

**USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Federal Women Special Emphasis Program**  
**Caribbean Area – Quarter #2 - February, 2011**

**University of PR - R.U.M. & A.E.S.**  
**Are Providing Educational Opportunities**  
**to Puertorican Female Farmers, Sponsored by NRCS**

*On January 31, 2011, the University of Puerto Rico in cooperation with PR's Agricultural Extension Service, and sponsored by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service started the course titled: "Women in Puerto Rico's Agriculture Preserving Farmlands for a Sustainable Development"; it is also known as "Initiative for Women in Puerto Rico's Agriculture".*

*This is the third phase of a project started on Yr-2007 with the purpose of providing seminars across the Island. It has received financial assistance from NRCS as part of the Conservation Innovation Grants Program (CIG). This funds will help the University of Puerto Rico promulge scientific principles, legal aspects and real case experiences in agriculture for the benefit of local farmers. Although it has been offered mostly for women, men are also welcome as part of this initiative.*

**Course objectives are:** *to empower female farmers for administering a successful agriculture enterprise; help them to balance their multiple task/responsibilities (wife, mother, daughter, sister, business partner, community leader, and any others they may have); and also to improve stress management skills.*



More than forty (40) female farmers from the east region of Puerto Rico are registered in the course. Once they complete the Basic Course, consisting of 8 classes in one semester, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion and could continue with the Intensive Course, which will be offered next semester. Certificates of Completion and Continue Education courses will help them to improve their skills as well as to obtaining financial assistance from the government, as expressed by Dr. Gladys González, PhD, RUM – Program Director.

*Dr. Gladys González, PhD, UPR - Program Director, emphasized that the effort for making women capable in all agricultural aspects is because women represents **52 percent of PR's population**, and they actively participates in the country's economy, so they should be counted and service should be provided equally. She also emphasized that women participates in the Country's Economic Equation: in the Quantitative Growth – agricultural production amount, as well as in the Qualitative Development – product quality, freshness, health, life expectancy, etc. Her most important point was: **How could we improve the quality of puertorricans' life if we exclude partially or totally women contribution in our society?***

# 1st Day Speakers



Dr. Gladys González, PhD, UPR Professor gave a briefing of course objectives, topics to be discussed, and resources.



Mrs. Judith Conde, AES, Home Economist offered the presentation: "Women Faces and Voices ..... A Loud Reflection ! "



Mr. Edwin Almodóvar, NRCS, Director welcome the participants and expressed his appreciation for a massive response.

## Facts shared during the activity: *Women Participation in Agriculture, Yr. 2002*

|                                                 | <i>Total</i> | <i>Men</i>        | <i>Women</i>    | <i>Data Source</i>                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Female Farmers *<br/>(PR Farmers Assoc.)</i> | 2,469        | 2,287<br>(92.6%)  | 182<br>(7.0%)   | (*) Vargas Carrasquillo, Ivelisse. <i>La mujer en la agricultura puertorriqueña, 2004, UPR-RUM Tesis MS Economía Agrícola</i> |
| <i>Professional Female Agronomist *</i>         | 1,298        | 994<br>(76.7%)    | 304<br>(23.0 %) | (*)Vargas Carrasquillo, Ivelisse. <i>La mujer en la agricultura puertorriqueña, 2004, UPR-RUM Tesis MS Economía Agrícola</i>  |
| <i>Female Farm Workers *</i>                    | 22,000       |                   | a/              | (*) (a/) <i>There are only fewer data available not enough for getting reliable estimates</i>                                 |
| <i>Female Farm Operators **</i>                 | 17,659       | 16,105<br>(91.2%) | 1,554<br>(8.8%) | (**) <i>USDA, 2002 Agriculture Census for PR</i>                                                                              |

## Do you know ....

| <i>NRCS Workforce for Yr-2010</i>                  | <i>Total</i> | <i>Men</i>    | <i>Women</i>   | <i>Data Source</i>                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Total Workforce (Permanent &amp; Temporary)</i> | 12,573       | 8,121 (64.6%) | 4,452 (35.4 %) | <i>MD-715, USDA- NRCS<br/>Management Directory Report<br/>Fiscal Year 2010</i> |
| • <i>Permanent Positions</i>                       | 11,544       | 7,615 (65.9%) | 3,929 (34.0%)  |                                                                                |
| • <i>Temporary Positions</i>                       | 1,029        | 506 (49.1%)   | 523 (50.8%)    |                                                                                |
|                                                    |              |               |                |                                                                                |
| <i>New Hires (Yr-2010) (Permanent Positions)</i>   | 866          | 501 (57.9%)   | 365 (42.15%)   |                                                                                |
| <i>New Hires (Yr-2010) (Temporary Positions)</i>   | 908          | 453 (49.9%)   | 455 (50.11%)   |                                                                                |

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