

Conservation Corps Training Program



Agricultural Training at St. Croix, USVI Farms.
Building the next generation of skilled farmers
through hands-on learning and community
mentorship.



CHANT



Arranged by:
**CHANT
CONSERVATION Corps
Program**



Presented by:
St. Croix, USVI



Introduction to St. Croix USVI Farms and Farmers

St. Croix Agricultural Heritage

St. Croix has a rich farming tradition rooted in diverse crops and tropical abundance. The island's fertile soil and warm climate support a vibrant agricultural community that sustains local food systems and culture.

Local Farmers as Mentors

Trainees work alongside experienced local farmers.

Locations:

Lotus Farm / Master Charles

Farm Education for All / Farmer James/ Farmer Jungle/ Mr. Applewhaite

James Farm: Mr. James (Farmer Mong)

Cox Farm: Windel Cox

GNL Farm: Grant Lee Samuel

Dept. Agriculture : Mr. Farrelly/ Mr. Lake/ Mr. Brooks

Sejah Farm: Mr. Brown

Bethlem Coconut Grove: Tiema Edwards

Bethlem Aquaphonics : Ms. Adriana

to share generations of practical knowledge, guiding the next wave of

Experienced St. Croix farmers serve as mentors throughout the CHANT program, offering hands-on guidance in the fields. Their deep knowledge of local crops, soil, and seasons provides trainees with an authentic and culturally grounded agricultural education.



Core Farming Safety/ Techniques

Trainees at St. Croix USVI Farms learn:
hands-on farming skills
Tools Safety
Traditional and modern tools (names, uses ,
techniques)



***Farm Safety**

***Tool Safety**

***Essential Farming
Techniques**

***Common
Agricultural
Tools**

***On Job Training**



Plant Identification and Seed Propagation



- ARBORIST TRAINING:
BRIAN DAILY
- Nursery Technical Support and Crop Selection
- NURSEY CARE PRACTICES
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
- AIR LAYERING
- HARVESTING
- PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES
- VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS
- ECOSYSTEMS
- PRUNING

Understanding Local Flora and Starting Plants

Recognizing native USVI plants is essential for sustainable farming. Trainees learn to identify local species, understand their growth cycles, and master seed propagation techniques to cultivate healthy crops from the ground up.



Aquaponics Systems

Bethlehem Aquaponics/UVI

Intro Aquaponics at Bethlehem Aquaponics, in collaboration with UVI.



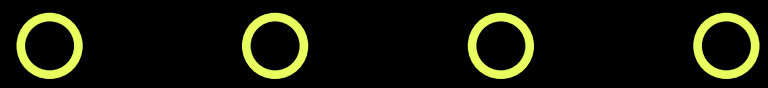
Local Applications & Benefits

Aquaponics is ideal for St. Croix's limited land and water resources. It produces both (fish) and vegetables, reduces water use , and offers a sustainable commercial farming for the island.

Trainees learned how Aquaponics combines aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponics (soil-less plant growing). They did Hands on trainings connecting/cleaning/ replacing components of the system. harvesting cucumbers and talapia.

- *Fish waste provides nutrients for plants
- *plants naturally filter the water.





SOIL TESTING

PH TESTING

READING SOIL RESULTS

Ecosystems in Agriculture

Working With Natural Systems

Biodiversity on the Farm

Trainees explore the farm as a living ecosystem, learning how biodiversity, soil life, water cycles, and natural organisms work together to support healthy, productive agriculture.





Soil Management Practices

Organic matter enrichment: adding compost and green manure to improve soil structure and nutrient content.

Mulching techniques: using organic mulch to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

FERTILIZERS; Collection and Uses



Maintaining Fertile, Healthy Land

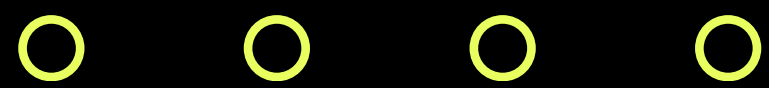
Healthy soil is the foundation of every successful farm. Trainees learn proven techniques to build and sustain soil fertility through organic inputs, protective mulching, and strategic crop rotation — all essential practices on St. Croix farms.





Harvesting: Timing, Quality & Sales





Tire Towers and Vertical Planters

Old tires are stacked and filled with soil to create vertical growing towers, maximizing planting space while reducing waste on the farm.



Repurposed Refrigerators and Containers

Discarded refrigerators and large containers are converted into fish tanks for aquaponics or nurseries for seedling propagation.



Environmental and Cost-Saving Benefits

Repurposing materials reduces farm operating costs, minimizes landfill waste, and promotes a circular economy rooted in sustainability.

Recycling & Repurposing on the Farm

Trainees learn that creativity and sustainability go hand in hand. By repurposing everyday discarded items, St. Croix farms reduce waste, lower costs, and build resilient growing systems that reflect the island's resourceful farming spirit.



Animal Husbandry and Care

The CHANT program teaches trainees the fundamentals of animal care, integrating livestock into sustainable farm systems to improve soil health, productivity, and overall farm resilience.



Animal Care Basics

Trainees learn feeding schedules, shelter setup, and humane handling techniques for chickens and small livestock common on St. Croix farms.

Livestock in Sustainable Farming

Animals play a vital role in farm ecosystems — providing natural fertilizer, pest control, and contributing to a balanced, productive agricultural cycle.

Health and Daily Management

Daily routines include monitoring animal health, maintaining clean housing, providing fresh water, and recognizing signs of illness early.



The Treasure

of Knowledge



BUILD AND MAINTAIN

SET WEEKLY TASK
DAILY CHECKS, WATER
SYSTEMS, SOIL, PLANTS
, ANIMALS.
FEEDING AND
WATERING SCHEDULES

