Organic Farming Academy

Overview
Wayne Nishijima
Organic Farming Academy

• Came about from a meeting between our Dean Andrew Hashimoto, Dean Okimoto (HFBF), and Sandy Kunimoto (HDOA)
  – Increasing demand for organic produce 17% in 2005, 30% world wide
  – World-wide interest in organic fruits and vegetables but also in organic flowers, landscapes, clothes, etc.
  – Whole Foods coming to town
  – Imported organic produce found to be infested with pests at a much higher rate than conventional production (KARA Sept 2000 to July 2001– 100% inspection during seven 3-4 week periods)
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Pest Infestation (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Organic</th>
<th>Conventional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artichoke</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage, green</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chard, green</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grape, black</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapefruit</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce, red</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion, green</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persimmon, Fuyu</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raspberry</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• Fortunately, Jody Smith was already involved in planning for a future organic farming classes.
• My role: Provided funding and guidance and the occasional “encouragement” along the way
• HDOA also contributed to funding and HFBF will be asked if we run short of funds
• Dr. Hector Valenzuela, PI
  – Assisted by Jody Smith
  – Required buy-in from local on-site county agents
  – A real team effort involving faculty & staff from three CTAHR departments, HOFA, HICOF, local organic farm suppliers, local organic farmers
• Budget of about $25,000 to carry this out. Most for travel expenses.
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Typical Curriculum

DAY 1

• 8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome!** Dr. Wayne Nishijima

• 8:45 – 10:00 **Introduction to Organic Production**
  *Nutritional Quality and Crop Flavor* Dr.
  Hector Valenzuela, Dr. Ted Radovich

• 10:00 – 10:30 BREAK **Product Demonstrations**

• 10:30 – 11:00 **Organic Certification and Transitioning to Organic**
  Kelly Lange, HOFA

• 11:00 – 12:00 **Enhanced Biodiversity and Pest Management through Improved Soil Management and Fertility**
  Dr. Jonathan Deenik, Local Farmer Presenter
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Typical Curriculum

DAY 1

• 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

• 1:00 – 2:30 **Utilizing Organic Amendments & Cover Crops to Promote Soil Fertility and Minimize Soil Borne Diseases** Dr. Jonathan Deenik, Local Farmer Presenter

• 2:30 – 3:00 **BREAK** Al Santoro, HICOF

• 3:00 – 4:30 **Organic Approaches to Pest Control – Pathogens, Insects** Dr. Nelson/Dr. Ooka, Dr. Wright/Dr. Messing Local Farmer Presenter
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Typical Curriculum

Day 2

8:30 – 9:30  Organic Approaches to Pest Control – Weeds
             Dr. Ted Radovich Chuck Boerner

9:30 – 10:00  Experiences at Ono Organic Farms, Maui
               Chuck Boerner

10:00 - 10:30  BREAK   Product Demonstrations

10:30 – 12:00  Putting Together a Business Plan  Dr. Linda Cox,
                Chuck Boerner

12:00 – 1:00  WORKING LUNCH: Summary, Outlook and
               Future Perspectives  Dr. Hector Valenzuela

1:00 – 4:30  Tour Local Organic Farm Presentations by
             Local Farmers  Chuck Boerner
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Schedule

- Oahu: September 7 & 8, Leeward CC
- Maui: November 16 & 17, Waikapu & MCC
- Hawaii: Nov. 30 & Dec 1, Kealakekua
- Moloka‘i: January 11 & 12, 2007, DHHL
- Kaua‘i: January 18 & 19, 2007, TBA
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• Learning Points
  – Travel most costly
  – Requires a lot of time and coordination
  – Valuable to include local organic farmers
  – Need buy in from local staff for local coordination
  – Local information is most useful and wanted in the presentations
  – Dedicated and capable PI essential
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• Learning Points
  – Conduct evaluations at each site
    • Information used to improve subsequent presentations.
    • Evaluations have been very good; many requests for more training
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• What next?
  – I personally would like this effort to continue with advanced, more specific topics.
  – 2 to 4 hour sessions.
  – Interest in ADSC producing organic seeds of local varieties.