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Local ecologist awarded \$60K SARE grant

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2009 23:29 BY JUDE LIZAMA | VARIETY NEWS STAFF



UNIVERSITY of Guam's chemical ecologist and entomologist, Dr. Gadi V.P. Reddy, has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that would enable him to pursue a proposed study.

Reddy's grant proposal, titled "Increasing Ecological Insect Pest Management on Guam through Building Agricultural Professionals' Understanding of Semiochemicals," was the highest rated proposal received by the SARE administrative council for the year and funded at the full amount requested under the Professional Development Program.



UOG's chemical ecologist and entomologist, Dr. Gadi V.P. Reddy

"I am glad that my proposal received the highest rating. I worked very hard and I am very proud," stated Reddy. "Guam is a small place. We compete with other places like California, Hawaii, Nevada, Montana and Arizona. I'm glad that we are able to do this and show that we are as competent as them."

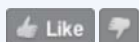
Jim Freeburn, regional program coordinator of Western Region SARE, stated in a letter to Reddy that the strengths of his proposal included great involvement by Florida expert for collaboration, good fit with SARE 2009 priority areas, specifically ecological insect control, excellent target audience, great outputs, good mix of training and science and a very high likelihood of success.

"The grant is for training agricultural professionals in Guam, Saipan and Rota," added Reddy. "This is knowledge that we don't have in the region."

Reddy possesses over 25 years entomological research experience and has a strong background in Integrated Pest Management, biocontrol, and behavioral and chemical ecology.

Reddy is also the coeditor and coauthor of a book entitled "Biological Control of Tropical Weeds using Arthropods," which is to be published by the Cambridge University Press and will be available to the public this month.

"This is the first book on the topic particularly dealing with biological control and sustainability of tropical weeds," said Reddy.



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