



United States Department of Agriculture



# State Technical Committee

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



United States Department of Agriculture



Caribbean Area



PUERTO RICO

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# State Technical Committee; EWP Update

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

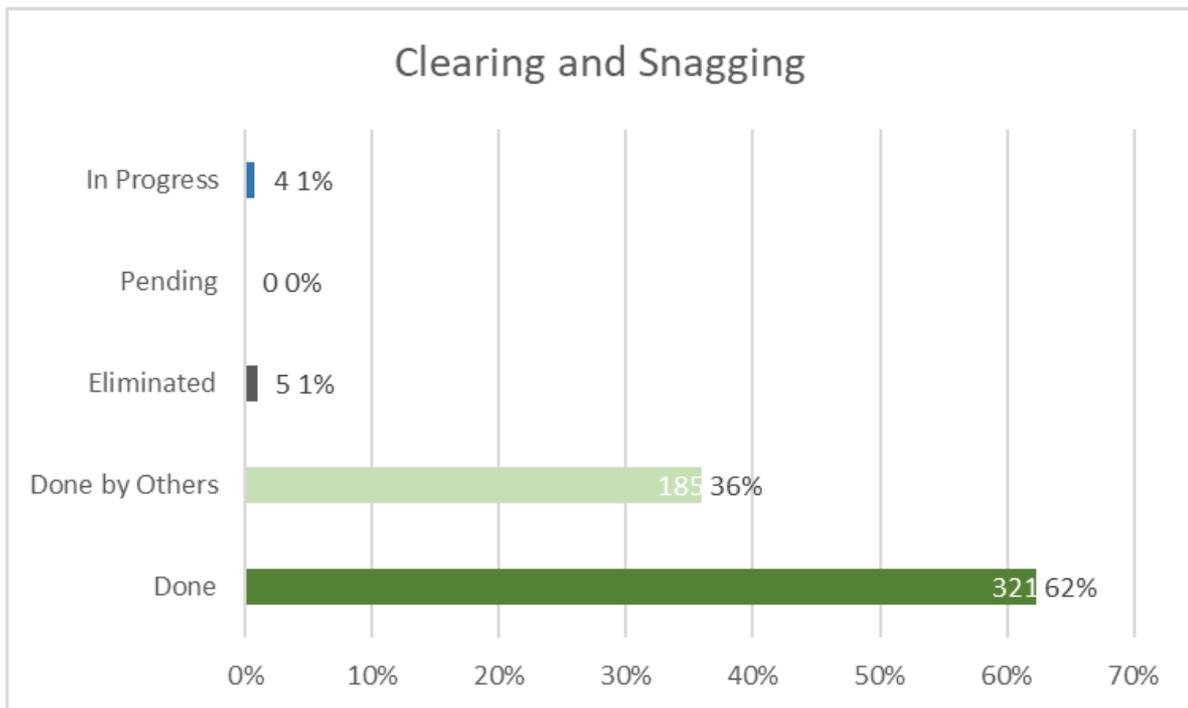
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Exigency Work Status



## Clearing and Snagging



Island	No. of Sites
St. Croix	13
St. John	9
St. Thomas	11



# Last 2 sites in USVI

## Completed thanks to our partners:

- **STJ-201 – St John –Calabash Housing – Calabash Boom**

Sharon Coldren

President

**Coral Bay Community Council**



## Last 2 sites in USVI

### Completed thanks to our partners:

- **STC-201 – St Croix – Salt River Northshore Scenic Road**

Kristen Ewen

Biological Science Technician

**National Park 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





United States Department of Agriculture



Caribbean Area

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



New EWP

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Approved Events

## Dorian – USVI

- Letter from USVI DPW received
- 3 Sites **Approved**

### – Next steps

Meeting with sponsor DPW next week





United States Department of Agriculture



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# QUESTIONS

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# Caribbean Area NCSS

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

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

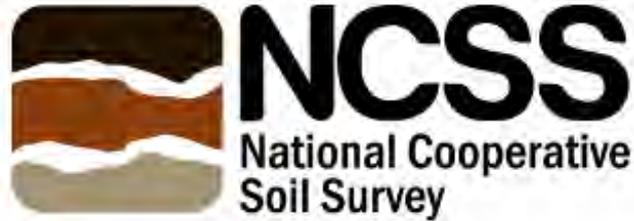
[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



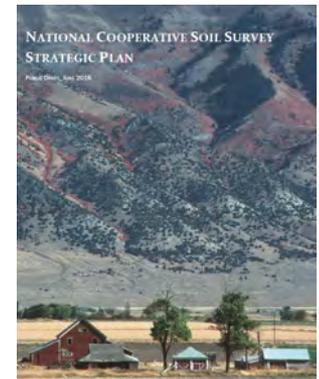
# Outline

- **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](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

22

Responses

06:31

Average time to complete

Active

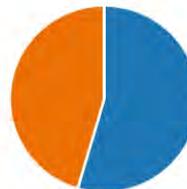
Status



1. MLRA Map Unit Evaluation Projects - Continue with the evaluation of soil survey map units (mu's) to create a consistent soil survey database. Elevate all Caribbean Area mu's tabular data to the same quality level.

[More Details](#)

- Priority 1—Urgent and import... 12
- Priority 2—Not urgent but im... 10
- Priority 3—Urgent but not im... 0
- Priority 4—Not urgent and no... 0



# 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 Use 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 \(SDA\)](#)

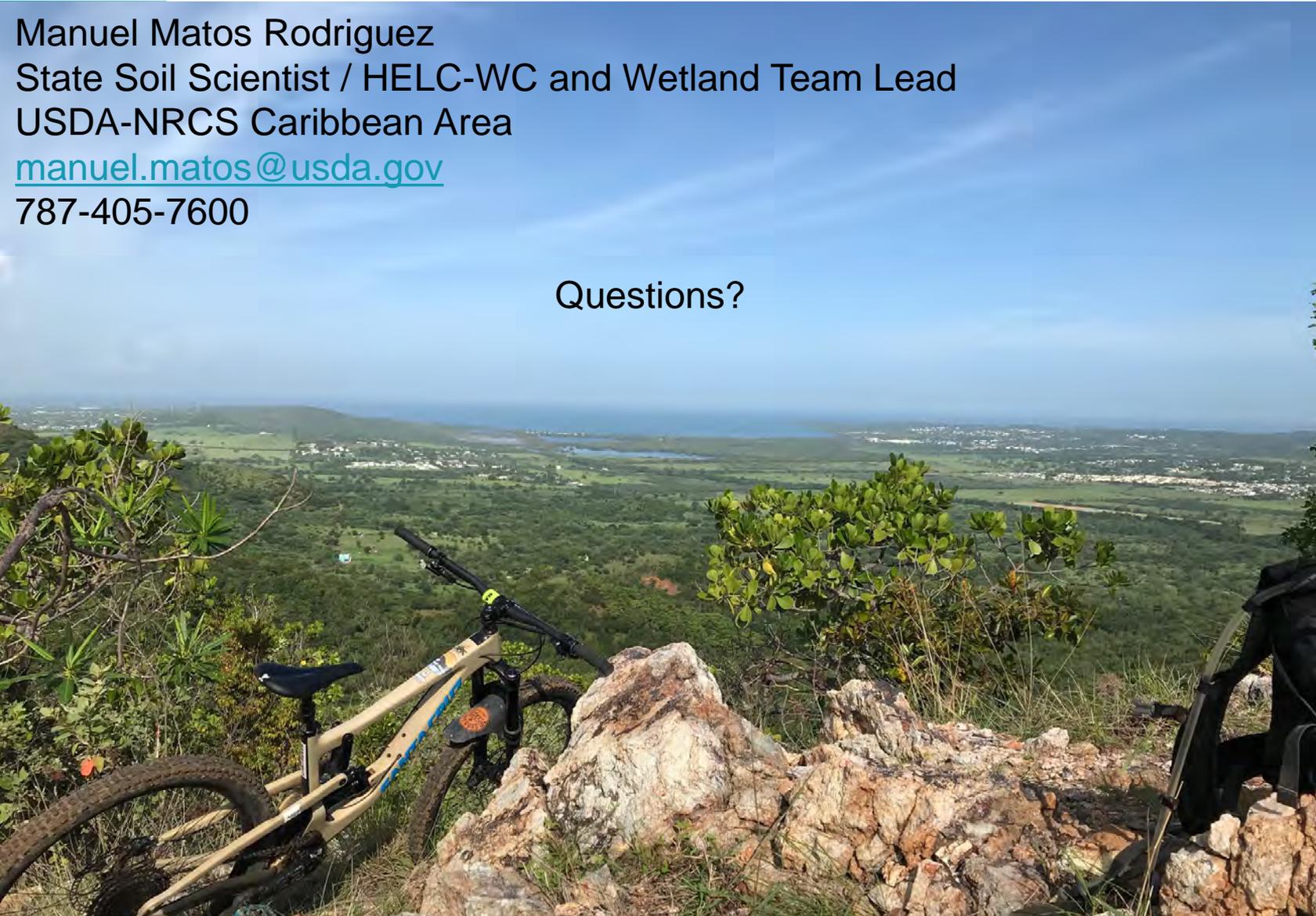




United States Department of Agriculture

Manuel Matos Rodriguez  
State Soil Scientist / HELC-WC and Wetland Team Lead  
USDA-NRCS Caribbean Area  
[manuel.matos@usda.gov](mailto:manuel.matos@usda.gov)  
787-405-7600

Questions?



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



United States Department of Agriculture



# National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program

**Julie Wright, USVI NRCS BFR Champion**

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov)

# USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher (BFR) Program

- **2018 FARM BILL**
- **NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**
  - Sarah Campbell (DC)
- **USVI STATE COORDINATOR:**
  - Katrina Moseley (RD-FL)
- **USVI CHAMPIONS TEAM:**
  - FSA – Janet Wright (FL)
  - NRCS – Julie Wright (VI)
  - RMA: Jon Deal (GA)



## Role of State Coordinators & Champions

A horizontal row of seven stylized water droplets in a light orange color, positioned at the top of the slide.

Recruit

Retain

Support

A small, stylized water droplet icon in blue and green, located in the bottom left corner of the slide.

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

A horizontal row of seven stylized water drop icons, each with a light blue outline and a light blue fill, positioned at the top of the slide.

**USDA Expert**

**Ag Consultant**

**Operation  
Success**

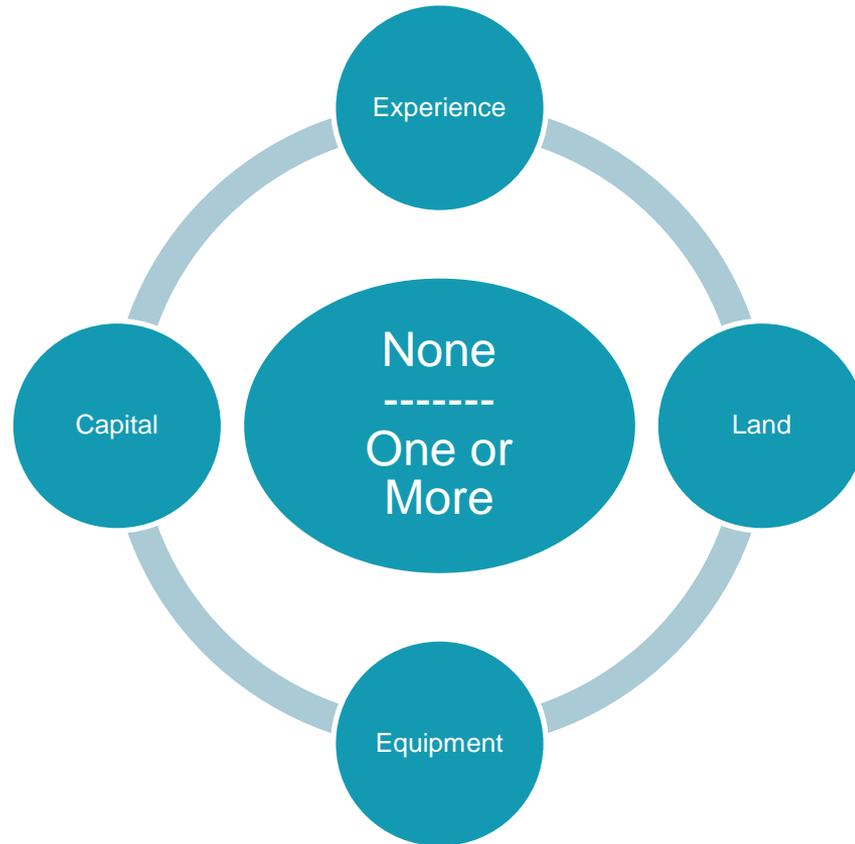
## Beginning Farmers and Ranchers



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



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



# USDA's Ongoing Support



# USVI Beginning Farmer Demographics

- 565 Ag Producers in USVI
- 195 (34.5%) are Beginning Farmers/ Ranchers (BFR)
- 63% of BFR farms are < 3 acres
- 75% BFR farmers > 45 years old
- 5% BFR farmers < 35 years old
- For 65% of BFR farmers, Ag is their primary occupation



# USVI Beginning Farmer Outreach Plan

## Actions:

- Inform all USDA staff in USVI 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



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



# USVI Beginning Farmer Outreach Plan

## FY 2021 Objectives:

- Increase # of BFR farmers served from 38 to 42
- Reach 50 BFRs through targeted outreach
- FSA: increase microloans to BFRs by 2%
- FSA: increase NAP enrollment to 12% BFRs
- NRCS: Increase USVI EQIP allocation for BFRs to 35%
- RD: solicit at least 1 VAPG application from a BFR
- RMA: increase # of inquiries about RMA insurance





United States Department of Agriculture

# QUESTIONS



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov)

12/08/2019



United States Department of Agriculture



# USDA NRCS Caribbean Area CIG Priorities for FY 2021

Feb 2021 - Mario Rodriguez, *State Resource Conservationist*

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

## 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.





United States Department of Agriculture



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



Questions?

Thanks

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



United States Department of Agriculture



# Technical Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

## 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.





United States Department of Agriculture



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



Technology Subcommittee Update

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Technology Subcommittee

- First Meeting for USVI is **TBD**
- We are requesting more individuals interested in become peers for the Subcommittee
- On the first meeting, 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
- 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.





United States Department of Agriculture



# Questions?

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Igualdad de Oportunidades

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, USDA por sus siglas en Inglés, prohíbe el discrimen en todos sus programas y actividades por razones de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, incapacidad, y donde aplique, por razones de sexo, estado civil, estado familiar, estado parental, religión, orientación sexual, información genética, creencias políticas, represalias, o debido a que parte o la totalidad del ingreso individual se derive de cualquier programa público de asistencia. (No todas las razones prohibidas aplican a todos los programas). Personas con impedimentos las cuales requieran métodos alternos para la comunicación de programas (Braille, impresos con letras de mayor tamaño, audio cintas, etc.) deberán contactar el Centro Target del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TDD)

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)





# Non-Discrimination Statement



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

