

The University of Puerto Rico

BACKGROUND

The Hatch Act provides basic capacity funding for State Agricultural Experiment Stations. The act requires that states provide a 100% match from non-federal resources (many states provide a greater match). Hatch Act funding is distributed by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to eligible institutions under a statutory formula.

Congress has provided small increases in recent years, but this has barely slowed the steady, decades-long erosion of this vital program.

The land-grant system strongly supports Hatch Act funding at \$240 million in FY 2011.

CONTACTS

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VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Puerto Rico (FY 2009), each dollar we received under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$0.90 in state funding:

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	4,088,274	4,088,274	4,742,398
State	3,692,167	4,233,698	4,911,090
Total	\$7,780,441	\$8,321,972	\$9,653,488

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$240 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Of the annual Hatch allocation to the PR AES:

- 20% provides partial support of faculty salary lines and accounts for a significant part of our contribution to externally funded projects.
- 8% of CAS graduate students, conducting research vital for PR agriculture, are funded through Hatch assistantships.
- Base funds are provided for our dairy research program, the island's most important commodity, focused in cost reducing feeding and management practices while providing valuable training experience for students

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata increase would be \approx \$654,124. We would use such an increase to:

- Acquire or upgrade research equipment in central analytical, water quality and disease diagnostic laboratories.
- Culminate Phase I development of Center for Excellence in Quarantine & Invasive Species.
- Expand research efforts in value-added product development and food safety in our new Agro-Industrial Technology and Innovation Center.
- Expand the research and promotion of local Specialty Coffees.
- Expand research efforts in our pilot organic experimental farm.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Puerto Rico AES conducts research in these additional areas:

- Sustainable practices for watershed protection and management.
- Integrated management of new and emerging pests.
- Breeding programs for food crops that do not exist in the private sector or in neighboring countries (e.g. pigeon peas, tropical pumpkin, sweet cherry peppers).
- Development of facilities for foundation stock of virus-free Citrus Germplasm.
- New markets for traditional and alternative products.
- Research on remote sensing techniques for microirrigation scheduling to reduce water stress caused by global warming.