

Act 100, SLH 1999  
Action Plan

Division/Branch: Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Program Objective: AGR 161

To facilitate and coordinate the development and expansion of Hawaii's agriculture industry by directly participating in the shift from a dual crop (sugar and pineapple) to a diversified agriculture industry; and by evaluating and funding research and agribusiness development projects.

ADC Goal:

To ensure the continued operation and maintenance (O&M) of irrigation systems vital to the development of diversified agriculture throughout the State.

Discussion:

Since taking over the Waiahole Water System (WWS) in July of 1999, ADC has been busy working on upgrading and improving the water system to reduce the total water system loss and to increase the water storage capacity in Leeward, Oahu. The \$1.2 million wooden siphon replacement project contract was awarded in August 2000. Construction started in January 2001 and was expected to finish by June of 2001. Unexpected delays has pushed the completion of the project back to the fall of 2001. When completed, it is hoped that the total system water loss could be reduced by 2 or 3 million gallons per day.

Physical inspections of the 4 metal siphons showed that the metal siphons are still in relatively good condition and that a major failure of any of these siphons are not likely in the near future. Since it was estimated that rust proofing/repainting of the 4 metal siphons would cost about \$2 million and the process would have to be repeated every 10-15 years, an efficient use of capital would be to have the metal siphons replaced by a high-density polyethylene pipes for about the same cost at a later date. High-density polyethylene pipes have a life span of at least 50 (fifty) years and do not require any maintenance work. Based the this assessment, replacement of the 4 metal siphons will be delayed for another 7 to 10 years.

(This item has been taken off the Target/Task chart.)

With the siphon replacement efforts essentially complete, ADC will concentrate on improving efficiencies and to reducing system loss. In FY 2000 - 2001, ADC made changes in its operating procedures and has determined that utilizing Reservoir 225 as a storage reservoir instead of a pass-through reservoir will be beneficial to the operation. ADC has also installed a pump at Reservoir 155, which is at the end of the ditch system, to keep the ditch water level near the Del Monte pump stations full at all

times. This pump installation not only improved the delivery of water to Del Monte but also allowed for water in Reservoir 155 to be used instead of being overflowed and counted as a loss. ADC will continue to study and identify ways to improve efficiencies of the operation.

ADC has worked with the water users and encouraged them to build their own storage reservoirs, so that their draw will not be limited to the water level of ditch flow at any given time. Storage reservoirs can also help even out extreme water flow fluctuations of the system. Del Monte is in the process of finishing their 1.5 million-gallon storage reservoir and Larry Jefts Farms is in the planning process of building a 8 to 10 million-gallon reservoir near their facilities.

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 34 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, ADC will complete a study and report on the problems, concerns, and solutions affecting the operation of the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS).

With the close of Kekaha Sugar Company on Kauai in March of 1999, ADC has taken upon the role of interim operator of the electrical, irrigation, and drainage systems of the area. ADC is the current holder of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and has received grants from the U.S. Navy to operate and maintain the Kekaha drainage and electrical systems.

Timetable to Complete Project

Target/Task	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Complete wooden siphon replacement on Waiahole Water System (WWS)	X				
Investigate WWS system deficiencies contributing to system loss and come up with corrective action plans.	X	X			
Increase water storage capacity to WWS	X	X			
Complete a study to evaluate long-term plans for the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS)	X				
Manage the Kekaha electrical, drainage, and irrigation systems.	X	X	X	X	X
Manage infrastructure improvement projects at Kekaha	X	X	X		

ADC Goal:

To initiate and support cost-effective public-private partnerships that can provide farmers with affordable leased land.

Discussion: Agricultural subdivisions developed in accordance with county ordinances such as those of Hawaii County may prove to be an expeditious alternative to the development of state agricultural parks pursuant to Chapter 166, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The ADC has undertaken a pilot project to support the development of an agricultural subdivision in the Hamakua District, Hawaii County. The ADC will utilize its unique powers and position to acquire state land parcels and put them into active crop production. Exemption from Chapter 171, HRS will be sought to help expedite the process. This will serve as a pilot project for the ADC and attempt to stimulate the economy with fruit and vegetable production. A nearby community kitchen could facilitate the development of value-added products. Initial investigation revealed a few farmers expressing interest in land parcels between 10 and 80 acres. It appears that the ADC Board favors using a contracted management agent to manage the property. Tenants will be selected on the basis of experience, credit risk, and business plans.

Target/Task	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Sign MOU's and obtain properties for a proposed Hamakua Agricultural Subdivision (HAS)	X				
Complete soil conservation plans for HAS and obtain necessary permits		X			
Complete infrastructure upgrades for HAS			X		
Manage and operate HAS			X	X	X
Obtain a master lease for the Kekaha Agricultural lands and manage the land and infrastructure	X	X	X	X	X

Comments:

The original schedule for creating the HAS was overly ambitious and ignored many details of the requirements to create such a unique subdivision. There are greater details evident in the above action plan, which is a more realistic schedule than previously provided.

ADC Goal:

To provide statewide coordination in areas important to agricultural development.

Discussion: There are areas in agricultural development that without an outside entity to provide coordination there will be a failure to address challenges and opportunities.

ADC conducted a survey to assess the training needs of agriculture workers as well as farm owners/operators in January of 2001. The result would not only serve as a basis to determine what kinds of training are most needed for the agriculture industry, but also helped ADC to plan strategies to better utilize resources to meet this goal.

Realizing that it would be more productive to work with partners, the ADC plans on working closely with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Hawaii Manufacturing Extension Partnership and other interested entities to identify funding for the activities listed below.

Target/Task	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Coordinate the starting of an agriculture labor training program		X			
Facilitate the sales of local produce and processed foods to the military		X			
Facilitate the construction of a certified production/distribution center		X	X		

Comments:

These are relatively new tasks added to the ADC plan in FY 2001. Currently ADC is working with interested partners to seek funding for these projects.