

Undergraduate and graduate student professional development and training at the University of the Virgin Islands

Joint SAAESD and S-APS Meeting
Sept 7-8, 2016
Atlanta, GA



Background

- Lack of an academic program in agriculture at UVI
- Land Grant components
 - AES
 - CES
- AES Research programs (2.6 FTE in Research)
 - Animal Science
 - Biotechnology & Agroforestry
 - Forage Agronomy
 - Horticulture & Aquaculture



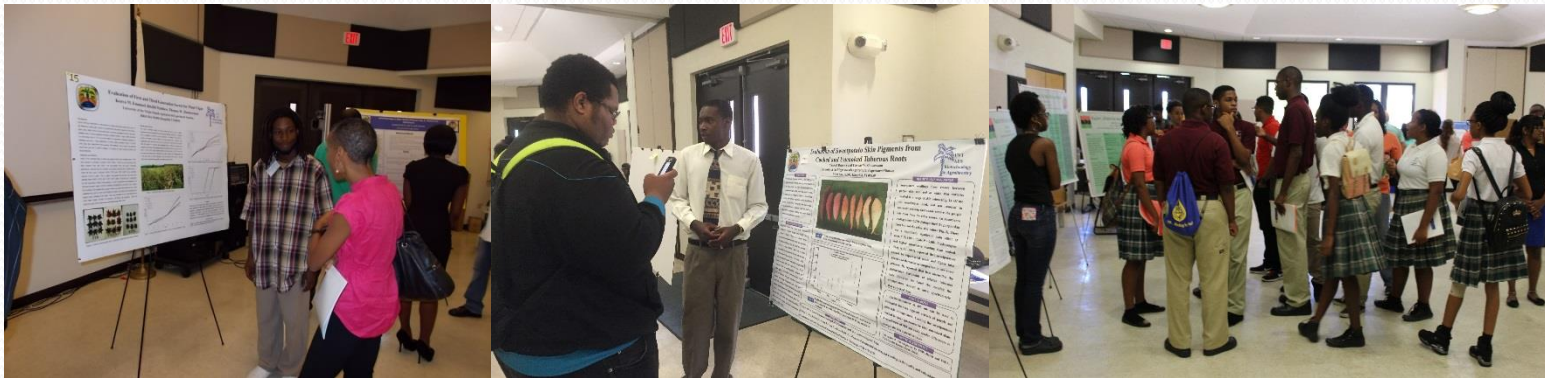
Undergraduate Student Support

- USDA-NIFA Resident Instruction Grants Program for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas (RIIA) since 2005
- Over 25 students have been supported, some for multiple semesters
- Faculty mentor provided training on the technical aspects of the research such as hypothesis development, experimental design, data collection and data analysis



Undergraduate Student Support

- Projects complemented ongoing Hatch or other grant funded projects
- Students wrote reports and prepared abstracts for submission
- Students presented results at local, regional, national and international conferences
- Funds sponsored UVI Research Day (recruit high school students)



Ag Degree options for UVI Students

- Not offered in-house
- Developing MOUs to provide options for our students
- Exploring ways to utilize limited resources but still expand student opportunities



3 + 2 Program

- MOU with Tennessee State University College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences
- 3 years at UVI, 76 credits
- 2 years at TSU, 60 credits
- Bachelor of Science degree from UVI and a Bachelor of Science degree from TSU
- Student shall complete the requirements for the Agricultural Sciences degree and the appropriate concentration/track at TSU



TSU Agricultural Science degrees

- Agricultural Sciences with a Concentration in:
 - Animal and Food Science
 - Animal and Food Science/Pre-Vet
 - Agricultural Biotechnology
 - Agricultural Business
 - Agricultural Education
 - Environmental Science



Benefits

- Students can still work in AES labs while at UVI and then finish up at TSU
- Allows UVI students access to an ag degree without having to develop a new degree program from the ground up
- Enlightened UVI central administration as to the amount of resources that are required to offer an agriculture degree



M.S. and Certificate Programs

- MOU with University of Florida IFAS-CALS
- Agroecology program - Agronomy Department and the Soil and Water Science Department
- M.S. concentration and two graduate certificates
 - Ph.D. concentration will be available in Spring 2017
- Initially UF Certificate students will come to UVI to conduct research with the AES Agronomy program, and others as appropriate (Horticulture, Aquaculture, Biotechnology, Animal Science)



Masters Concentration

- M.S. Agroecology concentration at UF trains students in agriculture through the application of ecological concepts and principles to design, develop and manage sustainable agricultural systems.
- The concentration will give students the flexibility to study from anywhere in the world to earn a graduate degree from the University of Florida.
- Core courses include topics in global agroecosystems, crop ecology, ecophysiology and principles of soils science.
- Electives include topics in broad disciplines related to sustainable production and natural resource conservation.



Certificate Program

- Two options:
 - Sustainable Agroecosystems
 - Global Agroecology
- Research projects at partner institutions
- International internship requirement (Global option)
 - Australia, Brazil, France, United Kingdom
- During the application process, choices are discussed with the applicant, as well as added expenses incurred by the student for the internship abroad experience.
- Partner Institution offerings include variables such as growing and harvest seasons, mentor availability, campus housing for interns, research goals, the student's schedule, and more.

Certificate Program

- Benefits:
 - Accredited
 - Transcript and resume builder
 - Online or resident delivery options available
 - GRE not required
 - Courses can qualify to transfer into M.S. thesis or Ph.D. degree programs

Benefits

- Provides opportunities for students to conduct sustainable agriculture research in a tropical environment
- Focus on research activities while at UVI and focus on classes while at UF
- Can expand opportunities for UVI students to attend UF through the program
- Adds to options for UVI students interested in agriculture
 - Certificates as well as M.S. and Ph.D. degree



Questions?

