



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at Southern University, FY 2008 - Agricultural Research and Extension Center, in Louisiana

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to Southern University are administered through the Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The RREA focus is extension programming on **Forest Stewardship and Health**. In fiscal year 2008, Southern University received \$11,000 in RREA funding. Some accomplishments are listed below.

Hazard Tree Evaluation Training and Outreach: In-depth training workshops demonstrated the use of different arboricultural techniques to urban and rural communities in Louisiana, and provided tree decay identification and hazard mitigation training for Louisiana residents impacted by hurricane Gustov. More than 500 people were trained in how to detect internal decay and structural defects in trees, increasing their awareness of urban forest health and stewardship.

Urban and Rural Greening Outreach: In collaboration with the USDA CSREES RREA program, USDA Forest Service, South West Center for Rural Initiatives, and the Ford Foundation, urban forestry faculty members at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center developed a project that provides opportunities for youth to explore and understand their environment, both the urban and natural aspects, through forestry field trips and urban forestry training.



Conservation of Louisiana natural resources through recycling of wood waste and plant biobased materials from Urban and Rural areas: We conducted an outreach and seminar series to help minority businesses, industry, and urban communities reduce wood waste, increase the reuse of wooden products, and recycle those that cannot be reused. Topics that are being addressed are the current issues municipalities face with tree removal and disposal and alternative market possibilities for urban trees and alternative markets in North and Central Louisiana. We established onsite demonstration plots to show the benefits of urban forest residue as mulching materials for landscaping, conserving water, reducing run-off, enhancing urban tree growth, and improving the rhizosphere. We provided educational materials on the utilization of wood waste and biobased materials to more than 2000 participants at the Annual SAF Conference, 2500 participants at the Annual ISA Conference, more than 300 participants at the Annual Louisiana Urban Forestry Conference (LUFC), and more than 200 participants at the annual Baton Rouge Green meeting.

Southern University RREA Contact: Dr. Kamran K. Abdollahi, P.O. Box 10771, Baton Rouge, LA 70813; Telephone: 225-324-8206; email: kamrana664@cs.com