

USVI RC&D COUNCIL

The U.S. Virgin Island RC&D Area completed 20 measures during Fiscal Year, with a total of \$618,677. The USVI Area was established on January 1971. It covers one conservation district made up of four U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and Water Island.)

Among the projects completed was the two-day Agricultural Workshop in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Approximately 200 limited resource farmers of four nearby Islands attended the workshop. The primary purpose of this project was to inform and educate farmers and ranchers on farm planning and management, record keeping, marketing strategies, provide access to new markets, examine the advantages and benefits of organizing cooperatives, organic farming practices, 2002 Farm Bill, and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Funding for the workshop was provided to the VI RC&D from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation. Participating USDA agencies include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Agroforestry Center, and Rural Business Cooperative Service. Other participating agencies were UVI Agricultural Experiment Station, UVI Small Business Development Center, VI Department of Agriculture, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Texas Department of Agriculture, and Southern University – Cooperative Extension Service.



Another project was the construction of a pond to help retain water for crop irrigation in Estate Bordeaux Farming Community in St. Thomas. This is an isolated farming community nestled high on a mountain side with more than a 55Per cent inclination. Production of crops here is difficult, the land has limitations due to the steepness and the shallowness of the volcanic based rock and the limited rain and water sources. Among the conservation practices implemented was the construction of terraces for planting of vegetables.

