

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

Reporting Institution:  1862  1890 (check one)

Name of Institution: Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension Service

### *Budget Situation:*

FCS budget situation reflects the economic environment that prevails at the global level. The programmatic area fiscal resources have shrunk. Both federal and state fund allocations have slightly increased. But, the growth trend has been reduced and projections are towards an absolute decrease.

### *How Institution is Addressing the Situation:*

Budget adjustments have been made mainly by personnel attrition and operational costs. New recruitments have been as non-tenure track as a strategy to reduce costs in payroll expenses. The use of new communication and information technologies has been increased as a cost efficient resource. Local offices in which personnel have resigned or retired have been physically relocated to “extended local offices” and staff responsibilities properly reassigned to provide the expected level of services with fewer staff and faculty members.

### *Staffing Update (field and state office):*

Newly recruited personnel have been appointed to local offices that require faculty for a specific geographical area and demographical-programmatic needs. Recently recruited staff is: two Specialists (Health, Nutrition) and eight local Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members.

### **Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, and impacts)**

- PRAES' FCS is the main institution in certifying food establishment managers in Puerto Rico. It also has the highest approval ratio of all certification providers. Food Safety area has implemented an educational effort on in-home food canning. In-home food canning has become of great interest as a response to the economic conditions, food security concerns, and an insular population diaspora to the continental United States.
- FCS faculty was trained in the following subject matter areas: Human Nutrition, My Plate and 2010 Nutrition Guidelines; Textiles and Wardrobe Management; Healthy Aging; and Food Security and Safety. These trainings are a response to clientele existing and prevailing needs and to the changes in NIFA national initiatives.
- State Plan of Work has been revised to emphasize clientele education and behavioral changes to prevent family violence and child abuse and neglect. The

**latter issue includes parental nutritional responsibilities. Significant activities have been three island-wide educational campaigns on Child Abuse Prevention; Family Values Strengthening, and Child Obesity Prevention. These efforts have established coalitions with State and local government and non-government agencies and institutions. Subject matter areas have been refocused to respond to the needs of the baby boomers generation that is aging while remaining a significant portion of the clientele.**

***New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:***

**As fund availability trend changes, efforts to adjust the educational process have resulted in collaborations. FCS has strengthened or renewed collaborations with:**

- University of Puerto Rico's School of Family and Consumer Sciences<sup>3</sup>**
- University of Puerto Rico's Medical Sciences Nutrition and Public Health Education departments**
- State and local Health, Family Affairs, Education, Recreation and Sports, and Housing departments**
- Non-profit and non-government institutions**
- FCS and Nutrition professional associations and boards**
- Faith based groups**

***Contact for Additional Information:***