



## Sustainable Agriculture: Ensuring Food Security – Fruit Tree Vegetable Garden Rings

The For the Sustainable Agriculture Plan of Work's Ensure Food Security initiative, Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) professionals identified "fruit tree vegetable garden rings" for a programmatic team focus. Fruit tree vegetable garden rings combine several permaculture concepts; plant guilds, sheet mulching and filter strips, to care for fruit trees during their establishment period with minimum labor. The mulched vegetable garden ring creates a mini ecosystem that ensures an ideal growing environment for a fruit tree and quick vegetable harvests.

The program established demonstration fruit tree vegetable garden rings in villages, using agriculture paraprofessionals in the Chamorro Land Trust Commission (CLTC) and AmeriCorps, during subsistence production workshops for food security. The workshops provided the AmeriCorps and CLTC paraprofessionals with the knowledge, hands on skills, and resources to promote these concepts to their programs' audiences. Using curriculum from the New and Veteran Farmer Program, this production package provides a low labor, limited resource method for food production. This micro forest-garden approach is an ideal way for CLTC Agents and AmeriCorps volunteers to promote increased subsistence production in a variety of island settings.

Leveraging agriculture para-professional volunteer trainees, the intent was to enhance CE&O's outreach on subsistence micro forest-gardens across the island. Several rings were established in early 2020 during workshops on campus and at the CLTC's Oka Point, Sagan Kotturan Chamoru sites of the Guahan Sustainable Culture and Haya Foundation. These volunteer-



maintained rings demonstrate the sustainability of this production method.

The advent of a worldwide pandemic has brought new focus and interest in subsistence production. While the pandemic has caused an interruption this program, the plan remains a part of UOG's sustainable agriculture efforts to increase Guam's food security.

***If you are interested in learning more about this program, reach out to our Extension Professionals below:***

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