

NRCS Caribbean Area Organic Initiative Application Deadline Extended to May 17, 2013!

April 10, 2013 – San Juan, PR –USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Edwin Almodóvar reminds area farmers that the agency has **Organic Initiative** funding available for certified organic producers and farmers who want to transition to organic production.



Organic peppers growing in the Caribbean Area.

The Caribbean Area NRCS has extended the application deadline for 2013 applications to **May 17, 2013**. Farmers should contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible to find out if they are eligible. To find a field office near you, visit our website at www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/ or the NRCS Office Locator at <http://go.usa.gov/Uo8>.

“Organic farming is a form of agriculture that relies on conservation practices without utilizing synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. It is a production system that sustains the health of soils and relies on the environment to produce healthy crops. In summary, it is a combination of innovation and science. In NRCS, we look forward to working with organic producers to maintain healthy soils and protect our natural resources,” said Director Almodóvar.

Part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Organic Initiative offers a wide array of conservation practices specifically designed for organic production. *“Practices will help the selected applicants meet many requirements of their USDA Organic System Plans and stay in compliance with USDA’s National Organic Program,”* Director Almodóvar said.

For details, please contact Mr. Ismael Matos at 787-766-5206 x 128 or Ismael.matos@pr.usda.gov. Learn more about the USDA-NRCS **Organic Initiative** at <http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip03/Organic.html> or <http://go.usa.gov/Uo9>. Find out about other NRCS initiatives and programs at <http://go.usa.gov/UoX>.

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