

# Puerto Rico: A broad exposure to agriculture

BRR 399



## Agriculture At a Different View

Having the opportunity on being Part of the Puerto Rico service trip was truly an enriching learning opportunity. Talking and seeing with my own eyes the challenges that the Island of Puerto Rico faces in agriculture and in tropical forest due to natural disasters such as hurricanes, limiting resource's, Covid-19 and other issues really opens your eyes and educates ourselves on what is truly going outside our daily life's.

Being able to be part of their culture and see all that the land and the people of Puerto Rico have to offer to the rest world was truly something that will stay with me. Seeing the tropical forest and how agriculture is practiced was mind blowing.

As a future agronomist myself being exposed to different crops in which you're not use to seeing everyday and management practices as well as being able to talk with a local agronomist down in the Island was truly educational but also enriching as I start my professional career out in the world.

## Coconut Farm

One of the the visits will we were down in Puerto Rico was visiting the Coconut Farm owned by Danny Carrera a first-generation farm owner. The finca as it is called in Puerto Rico is located on the bottom west side of the Island which consists primary of Philippines coconut palms. Danny was just starting up his farm when hurricane Maria hit the Island in 2017 in which most of his already producing palms were destroyed by the hurricane and had to restart all over. Today the coconut farm has raised up and operates once again.

The primary use in which the coconuts are harvested for its water and its meat. The shell is turned in compost as well.



## Mangrove Restoration

On the top east side of the Island, myself with a team of students help with the pruning of invasive vines that were overgrowing and preventing native mangrove trees to strive in growth. The main goal of the project was to prune low branches on the mangroves and invasive vines that grew onto the tree itself. This was to help stop the invasive vines on over taking the trees and for the tree to be able to survive and compete for resources. The clearing of the area would also help for native birds to have more of a clear flying path within the tropical forest and inhabit more area. Drone imagery was going to be conducted to collect data on the before and after.



Trail restoration for flood evacuation

## Reflection

The biggest takeaway is no matter how hard the challenges are and how many times one must get up once again there is always a future ahead and that is exactly what Puerto Rico has done and continue too do. Looking how farms such as Danny who lost most of what he had worked hard for was gone do to a natural disaster. With a smile on there face and optimism they get back up again. We truly have a lot to learn from the community within Puerto Rico.



## Great Thank You To:

OSU Faculty:  
*Wanda Crannell, Shawn Rowe, Susan Rowe*

Sponsors:  
*CAS Global Experience Fund, USDA NIFA MASP grant, MANRRS and SCANAS OSU Chapters, Er Jackman Friends and Alumni.*