Program Goals

This program provides information and training to increase the profitability and sustainability of commercial vegetable production in New Mexico. Priority areas targeted include adoption of best production practices, mechanization, and encouraging sustainable agriculture practices for New Mexico’s vegetable crops.

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Partnerships

Chile Pepper Institute, http://www.chilepepperinstitute.org/

NM Chile Association, http://www.nmchileassociation.com/

NM Chile Commission, http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/new-mexico-chile-commission/

NM Dry Onion Commission

Western Region Sustainable Agriculture and Education Program (WSARE), USDA-SARE, http://www.westernsare.org/

Research Projects

- Paprika Breeding for Increased Extractable Pigment (ASTA)

- Development of High Yielding Paprika

- Classification and Preservation of NM Landrace Chiles

- Chile Breeding for Mechanization

Educational Events & Programs

Education Field Day: Best management practices, breeding updates and other ongoing research projects are presented at the yearly event.

Chile Field Day: Research projects and variety demonstrations are presented at the yearly event that rotates between Las Cruces, NM and Pearce, AZ (Curry Chile & Seed Co.).

Chile Working Group: Timely topics in chile crop management are covered.

Master Gardener Program: Training is provided in Vegetable Garden Basics, Tomato Production, Weird and Wonderful Vegetables, Chile 101, Companion Planting, Crop Rotation, and Season Extension.

Sustainable Ag Workshops: Yearly events rotate around the state and present key topics of interest in the local region.

Impacts

- Sustainable Agricultural Workshops have been presented in Las Cruces, Santa Theresa, Santa Fe, Socorro, Clovis, and Farmington with more than 560 agricultural professionals receiving training in local topics of interest including alternative crops, efficient water use, improving soil health, and pest and disease management.

- Vegetable production seminars in 19 counties and 3 reservations have trained growers in best management practices to grow healthy, high quality produce locally.

- Representatives from 100% of large Chile Processors (>100 employees) participated in Chile Working Group Training, resulting in improved crop management and disease control.