



Entrepreneurship Center for Women in Puerto Rico’s Agriculture - Phase III

In 2006, data collected by the University of Puerto Rico Agriculture and Extension Service (UPRAES) indicated that just 30 percent of participants of educational activities addressed to farmers were women. While the roles of women as entrepreneurs has gradually increased, their particular needs have not been considered in the design and implementation of educational activities.

In response, the UPRAES constructed a project to assist women farmers in an effort to recognize and address some of their needs. The project emphasized women who face factors affecting the feasibility of their business with limited management skills. Participants already trained in business and software skills were chosen to supplement their training with focused technical assistance in value-added and new product development, food safety liability, planning

for succession of the business, and environmental regulations. Three additional groups of female farmers were chosen from different geographic regions to train in entrepreneurship skills to prepare them to successfully navigate a number of risk management situations.

The entrepreneurship and agribusiness risk management curriculum for women in agriculture conducted in this project was modeled to establish educational initiatives for all female farmers and members of agriculture. In May 2011, the educational materials were adopted by the territory’s government program to train farmers in entrepreneurship and management. All 101 women that participated in this project did so voluntarily. It was not required for women to attend to qualify or participate in fund availability and programs. As a result of this project, women were equipped with entrepreneurial skills enabling participants to become successful agribusiness women contributing across the economic landscape.

The Southern Extension Risk Manage Education Center ([SRMEC](#)) seeks to empower the strengths and skills of farmers and ranchers across the Southern region to more effectively manage risks of operating in the diverse agricultural sector. To learn more about this SRMEC funded project visit this link: [Building Puerto Rico's Agriculture Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Women](#)



“Valuable information that has empowered me to help transform my community.”

-Female Puerto Rican Farmer



Empowering Producers to Manage Risks



**EXTENSION
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

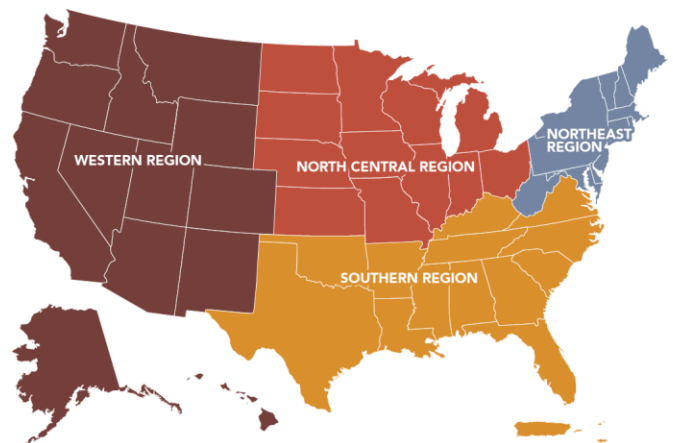
National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



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