

□ **CP-70**

**Caribbean pacific consortium: summer internship for promoting careers in agricultural fields for Puerto Rico and other US territories**

*Ángel A. Custodio*<sup>1</sup>, *Ángel L. González*<sup>2</sup> and *Gladys M. González*<sup>3</sup> *Associate Professor, Animal Science Department, 2Professor, Crops and Environmental Sciences Department, and 3Professor, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus* [angelluis.gonzalez@upr.edu](mailto:angelluis.gonzalez@upr.edu)

The 2009 Summer Internship of the Caribbean Pacific Consortium was organized by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico to receive seven (7) participants for four (4) weeks in June from American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Island, Northern Mariana Island and Palau. Each participating institution sent at least one student, except Guam that sent two participants. The group was diverse: two females and five males; five college students of agricultural sciences, an extension agent and a research assistant. The group had the opportunity to visit places of agricultural interest and places of cultural interest. Among the places of agricultural interest: six research centers of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico, the USDA Tropical Agricultural Research Station (TARS) in Isabela, Alzamora Farm, La Montaña Farm, laboratories of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and several agricultural businesses representing our agriculture. Among the places of cultural interest: Old San Juan, Ponce, Mayagüez, El Yunque, Hatillo Dairy Festival and others. The internship was evaluated on seven items using a 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent) scale. Overall, participants scored the experience as very good, and commented that they are committed to implement in their countries technologies observed in Puerto Rico. In summer 2010, the internship will be held in Puerto Rico for the third consecutive year, thereafter in one of the US Pacific Territories.

□