New Farmer: Agriculture for the Guam’s Next Generation
Pressing Issues

- Recently 1,000+ New Chamorro Land Trust Commission Agriculture Leases
  - Many with no ag experience and on shallow soils, over water lens.
  - Extreme limited resources.
  - Many weekend warriors.
    - Agro-forestry may be good match

- Loss of Technical Personnel Supporting AG.
  - Multi-agency issue so cross-training and partnerships
Collaborating Organizations

- Guam Cooperative Extension Service
- Guam Department of Agriculture
- Guam Department of Corrections
- Chamorro Land Trust
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
A Farm is Like a Castle
It is a Form of Multi-Generational Wealth.

- New farmers are at a competitive disadvantage
  - Infrastructure, skills, money
- Unlike many we chose to focus on the conservation foundation of the farm.
- Two reasons philosophical and economic.
  - Protecting the farms resources will enable sustainability.
  - Best way to “Farm the Government Programs” to kick start second year.
Train the Trainer
Pilot Program with Inmates and

- Developed materials and the pilot program with
  - DoC Inmate Volunteers,
  - DoAG field staff &
  - Americorps volunteers.
- Increase the base of technical knowledge available to support new farmers.
  - DoAg staff have already held trainings on composting and mulching more to come.
- Established long term demonstrations for future new farmer trainings
  - Mangilao Organic Demonstration Farm
  - Dededo Livestock Breeding Facility
Spin off - Conservation Innovation Grant - Issues

- Shallow soils over permeable limestone with limited water holding capacity that are highly susceptible to erosion.
- Risks of point source pollution, from livestock operations, to the single fragile water lens.
- Frequent high wind speeds and severe tropical storms that damage farm products and infrastructure.
- Promote EQIP program (best deal going)
Shallow soils over permeable limestone with limited water holding capacity.

- Solution: Water Catchments
Risks of point source pollution, from livestock operations, to the single fragile water lens.

- Solution: Dry Litter Systems
Frequent high wind speeds and tropical storms that damage farm products and infrastructure.

- Farmer reluctance to adopt windbreaks
- Solution: Multi-purpose windbreaks that provide economic products in addition to wind protection.
Spin Off - Sanctuary Inc. Youth Farmers

- ANA grant to provide agricultural entrepreneurship training to Youth at Risk
- Using Materials from New Farmer Program as core resources.
- Developing Backyard (test the water) Enterprises.
- Increase youth awareness of potential of agriculture enterprises to earn money.
New Farmer: Agriculture for the Next Generation

- New Program in Guam Cooperative Extension 5 yr. Plan of Work
- Formally sharing technical with partner agencies to address the needs of new farmers.
- Linked to Guam’s Sustainable Agriculture efforts.
- [http://guamsustainableag.org](http://guamsustainableag.org)
- Will continue the New Farmer effort started with this program. Thanks Hawaii