Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged African-American, Hispanics and Women Farmers, Forest Landowners and Ranchers in Tennessee

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Principle Investigator,
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged African-American, Hispanics and Women Farmers, Forest Landowners and Ranchers in Tennessee

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SUMMARY

The project, “Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged African-American, Hispanic and Women Farmers, Forest Landowners and Ranchers in Tennessee” provides educational information, technical training, and assistance to minority, socially disadvantaged farmers in three (3) hub locations in Tennessee – North Central, South Central, and West Tennessee regions, consisting of fifteen counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Central Region Counties</th>
<th>South Central Region Counties</th>
<th>West Tennessee Region Counties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
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<td>Robertson</td>
<td>Giles</td>
<td>Hardeman</td>
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<td>Rutherford</td>
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<td>Wilson</td>
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The counties were selected based on the following criteria: (1) number of African-American, Hispanic and women landowners, (2) number of socially disadvantaged and underserved farmers from these groups, (3) the need for improved production, management, marketing, and environmental stewardship practices, (4) training in the technological practices, and (5) forest management and best management practices. Approximately 3,381 socially disadvantaged African-American, Hispanic and women farmers, forest landowners, and ranchers are benefitting from this program.

Current needs assessments indicate assistance for improvement in the areas: niche market development; enhancement of entrepreneurship and rural business development; improved financial and risk management strategies; conservation and environmental stewardship; increased education on farm safety and bio-security issues; forest best management practices and forest stewardship; food safety; alternative horticultural production; organic production; bio fuels; agricultural technologies; and development of marketing hubs for locally produced commodities. These areas are being addressed through use of educational training at each hub, one-on-one technical assistance, field day events, county demonstrations, workshops, and a yearly state-wide TSU/USDA two-day training event in Nashville, Tn.

Four (4) undergraduate and four (4) graduate students are benefitting from research experiences on this project; these students presented at Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) in Atlanta, Ga., and the Association of Research Director’s (ARD) Symposium in Jacksonville, Fl., earlier this year.
Dr. Arvazena E. Clardy is Assistant Professor of Ornamental Horticulture in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Sciences (CAHNS) and the Cooperative Extension Program. She received her B.S. degree in Plant Sciences (Ornamental Horticulture option) from Tennessee State University in December of 1989; M.S. degree in Agriculture from Tennessee State University in 1993; and Ph.D. degree from Alabama A. and M. University in 1999 in Plant and Soil Sciences (Plant Physiology option). Dr. Clardy was employed in agricultural research at Tennessee State University from 1997 to 1999, taught in the Metro-Nashville Public Schools system at Antioch High School for five years, and was employed with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture before returning to Tennessee State University’s Cooperative Extension Program in 2008. Her areas of competency are in the fields of ornamental horticulture; plant growth regulators and hormones; and nutrition and plant propagation. During her academic and extension career, Dr. Clardy has worked with small and limited resource producers in developing alternative horticultural (herbs, vegetables and flowering plants) and exotic vegetable crops for sale and alternative marketing strategies; and community, school and individual gardens. Dr. Clardy has mentored, trained, and sponsored eight (8) undergraduate and five (5) graduate students, and served on six (6) other graduate student committees. Presently, she serves as the Plant Science Advisor for the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Sciences. Dr. Clardy also mentors students in the Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TLSAMP) and trains youth in the Developing Future Scientists Program (summer camp) which exposes students from the 5th grade to the 11th grades to various areas of Agriculture. She has organized two (2) Statewide Outreach and Assistance Conferences (2012, 2013) to educate and provide training for small and limited resource producers in the state of Tennessee. Dr. Clardy is a native of Nashville, Tn.

External Funded Grants


Recent Publications


Clardy, A.E., Care and Maintenance of Christmas Cactus-Publication Number: TSU-10-0043 (A)-3-17090.

Clardy, A.E., Tropical Plant Care and Maintenance-Publication Number: TSU-10-0048 (A)-140-17090.