

Puerto Rico Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program

Project Organization



Corporación Juvenil para el Desarrollo de Comunidades Sostenibles



Project Partners



DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA



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2022-70033-38198

Anticipated Outcomes

1st phase - Experienced Agronomists and experts in farming and Agri-Entrepreneurship will train (theory and practical in-farms) 140 beginning farmers/ranchers in 6 cycles of 6 months each with the knowledge on sustainable production techniques, land and natural resources management, entrepreneurship, financial viability, value added crops, FSMA Law, marketing, branding, food safety and security, FDA compliance, etc. so they can formally start an agricultural project. 2nd phase - develop knowledge and tools to begin and establish a farm business. Produce viable economic crops that produce new business opportunities and income in their communities. 3rd phase - startup and managing an agricultural business. 56 participants will start farming. Universidad del Sagrado Corazón Certificates include (1) Good Manufacturing Practices for farmers/ranchers, (2) Management, Law and Regulations in farms, (3) Responsible Farming, (4) FSMA Law and, (5) Community and Urban Farming. 112 participants will complete at least 2 Certifications. In addition, 40% of participants will participate in Farmers Markets, 12 short educational videos of successful participants will be developed, 6 experienced farmers will act as mentors, and at least 42 farmers will implement sustainable farming practices.

Overall Goals

Increase the number of beginning farmers and ranchers by providing: (1) training (6-6 months cycles), (2) five Non-Traditional Agricultural Certificates by Universidad de Sagrado Corazón and, (3) outreach and technical assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers. They will be trained with business, management, production and marketing topics so they can be fully equipped with resources to own or lease a farm business operations enhancing their success and sustainability by providing them and their families with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to make informed decisions. Our already developed Agri-Business Development Guide as the main tool for the Agri-Training, over 10 Agronomists are part of our workshops and technical assistance team, participants will be at least 18 years old by the completion of the training and will be able to operate a farm. Our long term goal is to start replacing the 90% of food imports to the Island with local and nutritious products, make the Agri-Business Guide interactive and create a demonstrative Urban Farm at Universidad de Sagrado Corazón's campus.



Hydroponic and Traditional Farming Training in Demonstrative Farm

AgroEcological Practices Workshop in DestinyMio Farm



Animals and Pastures Management in La Sierra Farm