragmentation)

## Conservation Practices

- Clearing and Snagging
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Grassed Waterway
- Irrigation Water Management
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Row Arrangement
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection

## Publicly Owned Farm Land Description

Owner: Puerto Rico Land Authority

Acreage in cropland: 2,690

Number of operators: 24

Climate: Semiarid Dry Forest

Average Yr Precipitation: 35 inches

Average Yr Temperature: 79° F

Soils: predominately San Antón (Clay loam). Well drained, nearly level formed in medium to moderately fine textured sediment derived from limestone and volcanic rock. Slope ranges from 0 to 2 percent.

## Site Visit:

Farm operator: Mr. Jaime Acevedo

Acreage: 67

Crops planted in rotation and under drip irrigation: papaya, onion, cabbage, coriander, pumpkin.

Current crops ( acres ):

- Papaya: 8.78
- Pepper: 1.23
- Aji (sweet perennial pepper) : 3.89
- Cabbage: 4.71

**Major conservation concern:** farmland lost due to bank instability (channel widening by mass-wasting process). The equilibrium of the stream flow was disrupted by accumulation of debris from a concrete structure for irrigation that collapsed and bamboo, after torrential rains.



Papaya or Melon tree (*Carica papaya*): Fruit original from continental tropical America. Naturalized and widely cultivated in Puerto Rico. Expected yield in Mr. Acevedo's farm: 60,000, pounds/acre. One crop takes 1.5 yrs from planting to harvesting.



Community involvement in conservation