

CFCS 2026 Schedule

Monday, July 13

8:00 am – Pick up from hotels

8:30 am – Registration
Room: NWW 102,103

9:30 am – 10:30 am – Opening Ceremony
Room: Great Hall

10:30 am – 10:45 am – **Break**
Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

10:45 am - 11:30 am – Keynote Speaker
Room: Great Hall

11:30 am – 12:00 pm – Poster Setup
Room: NWW 102,103

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - Lunch
Room: REC and CFCS Tent

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm – **#1 Technical Session – CFCS**
Room: Great Hall

Theme #1: Horticulture

Moderator: Dr. Lillieth Clarke-Sinclair

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm – ‘PURPLE RAIN’: A SWEETPOTATO INNOVATION.
Thomas W. Zimmerman, Raheem Smart, Daryl A. Richards Jr., Imhotep R. Charles. UVI SOA AES.

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm – SWEETPOTATO CUTTING LENGTH INFLUENCE ON PRODUCTION.
Raheem Smart, Daryl A. Richards Jr., Samuel Joseph, Thomas W. Zimmerman. UVI SOA AES.

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm – TRELLISING AND FLORAL PRUNING INFLUENCE ON JICAMA TUBEROUS ROOT DEVELOPMENT.
Isaiah Hodge, Daryl A. Richards Jr, Imhotep R. Charles, Raheem Smart, Thomas W. Zimmerman. UVI SOA AES.

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm – DEEP LEARNING OF LEAF AND FLOWER SPECTRA TO PREDICT THE DOMINANT INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR COLORS OF WATERMELON FRUIT.
Henry O. Awika¹, Johnson Southwell¹ and Yvonilyn Lawrence¹². ¹UVI SOA AES. ²UVI CLASS.

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm - EVALUATION OF AVOCADO (*Persea americana*) CULTIVARS IN THE CARIBBEAN.
Imhotep R. Charles, Samuel S. Joseph, and Thomas W. Zimmerman. UVI SOA AES.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm - PROPAGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VANILLA ORCHID.
Daryl A. Richards Jr.¹, Xingbo Wu², Thomas W. Zimmerman¹. ¹UVI SOA AES, ²UF/IFAS-TREC.

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm – IMPACT DU TYPE DE MATERIEL DE PLANTATION ET DE LA GESTION INTEGREE SUR LE RENDEMENT DE LA CULTURE DU CHOU CARAIBE A PORTO RICO.

Nazer Odestin and Martha C. Giraldo-Zapata. UPR Mayagüez.

2:45 pm to 3:00 pm - **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm – **#2 Technical Session – CFCS**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #2 – Integrated Pest Management and Plant Pathology

Moderator: Dr. Wilfredo Colon

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – VI FARMING 4 SUCCESS.

Amy J Dreves. UVI SOA CES.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm - AI – ENABLE PLANT SCOUTING FOR GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY PRODUCTION: EARLY DETECTION OF GERMINATION, VIGOR, AND SEED-BORNE DISEASE ISSUES.

Yiannis Ampatzidis, Jeanette Hariharan, Samar Ashfaq, and Antonio Neto. UF.

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm – CROP VARIETY AND CULTIVATION – WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A TOMATO FATAL DISEASE.

Qingren Wang. UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County.

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm – CASHEW DIEBACK IN COSTA RICA: A LOOK INTO POTENTIAL CAUSAL AGENTS.

Mario Salas-Montero, Alexandra Rojas-Barquero, Gabriel Vargas-Asensio, Mauricio Serrano, Gustavo A. Díaz-Cruz. Universidad de Costa Rica.

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm - BACTERIAL SPOT OF PEPPER AND TOMATO IN FLORIDA: FULL OF SURPRISES.

Apekshya Parajuli¹, Aastha Subedi, Amandeep Kaur¹, Gerald V. Minsavage¹, Anuj Sharma², Gary Vallad³, Erica M. Goss¹, Jeffrey B. Jones¹. ¹UF. G. ^{2,3}UF/GCREC.

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm – SUSTAINABLE VALUE-ADDED APPLICATIONS OF NEGLECTED AND UNDERUTILIZED CROPS.

Neela Sumessar and Rohanie Maharaj. UTT. UWI.

5:00 pm – Welcome Reception

Welcome Remarks: Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, Associate Director of AES

Room: CFCS Tent

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 am – 9:30 am - **APS Opening Speaker: American Phytopathological Society – Caribbean Division (APS - CD)**

Room: Great Hall

9:00 am – 9:30 am - **Avijit Roy** (USDA Beltsville): CITRUS LEPROSIS SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH MULTIPLE BREVIPALPUS-TRANSMITTED VIRUSES (BTVS) IN AMERICAS EXHIBIT CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF CONVERGENT EVOLUTION.

9:30 am to 10:30 am - **#1 Technical Session APS – CD**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #1- Ecology and host-pathogen interactions. *- Student presentations

Moderator: Kathleen Martin

9:30 am – 9:50 am - *AN INVENTORY OF VEGETABLE CHARACTERISTICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES AT THE WEG NAAR ZEE AREA OF SURINAME.

Sima Sultan, L. Ori, W. Malgie. AdeKUS.

9:50 am -10:10 am - *VIROME ANALYSIS OF PEANUT AND THRIPS SPECIES IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA.

Vamsidhar Reddy Netla¹, Mark Abney², Sudeep Bag² and Rajagopalbabu Srinivasan¹. ¹UGA - Griffin, ²UGA – Tifton.

10:10 am –10:30 am - RESTORING PHLOEM FUNCTION AND REDUCING PATHOGEN LOAD: A DUAL ACTION STRATEGY AGAINST CITRUS GREENING DISEASE.

Amit Levy, Maryam Khalilzadeh, Chun-Yi Lin, John M. Chater, and Christopher Vincent. UF.

10:30 am – 11:00 am - **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - **#2 Technical Session APS – CD**

Moderator: Martha C. Giraldo Zapata

Room: Great Hall

11:00 am -11:20 am - DIAGNOSTICS FOR EMERGING AND NOVEL VIRUSES AFFECTING MANGO.

Alina S. Puig¹, Oscar P. Hurtado-Gonzales², Xiaojun Hu², Gul S. Ali³, Angie B Bastidas⁴, Peter Abrahamian⁵, Luz Serrato-Diaz⁶, and Yair Aron⁷; ¹USDA-ARS, Foreign Disease – Weed Science Research. ²USDA-APHIS, Plant Germplasm Quarantine Program. ³USDA-ARS, Subtropical Horticulture Research Station. ⁴USDA-ARS Research Participation Program. ⁵USDA-ARS, National Germplasm Resources Laboratory. ⁶USDA-ARS, Tropical Agriculture Research Station.

11:20 am -11:40 am - *Neopestalotiopsis* LEAF SPOT AND FRUIT ROT IN ALABAMA.

Edward Sikora and Kassie Conner. AU.

11:40 am - 12:00 pm - OCCURRENCE, IDENTIFICATION, AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BROWN SPOT DISEASE IN DICOTYLEDONOUS CASH CROPS IN BLACK BUSH POLDER, REGION 6, GUYANA.

Gomathinayagam Subramanian, Vandana Udit, Adrian Srikshe, Phillip Da Silva. UGBC.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **Lunch**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - **#3 Technical Session APS – CD**

Moderator: Alina S. Puig

Room: Great Hall

1:00 pm - 1:20 pm - BEYOND SOYBEAN VEIN NECROSIS VIRUS: PRELIMINARY VIRAL DISCOVERY FROM ALABAMA POPULATIONS OF *Neohydatothrips variabilis*.

Kathleen M. Martin, Aasma Sharma, Benjamin C. Johnson, Jacquelyn N. Dub, Chaoyang Zhao. AU.

1:20 pm – 1:40 pm - FIRST REPORT OF A Sw-5-RESISTANCE BREAKING STRAIN OF TOMATO

SPOTTED WILT VIRUS INFECTING TOMATO IN NEW JERSEY.

Ozgur Batuman¹, Pedro Ramirez ^{1,2}, Ok-Kyung Kim^{1,3}, Marco Bello², Traven Bentley², Randall Johnson².¹UF-IFAS, SWFREC. ² Sakata Seed America, Florida, and ³ Tokyo NODAI.

Theme #2- Diagnostics and management. *- Student presentations

1:40 pm – 2:00 pm - *BIOSECURITY AND POLICY INTEGRATION MITIGATES FUSARIUM WILT OF BANANA IN MULTI-HOST LANDSCAPES.

Jacobo Robledo, Gustavo Izquierdo, Antonio González Ulloa, Alberto Paez, Andres Quintero, Sebastian Zapata, Laura Valbuena, Sydney Barker, Theodore Stronkowsky IV, David McDermott, Neha Kallamvalli, Melina García, Marisella Diaz, Joaquin Ramirez, Ira Longini, Peiyu Liu, Monica Betancourt, and Karen A. Garrett. UF.

2:00 pm – 2:20 pm - *BAMBOO MOSAIC VIRUS (BAMV) VARIANTS DETECTED IN BAMBOO OF FLORIDA USING UNIVERSAL PRIMER.

Sima Lamichhane, Chunxia Wang, Donielle Turner, Chun-Yi Lin, Michael Rogers, and Amit Levy. UF.

2:20 pm – 2:40 pm - *Dmi FUNGICIDES FAILED TO SUPPRESS NORTHERN CORN LEAF BLIGHT ON SWEET CORN UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS IN FLORIDA.

Vitor A. S. Moura¹, Larissa C Ferreira¹, Marcio F. R. Resende Jr², and Katia V Xavier¹. ¹UF-EREC. ² UF.

2:40 PM - 3:00 pm - INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AND CLEAN SEED INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE TANIER, *Xanthosoma* spp., PRODUCTION IN PUERTO RICO.

Martha C. Giraldo Zapata, Giovannie Soto-Torres, Adriana Vega Martínez, Carla Rodríguez, and Wanda Almodóvar. UPR, Mayagüez.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm - **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

3:15 pm - 5:00 pm - **#4 Technical Session APS – CD**

Moderator: Carolina Avelaneda Barbosa **Room:** Great Hall

3:15 pm – 3:35 pm - IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRESENCE OF THE *bru1* GENE IN SUGARCANE VARIETIES (*Saccharum officinarum* L.) AT HONDURAS.

Carolina Avellaneda Barbosa, Santos Joel Cruz, Raphael Colbert, and Ever Reyes Sevilla. EAP.

3:35 pm – 3:55 pm: EFFECT OF INFESTED MUCK SOIL CONCENTRATION ON FUSARIUM WILT DEVELOPMENT IN LETTUCE.

Katia V. Xavier¹, Ana Flavia Lima^{1,2}, Larissa C. Ferreira¹, and Germán V. Sandoya¹. ¹UF-EREC. ²UPE.

3:55 pm - 4:15 pm - NO MORE TEARY EYES: A COMPREHENSIVE TOOLKIT TO REDUCE LOSSES TO *Pantoea* IN ONIONS.

Bhabesh Dutta. UGA

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm – **Poster Section – APS – CD and CFCS**

Room: NWW 102,103

Concurrent Section: The CFCS and APS poster sections will be held simultaneously.

Poster #1 – INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF BLACK SIGATOKA IN THE ANASCO VALLEY.

- Bryan Hernandez** and Wanda Almodovar. AES UPR Mayagüez.
- Poster #2 – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT TO PRESERVE POLLINATORS.
Diego Ronda, Jafet Santos & Wanda Almodovar. AES UPR Mayagüez.
- Poster #3 - THE PUERTO RICO PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC: VEGETABLE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.
Miguel Garcia Carrucini and Wanda Almodovar. AES UPR Mayagüez.
- Poster #4 - CHARACTERIZATION OF DIEBACK-ASSOCIATED *Lasiodiplodia* SPECIES IN COSTA RICA.
Mario Salas-Montero and Gustavo Díaz-Cruz. Universidad de Costa Rica.
- Poster #5 – LAMP-BASED DETECTION OF *Peudocercospora fijiensis* AS A PRELIMINARY STEP FOR SENSITIVITY ASSAYS.
Yanira Miranda Cortés, Martha C. Giraldo-Zapata and Merari Feliciano-Rivera. UPR Mayagüez.
- Poster #6 – FIELD EVALUATION OF *Dioscorea alata* PURPLE VARIETY PROPAGATED BY MICROSEGMENTS FOR SEED YAM PRODUCTION.
Adiel Jose Andino Acevedo and Merari Feliciano-Rivera. UPR Mayagüez.
- Poster #7 – PESTICIDE-FREE CROPPING: PROSPECT OF COMPANION CROPPING IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.
Thalia Stanley and Henry Awika. UVI SOA AES.
- Poster #8 – EVALUATING THE PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE OF COLLARD (*Brassica oleracea* var. *viridis*) UNDER SHADE HOUSE SYSTEMS.
Ewer Jessica, Thalia Stanley, Johnson Southwell, Donna Gonzalez, and Henry Awika. UVI SOA AES.
- Poster #9 – CORRELATION OF SOIL TEST PHOSPHORUS WITH VEGETABLE CROPS IN PUERTO RICO.
Cristian Ruiz Carcamo, David Sotomayor-Ramirez, Gustavo Martínez-Rodriguez. UPR Mayaguez.
- Poster #10 – SOIL FERTILITY CHARACTERIZATION OF TROPICAL SOILS IN THE CARIBBEAN: SOIL ACIDITY.
Gloria Mencia¹, David Sotomayor-Ramirez¹, Jonathan Deenik², Manuel Matos³, Miguel A. Vázquez¹, Raúl Macchiavelli¹, José Calderón-Gairaud⁴. ¹- UPR Mayagüez. ²- UHM, Hawaii. ³- USDA-NRCS. ⁴- UPRM Mayagüez, Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- Poster #11 - EVOLUTION OF AN ANNUAL STORMWATER EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP.
D.Stephens, A. Albertin, E. Bean, T. Derbes, A. Reisinger, C. Stevenson, and M. Tancig. UF/IFAS
- Poster #12 - CURRENT AND HISTORIC TRENDS IN THE AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.
Larken Root. UVI.
- Poster #13 – CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF CAPYBARA (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) MEAT AS AN ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN SOURCE FOR FOOD SECURITY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
Laura Tardieu, Adassa Burke, and Daryian Dolly. UWI.
- Poster #14– SOIL HEALTH DYNAMICS ACROSS SOILS AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN PUERTO RICO: A MULTIVARIATE APPROACH.
Heydi S. Gutierrez-Benitez¹, David Sotomayor-Ramírez¹, Jonathan Deenik², Gustavo Martínez-Rodriguez¹. ¹- UPR, Mayagüez. ²- UHM, Hawaii.
- Poster #15 – GROWING HEALTHY HABITS THROUGH 4-H COOKING CLUBS.
Dallas Meringolo, Lori Johnson, and Maria Bautista. UF.
- Poster #16 - SEED IT YOUR WAY - AN EXTENSION INITIATIVE TO INCREASE FRESH VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION.

Donna Arnold. FAMU.

Poster #17 – HAMILTON COUNTY YOUTH AGRICULTURAL DAY.

Greg Hicks. UF/IFAS.

Poster #18 - FROM DEMONSTRATION GARDEN TO SEED BANK: GROWING LOCAL RESILIENCE.

Maria Quirico and Dallas Meringolo. UF.

Poster #19 – *Coniella javanica*, A NEW DISEASE FOUND ON *Hibiscus sabdariffa* IN FLORIDA.

Norma Samuel¹, Matthew Smith¹, Carrie Harmon¹, Claudia Paez², and Thomas Zimmerman³. ¹UF. ²FDACS-DPI. ³UVI.

Poster #20 - WHERE IS THE HOST? A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING SATELLITE IMAGES AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE TO MAP HOST DISTRIBUTIONS.

Jacobo Robledo¹, Peiyu Liu¹, Gary Vallad², and Karen Garrett. ¹UF. ²UF-GCREC.

Poster #21 -THE R2M PLANT HEALTH TOOLBOX: RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT MITIGATION OF PATHOGENS AND PESTS.

Jacobo Robledo, Aaron I. Plex Sulá, Romaric A. Mouafo-Tchinda, Ashish Adhikari, Berea A. Etherton and Karen A. Garrett. UF.

Poster #22 - MAPPING RESEARCH TRENDS AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN USDA-NIFA-FUNDED HLB RESEARCH USING TOPIC MODELING.

Megan M. Dewdney¹, Ulianova Vidal-Gomez¹, Neil McRoberts², David McClure³, Mike Hill³, Sebastian Galindo⁴, Lauren M. Diepenbrock¹, and Luca Mantegazza⁴. ¹UF/IFAS CREC. ²UC Davis. ³PU. ⁴UF.

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm – **American Phytopathological Society – Caribbean Division Business meeting**
Room: Great Hall

Wednesday, July 15

8:00 am - Arrive from hotels/Registration

Room: NWW 102,103

8:45 am - **Opening Speakers:**

Dr. Louis Petersen, VI Commissioner of Agriculture

Javan James, Former Senator

Tregenza Roach, Lt Governor

9:45 am – 10:30 am – **#1 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #1: Outreach and Technical Support for Farmers

Moderator: Dale Morton

1. AGRICULTURE BUSINESS CENTER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS.

Shanta Roberts, Director, Agriculture Business Center.

2. SUPPORT COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS OF THE UVI SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE'S COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.

DeVaughn Taylor, Extension Agent I, and **Sherry Embrack**, Extension Agent III Technology & Public Relations, University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture.

3. SUPPORTING LIVESTOCK HEALTH FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION AND PROFIT.

Dr. David Wenger, Director of Veterinary Services, VI Department of Agriculture.

10:30 am – 10:45 am – **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

10:45 am – 12:00 pm – **#2 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #2: Data and the Business of Agriculture

Moderator – James Henderson

1. OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2023 USVI AGRICULTURE CENSUS DATA.

Mr. Carlos Robles, Flora Horticultural Services, LLC.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF USVI FOOD IMPORT DATA.

Dr. Haldane Davies, Director, Bureau of Economic Research.

3. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF VIDA HARVEST REPORT DATA.

Ms. Thalia Stanley, UVI Student, and Tafari Tzaddi, Property Manager, VI Department of Agriculture.

4. PROSPECTS FOR AGRI-BUSINESS IN THE USVI: THE HIDEAWAY AT HULL BAY EXPERIENCE.

Lee Steiner, Founder and CEO, The Hideaway at Hull Bay.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - **Lunch**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – **#3 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #3 - Investing in Our Farmers and Discussion of Next Steps

Moderator – Sommer Sibilly Brown

This session will feature a panel of farmers who successfully secured local grant funding to enhance their business operations. They will share their experiences and advocate for continued funding and investment in local farmers.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm - **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

3:15 pm - 5:00 pm - **#4 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #4: The Power of Collective Work and Responsibility

Moderator – Dr. Louis Petersen

1. DEVELOPING THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM.

Jose Ramirez, Executive Director, Fondo de Inversion y Desarrollo Cooperativo (FIDECOOP).

2. THE WENNER HILLS GARDENS COOPERATIVE EXPERIENCE.

Drs. Gemma and Mark Wenner, Proprietors, Wenner Hills Gardens.

3. THE USE OF THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL AS A TOOL FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN THE USVI.

Ms. Shantel Douglas-Francis, Director of Marketing Division, VI Department of Agriculture.

4. AN OVERVIEW OF ISLAND FOOD SECURITY, INC.

Dale Browne, President; Yvette Browne, Vice President, Island Food Security, Inc.

5:00 pm - Return to Hotels

Transport to Dinner

7:00 pm - Award Dinner

Milton Potter, Senate President, Awards Dinner/Banquet Speaker

Room: Great Hall

Thursday, July 16

Concurrent Section:

Caribbean Food Crop Society (CFCS) activities will be held in the Great Hall.

The Virgin Islands Agricultural Caribbean Conference will be held on EVC 401.

8:00 am – Pick up from hotels

8:30 am – 10:00 am – **#1 Technical Session – CFCS**

Room: EVC 401

Theme #3 – Agronomy and Animal Sciences

Moderator: Dr. Edward Evans

8:30 am – 8:45 am – INTRODUCING CARIFLUX: A SOIL WATER BALANCE FRAMEWORK FOR CARIBBEAN ISLAND AGRICULTURE.

David A. Hensley. UVI SOA AES.

8:45 am – 9:00 am – CONSERVATION COVERS IN TROPICAL AGRICULTURE: LESSONS FROM ARACHIS IN PUERTO RICO.

Edrick Marrero Soto. USDA, NRCS.

9:00 am – 9:15 am – GRAZING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TOOL EMPOWERS EFFICIENT GRAZING PLANS. ¹**Francisco P. Rivera**, ¹José Castro, ²Suzika Pagán Riestra. ¹USDANRCS. ²AES, CAS, UPR.

9:30 am – 9:45 am – EVALUATING COMMUNITY SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF LIONFISH EDUCATION IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA.

Danna Stephens and Laura Tiu. UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant.

9:30 am – 9:45 am – AQUASTEADY: DUA-FUNCTION HYDROGEL FOR AVAILABLE SOIL WATER IMPROVEMENT AND NUTRIENT RELEASE.

Lucas Prado – Tovari¹, David Sotomayor-Ramírez¹, Cindie Kehlet², Anna Collette². ¹UPR, Mayagüez; ²Pratt Institute, New York

10:00 am – 10:30 am – **Break**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

10:30 am – 12:00 pm – **#2 Technical Session – CFCS**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #3 – Agronomy and Animal Sciences

Moderator: Dr. Edward Evans

10:30 am – 10:45 am – USING PERENNIAL PEANUT TO ENHANCE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEM AND SOIL HEALTH OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE.

Robbie Jones, Leyton, L., Mackowiak, C., and Blount, A. UF/IFAS.

10:45 am – 11:00 am – INNOVATIVE IN VITRO AND IN VIVO EVALUATION OF A MORINGA OREGANO FEED COMPLEX FOR SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE RUMINANT PRODUCTION.

Sean Yates. CASE.

11:00 am – 11:15 am - LIMITED LAND, CARIBBEAN CLIMATE CONDITIONS, AND PARASITE INFECTIONS: THE PERFECT COMBINATION TO TALK ABOUT ST. CROIX WHITE SHEEP.

Allana Titus and Andrea Rios. UVI SOA AES.

11:15 am – 11:30 am – PARTIAL OR COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF SOYBEAN MEAL WITH *Pueraria phaseoloides* LEAF MEAL DOES NOT AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF POST-WEANED BARBADOS BLACK BELLY X WEST AFRICAN LAMBS.

Martin Hughes, Elisha Leon, Adrian Paul, and Oral Daley. Dept. Food Production, Faculty of FFA, UWI.

11:30 am – 11:45 am - HEAT STRESS AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE ST. CROIX WHITE SHEEP.

Andrea Rios. UVI SOA AES.

11:45 am – 12:00 pm - THE EFFECT OF FALL BREEDING ON THE GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF ST. CROIX WHITE SHEEP PUREBRED AND ST. CROIX X DORPER CROSSBRED LAMBS.

Paris Walls, Allana Titus, Eduardo Febres III, and Andrea Rios. UVI SOA AES.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **Lunch**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm – **#3 Technical Session – CFCS**

Room: Great Hall

Theme #4 – Extension and Food Science

Moderator: Dr. Norma Samuel

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm – BENCHMARK SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACROSS AGROECOLOGICAL FARMS IN PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S VIRGIN ISLANDS AS PART OF THE SOIL MUSEUM OF THE CARIBBEAN.

Yomaries González-Bermúdez, Zoelie Rivera-Ocasio, Carmen González Ramos, C, Alana Toro-Ramos, Alana, and Omar Iloy Colón. Arte-Suelo-Ser-PR.

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm – INTEGRATING THE ACTIVE LIVING EVERY DAY (ALED) PROGRAM AND GARDENING AT THE CHATTAHOOCHEE SENIOR CENTER.

Angel S. Forde. FAMU - Cooperative Extension.

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm – ADAPTIVE POSTHARVEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN ST. ELIZABETH PARISH TO PRESERVE PRODUCE QUALITY AND EXTEND SHELF LIFE UNDER CLIMATE-INDUCED DISRUPTIONS.

Chevelle Richards, Shamoya Walsh, and Vanessa Martin. CASE.

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm – ADVANCING PRODUCER EDUCATION THROUGH THE EMERGING FARMERS SYMPOSIUM IN FLORIDA.

Donna Arnold and Jones, R. FAMU Extension. UF/IFAS Extension.

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm – COMPOSTING EDUCATION IN ACTION: MEASURING KNOWLEDGE GAINS THROUGH EXTENSION PROGRAMMING.

Eva Maria Pabon. UF/IFAS Extension.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm – Break

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm – # Technical Session – CFCS

Room: Great Hall

Theme #4 – Extension and Food Science

Moderator: Dr. Norma Samuel

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm – EL LEGADO DE ANTONIO SOTOMAYOR RIOS EN LA AGRICULTURA TROPICAL.

David Sotomayor Ramírez. UPR, Mayagüez.

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm – CLIMATE-CONTROLLED AGRICULTURE IN ISLAND ECONOMIES: LESSONS LEARNED FROM BUILDING A RESILIENCE-ORIENTED INDOOR FARM IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

George E. Bricker. Smart Life Farms LLC.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – FOOD AS MEDICINE STRENGTHENS AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.

Robert Strong, Susanne Talcott, Stephen Talcott, Josh McGinty, Shannon Combest. TAMU.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm – USING SIMULATIONS TO ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING AND ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING.

Jennifer Strong and Barry Boyd. TAMU.

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm – INSIGHT: A RETRIEVAL-AUGMENTED LMM FOR STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE DECISION-MAKING ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN.

Robert Strong, Luis Tedeschi, Karun Kaniyamattam, and Jian Tao. TAMU.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm – CFCS Business Meeting

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – CFCS Board of Directors Meeting

Room: Great Hall

5:30 pm – Return to Hotels

The Virgin Islands Agricultural Caribbean Conference

8:00 am - Arrive from hotels/Registration

8:30 am – 10:00 am – **#5 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: EVC 401

Theme #5: Sustainable Agriculture: Principles, Practices, and Opportunities

Moderator: Samuel Joseph

1. THE SOUTHERN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Mr. Brennan Washington, Southeastern Outreach Coordinator, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

2. THE SCIENCE, PRINCIPLES, AND PRACTICES OF ORGANIC FARMING.

Dr. Nate Olive, President, Virgin Islands Farmers Alliance, and De'Anthony Price, Southeast Organic Consultant, Rodale Institute.

3. THE SOUTHEAST TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Sebastian Interlandi, SE TOOP Technical Assistance Specialist, Florida Organic Growers, and Gabriella Soto-Velez, Caribbean Sustainable Agricultural Specialist, National Center for

Appropriate Technology.

4. A HOLISTIC PEST MANAGEMENT APPROACH ON YOUR FARM.

Dr. Amy Dreves, Extension Specialist III/Pest Mgt & Extension Assoc. Prof., Agr. Expt. Station
Pest Mgt. Specialist, UVI School of Agriculture.

10:00 am – 10:30 am - Break

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

10:30 am – 12:00 pm – **#6 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: EVC 401

Theme #6: Funding Opportunities for Farmers

Moderator: Jamal Rogers

1. USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS.

Rudy O'Reilly, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

2. THE VIDA MICROGRANT PROGRAM.

Billy Abraham, Assistant Commissioner, VI Department of Agriculture.

3. USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS.

Madison Charles, Acting County Exec. Dir./Agriculture Program Spec., USDA Farm Service Agency.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **Lunch**

Room: REC 133 and CFCS Tent

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – **#7 Technical Session – VI Agriculture Caribbean Conference**

Room: EVC 401

Theme #7: Nurturing the Next Generation

Moderator: Thalia Stanley

1. WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE.

Diana Collingwood, Founder and CEO, VI Women in Agriculture Association, Inc. (VIWIAA) & Peace International USVI LLC

2. UPDATE ON THE AGRICULTURE CURRICULUM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Cydney Meadows, Territorial Director of Sustainability & Agricultural Education, VI Department of Education.

3. A VISION FOR A YOUTH AGRIPRENEUR FARM AND RESOURCE CENTER –

Eric Sonnier, Executive Director, UVI RT Park Corporation

4. THE USVI CONSERVATION CORE PROGRAM.

Dara Cooper, STT/STJ Program Coordinator; Majestik Estrada Petersen, STT/STJ Program Assistant; Taj James, STX Coordinator

5. SUMMER EXPLORER.

Ms. Carol Shoy, Extension Program Supervisor, School of Agriculture, University of the Virgin Islands

Friday, July 17

Concurrent Event: Crop- and Livestock-focused Tours will be held simultaneously.

8:00 am – Pick up from hotels

8:30 am – 12:00 am – Field Tours

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Field Tours