



## Headway for Guam's Agriculture

Guam is traditionally highly dependent on imports from the continental U.S. to meet its demand for food. This involves high transportation and storage costs that make food supply more expensive for consumers. Local production is far from self-sufficient, owing to high fixed costs in setting up the supply chain and variable costs in hiring farm labor. However, in the post-pandemic era, it is important that Guam develops its own agriculture to make our food production more self-reliant and less vulnerable to interruptions of the food supply chain.

Our study identifies major challenges and opportunities faced by the agricultural community in Guam. We applied a mixed method approach in this case study: (i) individual surveys and (ii) focus group discussions. In November 2019, we recruited 15 participants comprised of producers, agricultural associations, and farm managers to learn about their farm operation, important factors affecting their operation and consideration of environmentally sustainable production, and social demographic in order to identify major challenges for the local agricultural industry. Our findings show that marketing, pests, and labor are the top three challenges for the local agricultural industry. This identifies farmers/producers' needs and propose implementable solutions that will facilitate the sustainable development of Guam agriculture.

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

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