



United States Department of Agriculture



Caribbean Area



State Technical Committee

Monday, February 22, 2021

Natural
Resources
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Caribbean Area



State Technical Committee; EWP Update

Monday, February 22, 2021

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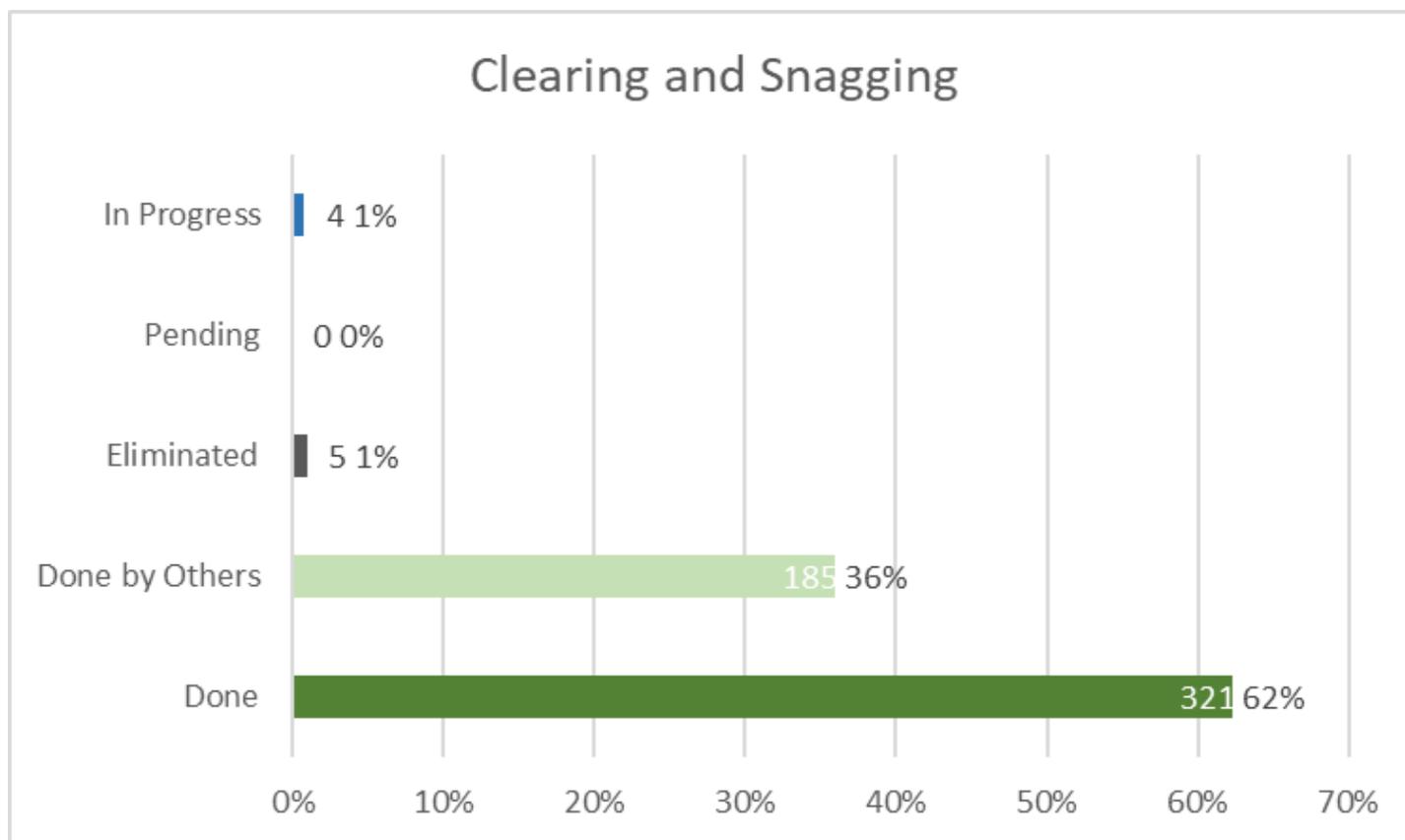
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Exigency Work Status



Clearing and Snagging

- **TOTAL 515**



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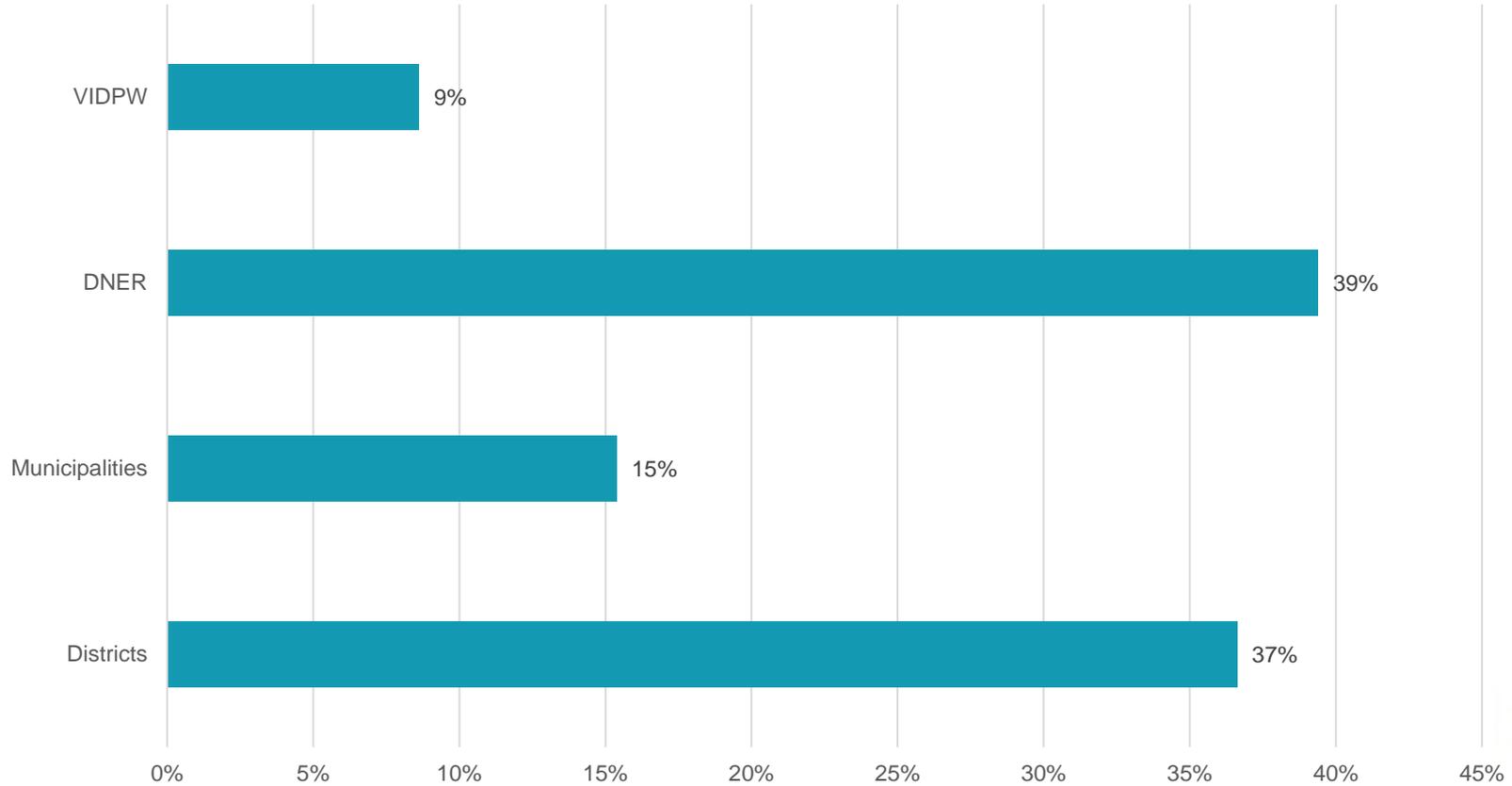
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Exigency Work Status



Sponsors



Irma/Maria Municipalities Served



Municipalities	No. of Sites
Adjuntas	13
Aguada	3
Aguadilla	10
Aguas Buenas	3
Aibonito	4
Añasco	23
Arecibo	3
Arroyo	3
Barceloneta	4
Barranquitas	17
Bayamón	4
Cabo Rojo	4
Caguas	3
Camuy	2
Canóvanas	6
Carolina	10
Cayey	4
Ceiba	2
Ciales	6
Cidra	4

Municipalities	No. of Sites
Coamo	17
Comerío	7
Corozal	15
Culebra	2
Dorado	2
Fajardo	4
Florida	3
Guánica	1
Guayanilla	4
Guaynabo	3
Gurabo	6
Hatillo	2
Hormigueros	4
Humacao	5
Isabela	2
Jayuya	21
Juana Díaz	14
Juncos	3
Lajas	4

Municipalities	No. of Sites
Lares	8
Las Marías	4
Las Piedras	4
Loíza	1
Luquillo	4
Manatí	3
Maricao	9
Maunabo	9
Mayagüez	5
Moca	7
Morovis	6
Naguabo	2
Naranjito	13
Orocovis	13
Patillas	4
Peñuelas	6
Ponce	8
Quebradillas	1
Rincón	3
Río Grande	6

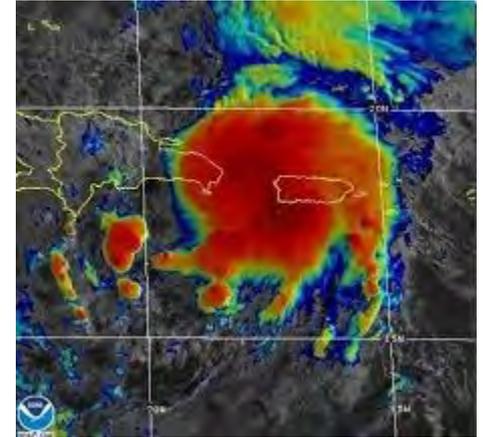
Municipalities	No. of Sites
Sabana Grande	3
San Germán	18
San Juan	7
San Lorenzo	4
San Sebastián	7
Santa Isabel	3
St. Croix	13
St. John	9
St. Thomas	11
Toa Alta	7
Toa Baja	9
Trujillo Alto	3
Utua	19
Vega Alta	5
Vega Baja	8
Vieques	5
Villalba	3
Yabucoa	2
Yauco	11



Approved Events

Isaias – Puerto Rico

- Sponsors presented sites - 10 were identified as eligible
 - 2 – Añasco – Municipality of Añasco
 - 6 - Cabo Rojo – Southwest District
 - 1 – Guánica – Southwest District
 - 1 - Yauco – Southwest District



USDA NRCS Caribbean Team:



Distritos de Conservación de Suelos



Distrito Oeste

- Isabela
- Aguadilla
- Aguada
- Rincón
- Moca
- Añasco
- Mayagüez

Distrito Caribe

- Peñuela
- Ponce
- Villalba
- Juana Díaz
- Coamo
- Santa Isabel
- Salinas

Distrito Cibuco

- Morovis
- Corozal
- Naranjito
- Comerio
- Barranquitas
- Orocovis
- Aibonito

Distrito Atlántico

- Quebradillas
- Camuy
- Hatillo
- Arecibo
- Barceloneta
- Florida
- Manatí
- Vega Baja
- Vega Alta
- Dorado
- Toa Alta
- Toa Baja

Distrito Este

Zona Norte

- Bayamón
- Cataño
- Guaynabo
- Río Piedras
- San Juan
- Trujillo Alto
- Carolina

Zona Este

- Culebra
- Loíza
- Río Grande
- Canóvanas
- Humacao
- Vieques
- Luquillo
- Fajardo
- Ceiba
- Naguabo

Distrito Suroeste

- Hormigueros
- San Germán
- Cabo Rojo
- Sabana Grande
- Guánica
- Yauco
- Guayanilla
- Lajas

Distrito Culebrina

- Lares
- Maricao
- Las Marías
- San Sebastián

Distrito Caonilla

- Utuado
- Adjunta
- Jayuya
- Ciales

Zona Oeste

- Las Piedras
- San Lorenzo
- Caguas
- Agua Buenas
- Cidra
- Cayey
- Gurabo
- Juncos

Zona Sur

- Guayama
- Arroyo
- Patillas
- Maunabo
- Yabucoa

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Exigency Work Status

Streambank Stabilization

TOTAL 127

- Done – 5
- Pending – 122
 - **To be completed in 2021**
- Permitting process discussions and assessments **completed**



Exigency Work Status

Dams

- **TOTAL 2**
 - Contract award for design of repairs and assessment
 - Daguey in Añasco - 1982
 - Ajies in Añasco –1985

Field data collection Completed

- **60% Design**
- **Dam Assessment**
to be completed early March





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New EWP



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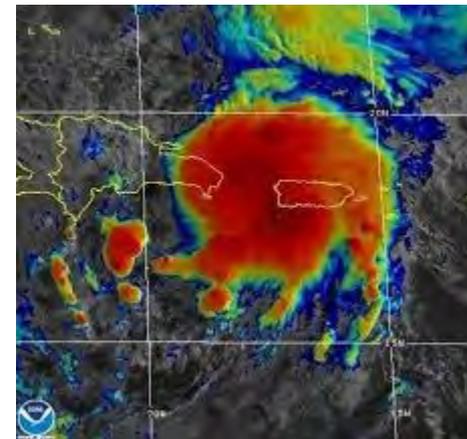
Approved Events

Dorian – USVI

- Letter from USVI DPW received
- 3 Sites Approved

Isaias – Puerto Rico

- Sponsor Assistance Letters
 - Municipality of Aguadilla
 - Municipality of Añasco
 - Municipality of Caguas
 - Caribe District
 - Southwest District
 - West District
- **DSRs to be uploaded for funding this week**





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QUESTIONS

12/08/2020



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Caribbean Area NCSS

2-16-2021 | Manuel Matos Rodriguez | State Technical Committee

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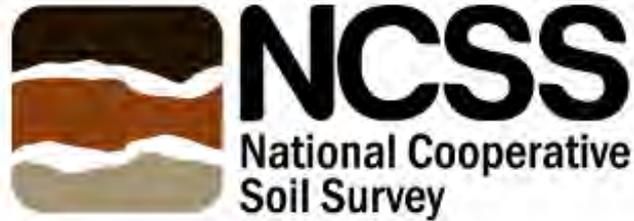
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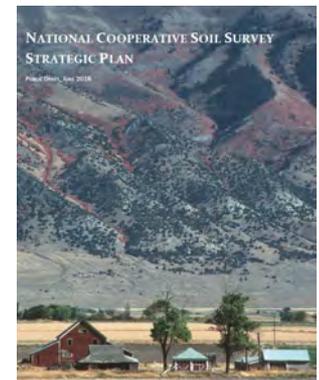
Outline

- **National Cooperative Soil Survey in the Caribbean Area**
- **Area and data we cover and manage**
- **NCSS priorities**





- **NCSS is a nationwide partnership of Federal, regional, State, and local agencies and private entities, since 1899**
- **Works cooperatively to investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate and publish information about soils**
- **The NCSS 10 year Strategic Plan Goals**
 - Communicate the importance of soils to the society
 - Increase the knowledge base for soils and ecosystems
 - Strengthen and expand collaboration
 - Ensure a critical mass of well-qualified scientist and technical specialist



https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/partnership/ncss/?cid=nracs142p2_053538



Caribbean Area Soil Surveys

4 Major Land Resources Areas

9 soil survey areas

2,305,951 acres (including other land acres and water)



Puerto Rico

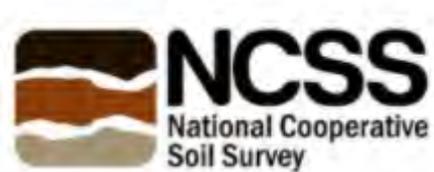


US Virgin Islands



Major Land Resource Areas

-  Humid Coastal Plains
-  Humid Mountains and Valleys
-  Semiarid Coastal Plains
-  Semiarid Mountains and Valleys



Caribbean Area Cooperative Soil Survey Priorities - Short - Mid - Long Term

- NCSS is a nationwide partnership of Federal, regional, State, and local agencies and private entities, since 1899
- Works cooperatively to investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate and publish information about soils
 - The NCSS 10 year Strategic Plan Goals
 - Communicate the importance of soils to the society
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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pr/soils/?cid=nrcseprd1653614>



NCSS Priorities

- 1-Development of Ecological Site Descriptions**
- 1-MLRA Map Unit Evaluation Projects**
- 1-Soil Education / Training for Communities**
- 1-Soil Health – Project-Sampling-Monitoring- Develop Management Systems**
- 1-Soil Survey Interpretations – Land Us and Productivity**

- 2-Urban Soil Survey**
- 2-Expansion of Coastal Zone Soil Survey**
- 2-Soil Survey Update of Northern Puerto Rico and Mona Island Karst**
- 2-Work Beyond the NRCS Caribbean Area Islands**





Annual Data Refresh of Soil Survey Database

- Soil Survey Projects need to be completed by April 30, 2021
- The entire official soil survey database was refreshed July 1, 2021.
- Both Tabular and Spatial need to be refresh for 8 soil survey areas.
- You could access the data by visiting [Web Soil Survey \(WSS\)](#) or [Soil Data Access \(SDA\)](#)

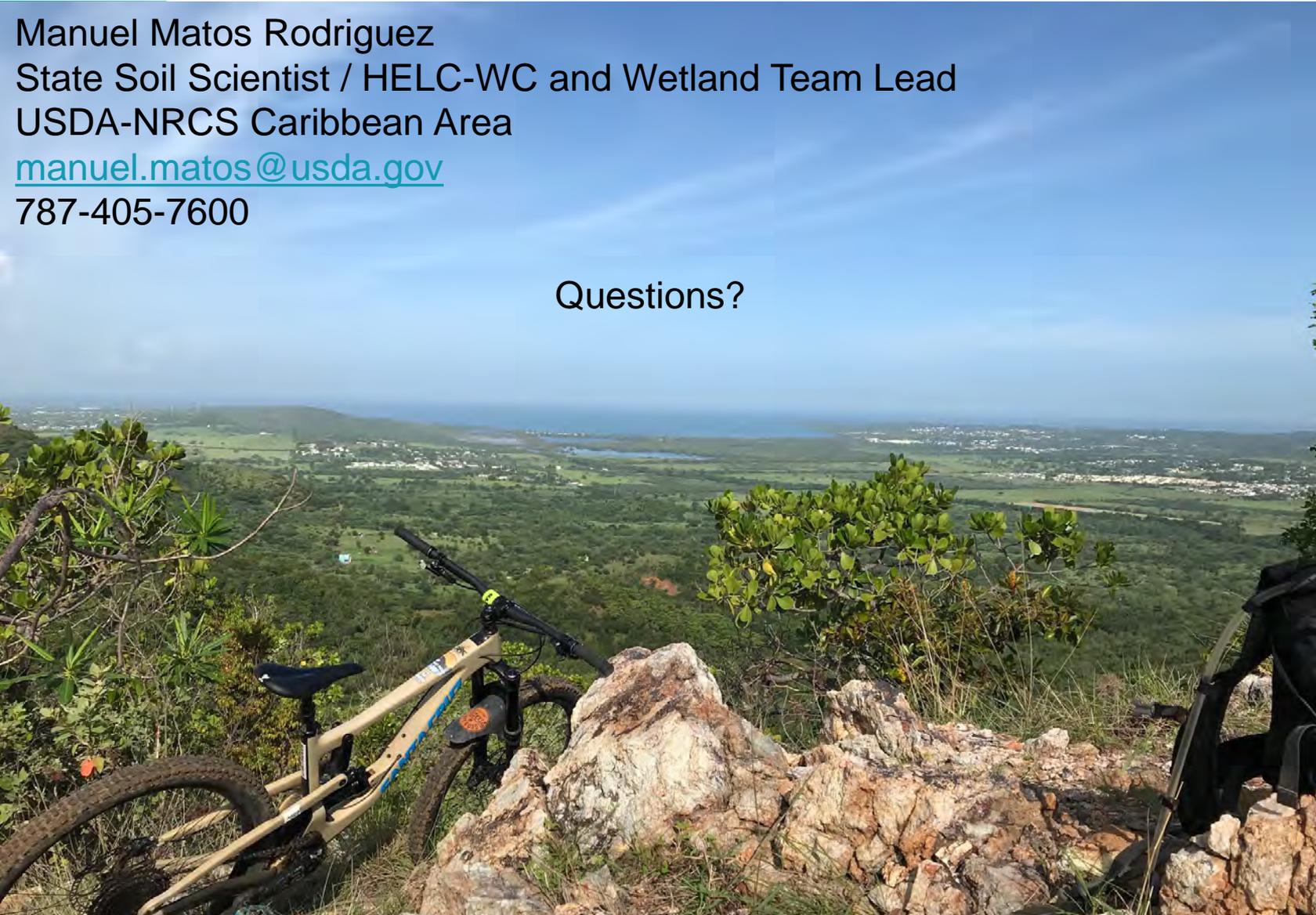




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Manuel Matos Rodriguez
State Soil Scientist / HELC-WC and Wetland Team Lead
USDA-NRCS Caribbean Area
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787-405-7600

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Ileana Curbelo, Puerto Rico NRCS BFR Coordinator

National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program

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USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher (BFR) Program

- 2018 FARM BILL
- NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
 - Sarah Campbell (DC)
- PUERTO RICO STATE COORDINATOR:
 - NRCS – Ileana Curbelo
- PUERTO RICO CHAMPIONS TEAM:
 - FSA – Alba Rivera
 - RD: Edgardo Pérez



Role of State Coordinators & Champions



Recruit

Retain

Support





**NOT the
Role of State
Coordinators &
Champions**

USDA Expert

Ag Consultant

Operation Success

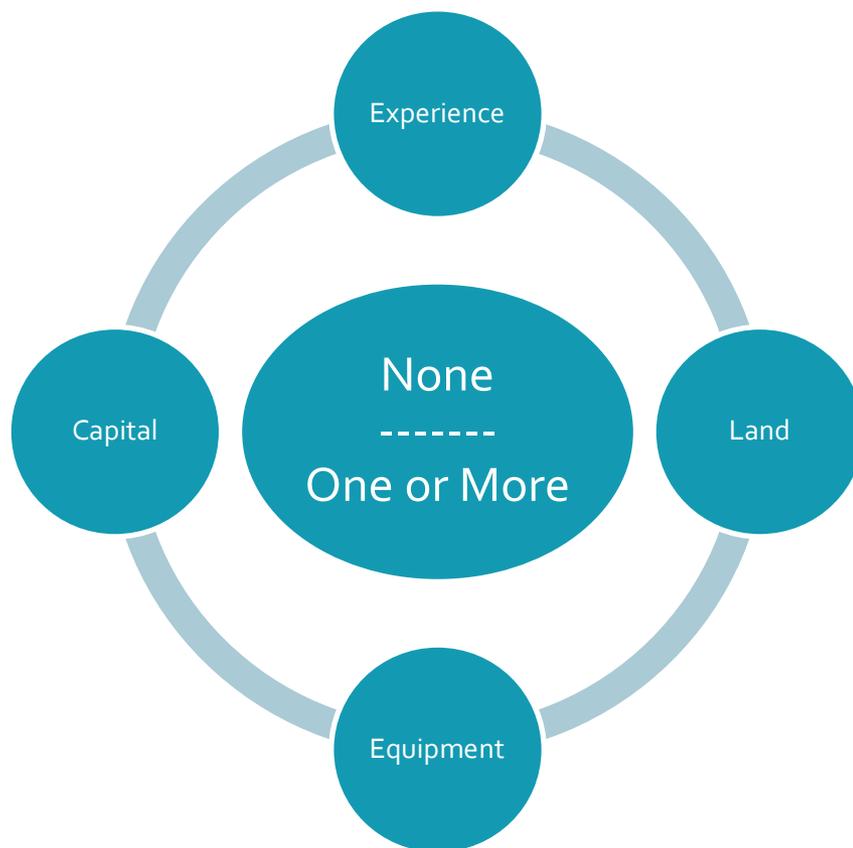


Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

USDA considers anyone who has operated a farm or ranch for less than ten years to be a beginning farmer or rancher.



Types of Beginning Farmers and Ranchers



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USDA's Ongoing Support





FY 2021 Puerto Rico Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Plan

Objectives:

- Provide a framework to assist Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (BFR) in Puerto Rico in accessing programs and services of USDA eliminating participation barriers.
- Improve coordination, delivery and efficiency of the programs taking into consideration the agricultural producers needs regardless of the types of production, size, or location.



Puerto Rico Beginning Farmer Demographics

(2017 Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture)

- 8,230 Farm Operators in Puerto Rico
- 2,243 (27.3%) are Beginning Farmers/ Ranchers (BFR)
- 71% of BFR farms are < 48.5 acres (50 cuerdas)
- 61% BRF are Owners (full or partial)
- 39% BFR are Rented
- 87.2 % BFR farmers \geq 35 years old
- 12.8 % BFR farmers < 35 years old
- For 53.4% of BFR farmers, Ag is their primary occupation



PR Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Plan

FY 2021 Goals:

- NRCS/FSA/RD :Increase # of BFRs served and the usage of Receipt for Service among USDA employees to improve BFRs customer service tracking
- NRCS: Increase EQIP obligation for BFRs from 7% to 10% and achieve 1% in CSP.
- FSA: Exceed the PR Farm Loan Programs goal of 49.2% by 1 to 2% and increase NAP enrollment from 5% to 7% BFRs.
- RD: Increase BFRs participation to 2% in Rural Energy for America Program and Value Added Producer's Grants.



PR Beginning Farmer Outreach Plan

Actions:

- Inform all USDA staff in PR about BFR plan
- Participate in outreach events (fairs, workshops, etc.)
- Share info with local farmer groups
- Advertise programs through traditional & social media
- Incorporate BFR materials, info at all agency outreach events



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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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12/08/2019



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USDA NRCS Caribbean Area CIG Priorities for FY 2021

Feb 2021 - Mario Rodriguez, *State Resource Conservationist*

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Legislative Authority

- The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program is authorized as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-8).
- The Secretary of Agriculture delegated the authority for the administration of EQIP, including CIG, to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who is Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).
- EQIP is funded and administered by NRCS under the authorities of CCC



Overview

- The purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production.
- CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) to agricultural producers, into NRCS technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector.



Overview

- CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research.
- On-farm conservation research is defined as an investigation conducted to answer a specific applied conservation question using a statistically valid design while employing farm-scale equipment on farms, ranches or private forest lands



Innovative Conservation Projects or Activities

CIG funds the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of:

- Approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption, including market-based and conservation finance approaches; and
- Conservation technologies, practices, and systems.



Projects or activities under CI-G must comply with;

- Use a technology or approach that was studied sufficiently to indicate a high probability for success;
- Demonstrate, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness, utility, affordability, and usability of natural resource conservation technologies and approaches in the field;
- Adapt and transfer conservation technologies, management, practices, systems, approaches, and incentive systems to improve performance and encourage adoption;
- Introduce proven conservation technologies and approaches to a geographic area or agricultural sector where that technology or approach is not currently in use.



CIG Priorities for FY 2021

- Soil Health
- Erosion Management on Steep Land
- Nutrient and Pest Management
- Wildlife Habitat Degradation
- Technology Transfer to increase adoption
- Urban Conservation Assessments Validations



Applicant Eligibility

- All non-Federal entities (NFE) and individuals, with the exception of Federal agencies, are eligible to apply for projects carried out in the USDA NRCS Caribbean Area: Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
- Individuals and entities may submit more than one application and may receive more than one award.





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Technical Subcommittee

Monday, February 22, 2021

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Specialized Subcommittees of State Technical Committees

- Specialized subcommittees composed of State Technical Committee members may be needed to analyze and refine specific issues.
- The State Conservationist may assemble certain committee members, including members of local working groups and other experts to discuss, examine, and focus on a particular technical or programmatic topic, or combination of such.



Specialized Subcommittees of State Technical Committees

- Specialized subcommittees are open to the public and may seek public participation, but they are not required to do so.
- Recommendations of specialized subcommittees will be presented in general sessions of State Technical Committees, where the public is notified and invited to attend.



Specialized Subcommittees of State Technical Committees

- **State Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee**
 - Provide recommendations to the State Technical Committee on forestry and wildlife conservation practices and payment rates to be supported in conservation programs.
- **Priority Watershed Subcommittee**
 - Recommend priority watersheds for focusing funding for effective use of available resources.
- **Technology Subcommittee**
 - Provide recommendations to the State Technical Committee on conservation technology, validation, practices criteria reviews and guidelines to be reinforced in conservation planning.



Meeting Schedule

- The subcommittee meetings may be held at the discretion of the Subcommittee chair or NRCS POC.
- The subcommittee is prone to work a subcommittee goals for the short and long term to be presented to at the State Technical Committee
- The subcommittee presents its products and updates on each State Technical Committee Meeting
- The State Conservationist will call a meeting whenever he or she believes that there is business that should be brought before the committee for action.





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Technology Subcommittee Update



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Technology Subcommittee

- First Meeting will be on **February 19 @ 2pm throughout MS Teams**
- Will be focusing on;
 - Choosing a Chair and Co-Chair
 - Discussing NRCS Needs
 - Determining short and long term goals



Technology Subcommittee Short-term goals

- Review and provide feedback and recommendations for documentation (Standards, Specifications, Implementation Requirements) for the ESD and CED conservation practices.
- Provide technical information and technical assistance to the Caribbean Area Agronomist in terms of focus areas, plant material needs, new conservation practices to be adopted and special initiatives, etc
- Plant Material Species to be used in Conservation Covers, Cover Crops, Critical Area Planting and other practices related to the Agronomy Discipline.
- Evaluate innovative agriculture production systems that take into account the reduction of environmental impact and climate change



Technology Subcommittee Short-term goals

- Provide technical information and technical assistance to the Caribbean Area Biologist in terms of focus areas, **species of concern**, new conservation practices to be adopted and special initiatives, etc
- Provide support in understanding the local conservation practices permitting requirements based on current policy.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations for the current tools used.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations for documentation of all conservation practices related to the Biology and Aquatic Ecologist disciplines.
- Caribbean version of the Pollinator Assessment tool to be available for NRCS planner.





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Para radicar una querrela por discrimen escriba al USDA, Director Oficina de Derechos Civiles, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 o llame libre de cargos al (800) 795-3272 (voz) o al (202) 720-6382 (TDD)

