

## SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# Micronesia

### Project Highlight: *Turning invasives and pests into cheap chicken feed*

Chicken farmers living on Micronesia's Yap Islands face high costs of imported feed, ranging from \$33 to \$44 per 50 pound bag. So researchers at the College of Micronesia wanted to find a local, alternative feed source. Looking around the area, they found abundant and unwanted resources that could be turned into nutritious feed: tilapia and land crabs.

Using a 2009 SARE grant, the researchers engaged three farmers, who each built three bamboo pens for 10 laying hens and compared locally-produced feed, conventional feed and a mixture of the two feeds. Results from the two-year study showed that chickens fed with the local feed produced two dozen fewer eggs on average, but because the feed is so inexpensive, it represents the most profitable option.

The local feed is composed of ground tilapia, land crab and copra, or dried coconut flesh. Tilapia is an invasive species, threatening mangrove and freshwater biodiversity on the island. The only way to eliminate the fish is to physically remove them from waterways. Land crabs are also unwanted on the island, and are considered a pest because they consume farm vegetation.

Because of the promising study results, in addition to local outreach and education completed by the research team, 15 people are now interested in starting a chicken farm. In addition to increasing farmers' profitability, more locally produced eggs will now be available to consumers in the region.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number FW09-312.

## SARE in Micronesia

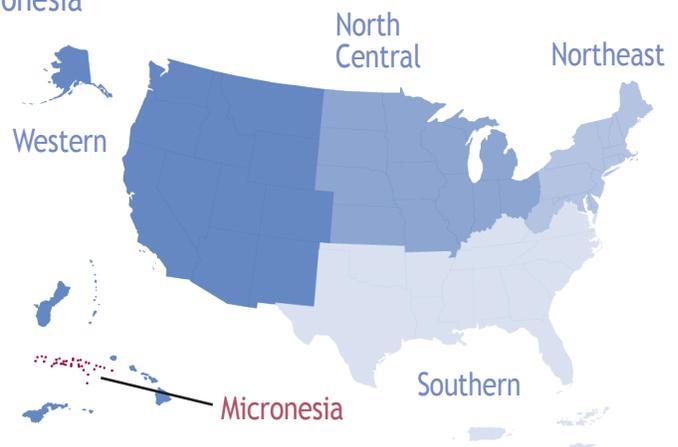
[www.westernsare.org/micronesia](http://www.westernsare.org/micronesia)

\$553,416 in total funding

17 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

## What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

### SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

### SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

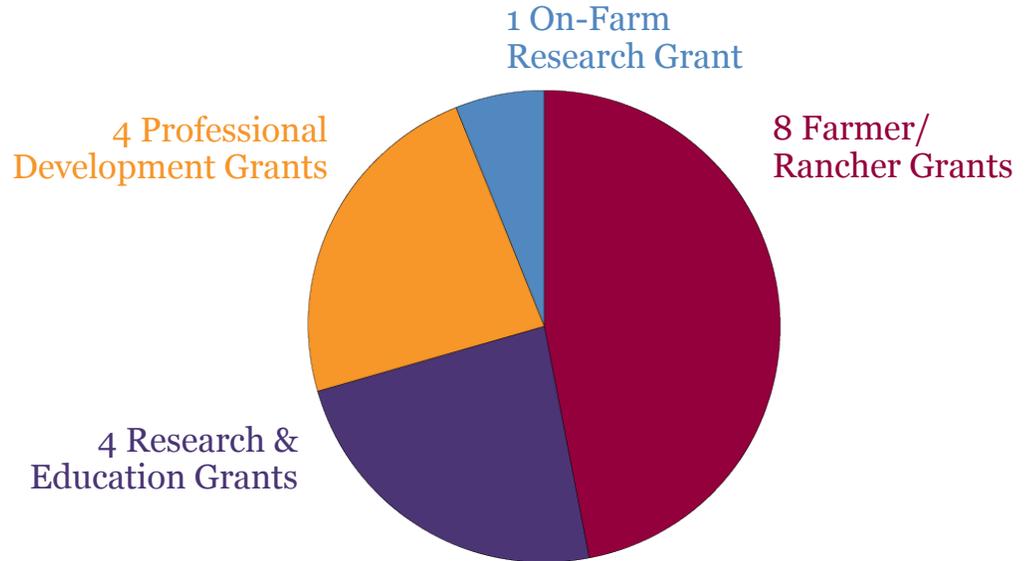


Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Micronesia

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**17 grants**  
in Micronesia  
since 1988



## SARE's Impact



**53 percent** of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

**79 percent** of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

**64 percent** of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

## Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit [www.westernsare.org/micronesia](http://www.westernsare.org/micronesia) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)