

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.



www.sare.org

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

U.S. Virgin Islands

Project Highlight: *Offering a direction to stronger ag, tourism*

Coordinators of a SARE-funded policy research project identified key strategies for creating stronger links between the territory's underdeveloped agriculture industry and tourism, its main industry.

The heads of the Departments of Agriculture and Tourism, as well as Gov. John de Jongh, Jr.—all of whom participated in the initiative—are eager to pursue the project's recommendations through policy decisions.

A survey of restaurant owners in the U.S. Virgin Islands found that nearly all would be willing to buy more local produce if marketing, infrastructure and ag policies were improved. Currently, 70 percent of restaurants purchase less than 10 percent of their food locally, the survey found.

Researchers determined that better

government policies are needed to help limited resource farmers improve their access to land, water and financial support. Officials also must place a stronger emphasis on organics and other sustainable growing techniques, increase marketing, and improve supply chains.

Project coordinators arrived at their recommendations after conducting surveys and organizing focus groups consisting of farmers, policy makers and members of the hospitality industry.

The project saw the launch of a pilot effort to connect local food producers with restaurants and hotels. The effort included publishing a directory of food suppliers and buyers in the hospitality industry.

For more information on this project, see www.sare.org/projects, and search for project number LSo4-163.

SARE in U.S. Virgin Islands

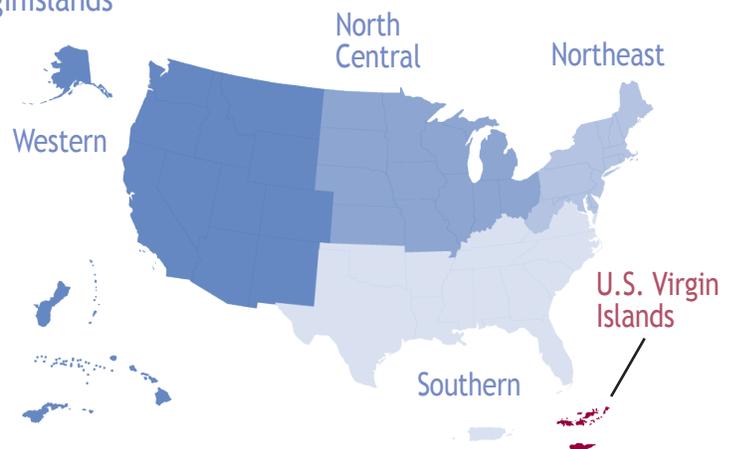
www.southernsare.org/virginislands

\$917,380 in total funding

7 grant projects

(since 1988)

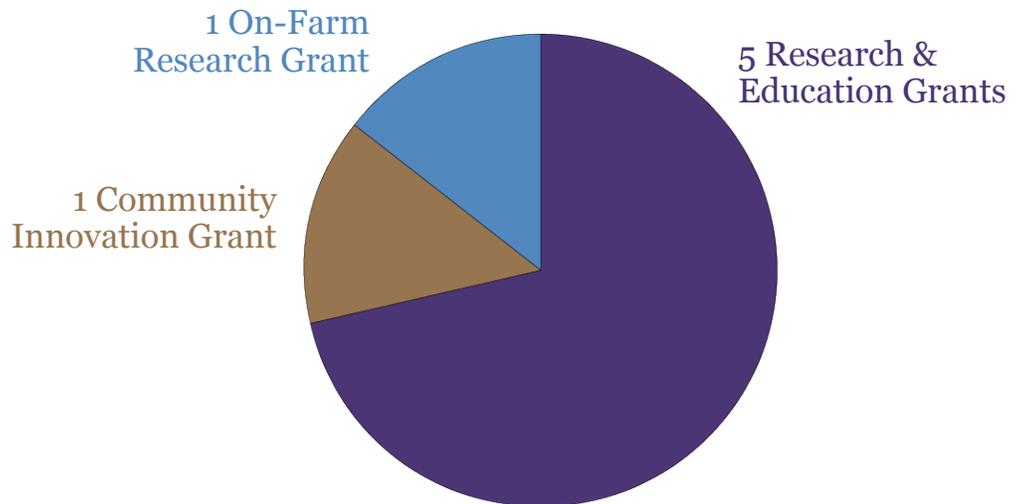
For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries



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

SARE Grants in U.S. Virgin Islands

SARE has awarded a total of **7 grants** in U.S. Virgin Islands 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.southernsare.org/virginislands to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to www.SARE.org