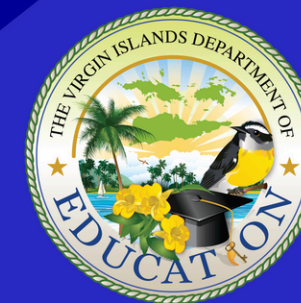


# LOCAL FOOD AND FARM COUNCIL: TERRITORIAL AG PLAN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

## SAE Review 2025

Sustainability & Agricultural Education Division  
Director Meadows  
Program Assistant Sumayah Bryan  
August 8th, 2025



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

# THE SEEDS OF SAE



## Act No. 8404

To advance food security by promoting creative problem-solving, excitement, and innovative solutions for sustainability.

-----

Active participants in our territory that will create more food stability, sovereignty, and prosperity for the people of the USVI.



## Act No. 8700

Local Funds from Act 8700 are obligated for-

Personnel to develop a curriculum (Sunshine Curriculum) and training program (The ABC Manual)  
Attending FFA CTSO Convention  
Agricultural Education curriculum supplies and services per Mandate #7

-----

Act 8700 funds portions of the Territorial Agriculture Plan including ABC, LFFC, and SAE



**Act No. 8404 is the Territorial Ag Plan &  
Act 8700 Fertilizes our Cultivation Innovation of our Territorial Ag Plan**



# SUNSHINE CURRICULUM & VISAE

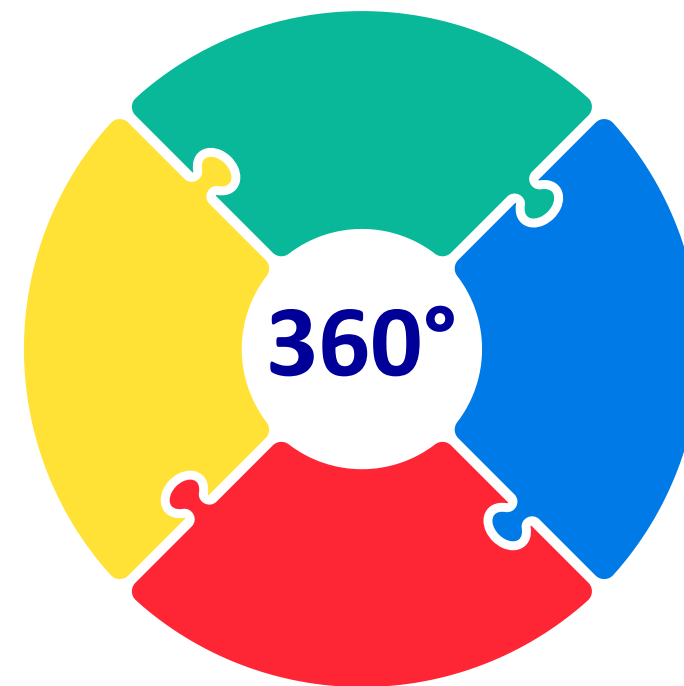


## Development of the Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE a 360° Agricultural Education System rooted in the Territorial Ag Plan.

The ABC Manual: SAE CAPSTONE  
Nurturing a Growth Mindset through SAE & CTE

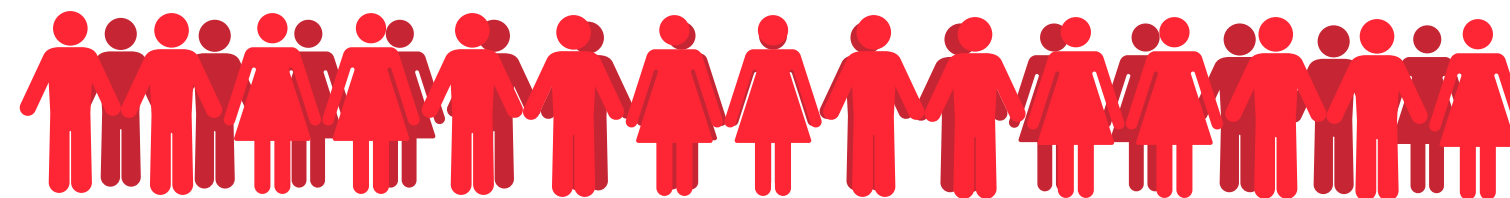


The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE:  
Rooted in Our Land, Growing Our Future



Primary Practicum Passports & Practical Practicum Practice  
Practicum Pathway to Success

The Garden:  
Esteemed Students & Educators, Coordinators, SOS Council, Partners & Support



# PARTNERSHIPS & SOS COUNCIL



## Cultivators of the Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE

help align and strengthen the Sunshine Curriculum through work rooted in the Territorial Ag Plan.



Nurturing the Territorial Ag Plan grows a U.S. Virgin Islands where education, sustainability, and agriculture grow hand in hand.



# CURRICULUM COMPONENTS



## The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE

a homegrown program rooted in the Territorial Ag Plan to strengthen food security & sovereignty.



**The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE:  
Rooted in Our Land, Growing Our Future**

# CURRICULUM COMPONENTS



## Key Components of the Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE

The ABC Manual SAE Calendar & the Practical Practicum Practice.



**The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE:  
Rooted in Our Land, Growing Our Future**



# PRACTICE PLAYLISTS TOOLS



Development of the SAE Flora & Fauna Practicums Practice Playlists highlighting the fruit and harvests of the USVI- our FLORA & FAUNA.



**FLORA  
PRACTICE PLAYLIST**

1



**SCIENTIFIC NAMES  
PRACTICE PLAYLIST**

3



**PLAYLIST**

2

**FAUNA  
PRACTICE PLAYLIST**



**PLAYLIST**

4

**NO NAMES  
PRACTICE PLAYLIST**

The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE:  
Growing Our Future Economy, Ecological Managers, & Agriculturists

# PRACTICAL PRACTICUM TOOLS



## Quarterly Practicum Exams

check students knowledge on the fruit and harvests of the USVI.



**HIGH SCHOOL  
PRACTICUM**



**SAE FLORA  
PRACTICUM**



**MASTER SAE  
PRACTICUM**



**SAE VALUE ADDED  
PRACTICUM**



**FAUNA of the VI  
PRACTICUM**



**The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE:  
Growing Our Future Economy, Ecological Managers, & Agriculturists**



# PRACTICAL PRACTICUM TOOLS

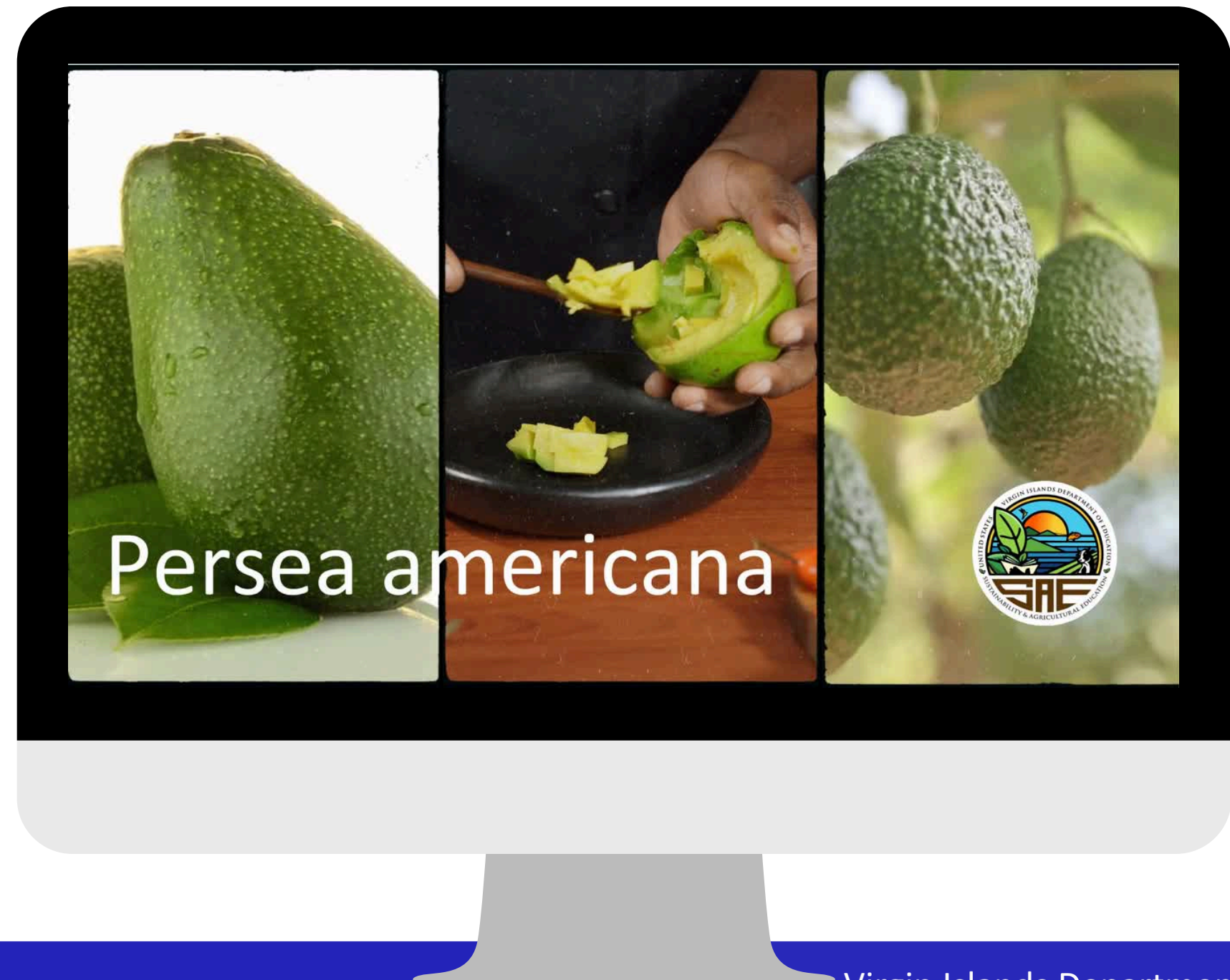


## The Practical Practicum Practice Playlist

The Practical Practicum in action allows students to learn and grow the flora and fauna of the USVI.



FLORA PRACTICE  
PLAYLIST



# PRACTICAL PRACTICUM TOOLS



**SAE VALUE ADDED  
PRACTICUM**



2:14 LTE

Form Menu

### SAE Value Added Product Practicum

Hi, Cydney. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

1. A farmer notices that 30% of their avocado harvest is rejected by supermarkets due to minor shape imperfections. Which of the following is the **BEST** strategy to reduce waste and increase profits? (5 Points)

☐ A) Sell the imperfect avocados at a lower price to animal feed producers.

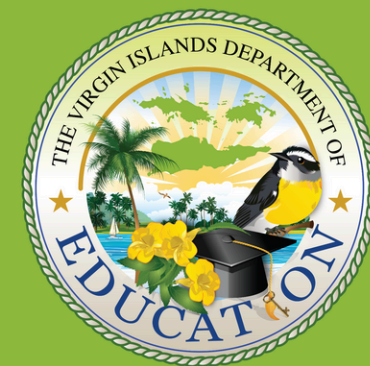
☐ B) Donate all the imperfect avocados

forms.office.com

**The Practical  
Practicum Practice  
blooms into  
Value Added Products.**



# SAE + SFA



## Continued Collaboration for Sustainability, Food Security, and Student Success

**Farm to School Month October**

**VIDESAE**

**Highlights:**

- ✓ Conch shells are sometimes used as musical instruments in music
- ✓ Conch harvesting is an important part of local fishing traditions
- ✓ Many have advocated for sustainable fishing practices to protect the queen conch populations

Conch shells are a cultural symbol of the USVI. Representing the sea's bounty and the islands' connection to the ocean.

For Farm to School October Share pics of your:  
• School garden harvests  
• Farm field trips  
• Local foods in cafeteria  
Email your submissions to [Sumayah.bryan@vide.vi](mailto:Sumayah.bryan@vide.vi)

Visit the VIDE SAE webpage to find more information and activities!



**VIDESAE**

**National Sweet Potato Month February**

**Highlights:**

- ✓ USVI-grown sweet potatoes are drought-resistant.
- ✓ Value added products earn 3x more (ex: flour, chips, or baby food)
- ✓ One USVI-grown sweet potato = 400% of your daily Vitamin A (more than kale or carrots). Even the leaves are edible!

Strengthens food sovereignty with a staple crop deeply tied to Caribbean cuisine.

Visit the VIDE SAE webpage for more info and activities!



### From Farms to School Tables: Boosting Local Food Access

- Partnered with the Local Food and Farm Council to increase procurement of VI-grown foods for schools.
- Advocated for farmers' access for more local salad bar inclusion through meetings with the School Food Authority (SFA).
- Proud to be on the team that increased Salad Bar access in schools - from primary schools to all schools



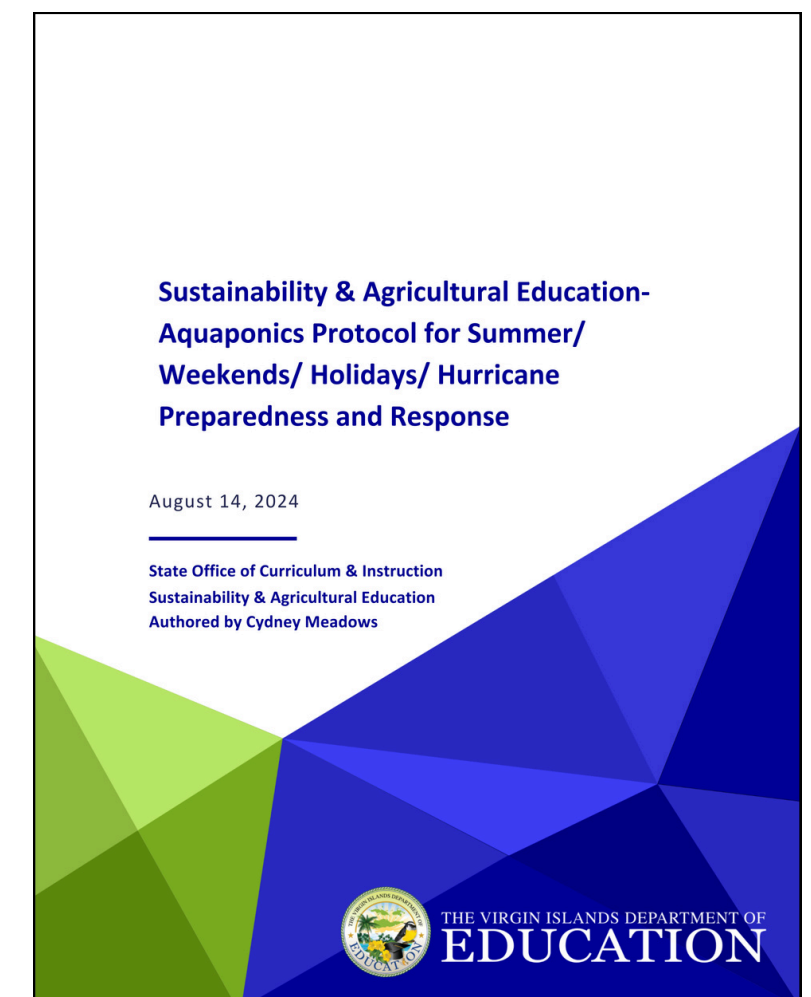
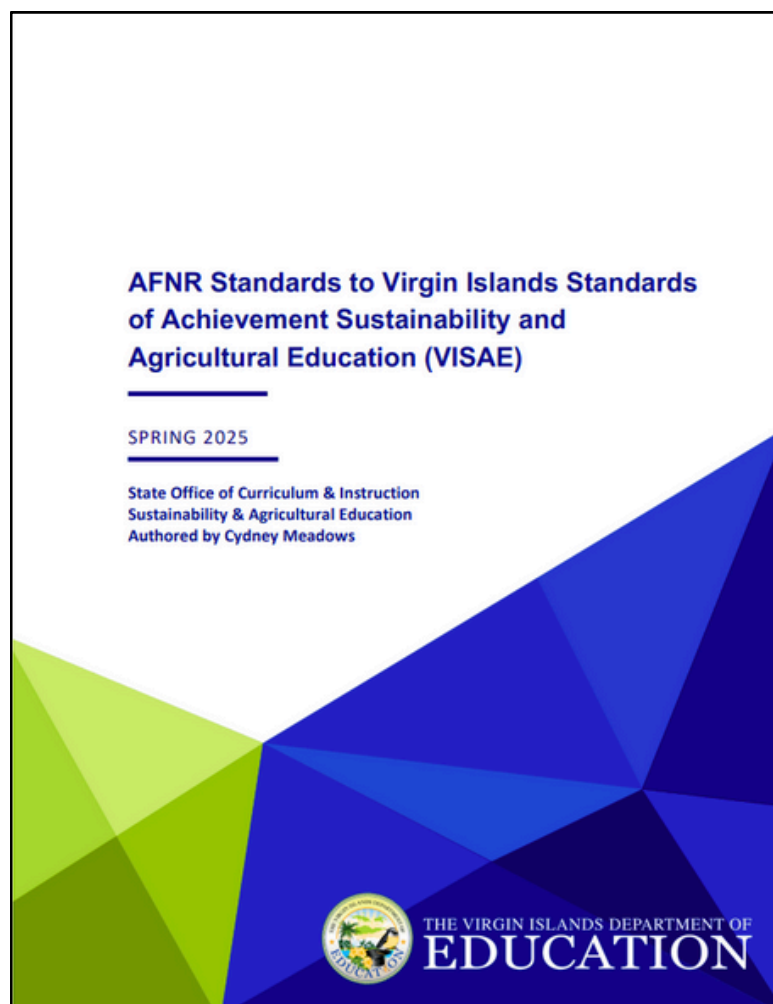
**Healthier meals for students and stronger support for Virgin Islands farmers.**



# ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENTS



## Administrative Components of the Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE a homegrown program created in support of the Territorial Ag Plan.



**The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE Support Documents:  
Rooted in Our Land, Growing Our Future**



# CTE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



**Provide support and training through the Seeds of Security Council (SOS Council) and Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)**



**Organizing Supervised Agricultural Experiences for all Agricultural Professionals, Educators & Students in the VIDE**

# EDUCATORS +



**Goal 2 for SY 24-25 Provide support and training through the Seeds of Security Council (SOS Council) and Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)**

**Seeds of Security: Scaling Our Impact  
From 4 Ag Educators to 38 Ag Professionals & Partners—  
a 850% increase in collaboration for food resilience.**



**Growing our Agricultural Professionals to ensure more sustainable and agricultural experiences for better outcomes in all subject areas for our Students in the VIDE**



# ENGAGED STUDENTS INCREASE

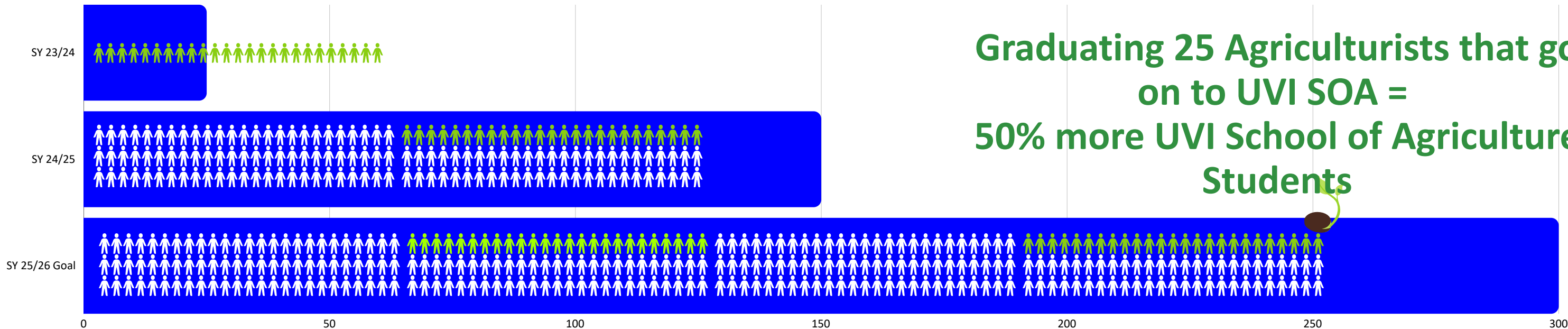


## Career Technical Student Organizations

Grow student numbers to grow agriculturalists!



Student Participation Increase in FFA CTSO  
Increased from 25 to 150 students (500% growth)  
Goal for SY 25/26 300+ students



Growing our Agricultural Professionals to ensure more sustainable and agricultural experiences for better outcomes in all subject areas for our Students in the VIDE

# PARTNERSHIPS IN SAE TOPICS



**Our Future, Our Voice with VIDE's DVICE**  
supported by FFA and One Communications.



**Organizing Supervised Agricultural Experiences for all Agricultural Professionals,  
Educators & Students in the VIDE**



# SCHOOL CONNECTIONS



## Connecting with our Schools

Every classroom can offer SAE programming ensuring every part of our community consistently grows.



### Pilot Schools SY 24/25

Julius Sprauve School (STJ)

Eudora Kean High School (STT)

Ulla F. Muller Elementary School (STT)

Yvonne E. Milliner Bowsky Elementary School (STT)

John H. Woodson Junior High School (STX)

Lew Muckle Elementary School (STX)

Ricardo Richards Elementary School (STX)

Gifft Hill School (STJ)

Antilles School (STT)



### Supported School SY 25/26

Eulalie R. Rivera Elementary School (STX)

Edith Williams Alternative Academy (STT)

St. Croix Central High School (STX)

Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School (STT)

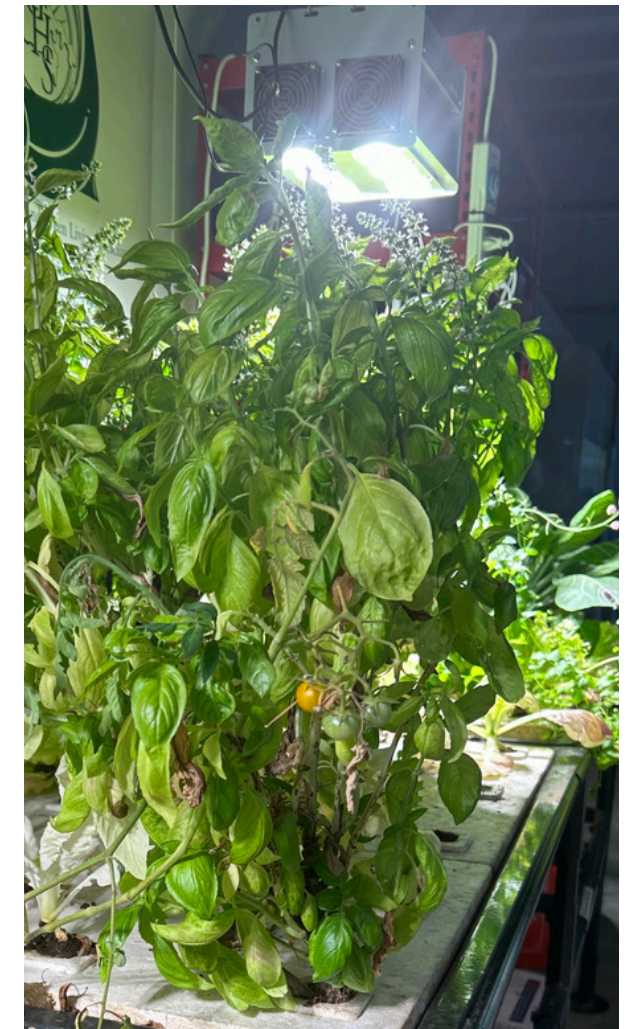
Alfredo Andrews Elementary School (STX)

St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (STX)

Juanita Gardine Elementary School (STX)

Charlotte Amalie High School (STT)

St Joseph School (STX)



**The Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE Supports Public, Private, and Non Public Schools**



# OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS



## Mango Jeopardy and VIDA approved Seed Distribution at Botanical Garden's Annual Mango Melee- Highlighting a favorite heirloom.



Virgin Islands Department of Educa...  
47m ·

Virgin Islands Department of Education's Division of Sustainability & Agricultural Education Joined... See more



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 21, 2025

0708-25

For More Information Contact:  
Shayla S. Solomon  
Director, Public Relations & Communications  
ssolomon@vide.vi

Virgin Islands Department of Education's Division of Sustainability & Agricultural Education Joined Forces with MANRRS for Community Showcase at Annual Mango Melee

The Virgin Islands Department of Education's Division of Sustainability & Agricultural Education (SAE), in partnership with Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), proudly presented an engaging and educational community showcase at the 29th Annual Mango Melee, held at the St. George Village Botanical Garden.

The interactive exhibit blended science, culture, sustainability, and the sweetness of mangoes into one powerful experience, drawing hundreds of families, students, and community members. One of the standout activities, "Mango Jeopardy," energized participants of all ages with a friendly competition testing their knowledge on topics ranging from tropical fruit biology and climate-smart agriculture to local food systems. In line with SAE's commitment to food sovereignty and security as outlined in the Territorial Agricultural Plan, the showcase featured climatized seeds and grow bags plant varieties selected or bred for resilience and specifically adapted to the unique environmental conditions of the U.S. Virgin Islands. These innovations reflect SAE's forward-thinking approach to building a stronger, more sustainable agricultural future for the Territory.

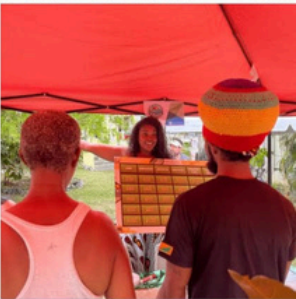
The collaboration also offered a public platform to highlight SAE's ongoing initiatives across the Virgin Islands, including school garden programs, aquaponics systems, and youth career development in sustainable agriculture. MANRRS representatives were on hand to inform students and families about pathways in agricultural sciences, underscoring the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in shaping the future of food, farming, and environmental stewardship.

As International Mango Day approaches on July 22, this celebration doubled as a heartfelt tribute to the cultural, nutritional, and economic significance of the mango. Attendees were educated on the importance of preserving mango biodiversity and supporting local agriculture to foster environmental resilience and community health.

"This year's Mango Melee offered a tremendous opportunity to blend education with tradition," said Cydney Meadows, Director of Sustainability & Agricultural Education. "Our partnership with MANRRS is helping to cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders and empower the wider community with practical knowledge."

For more information about SAE programs, upcoming workshops, or opportunities to collaborate, please contact Sumayah Bryan at [sumayah.bryan@vide.vi](mailto:sumayah.bryan@vide.vi).

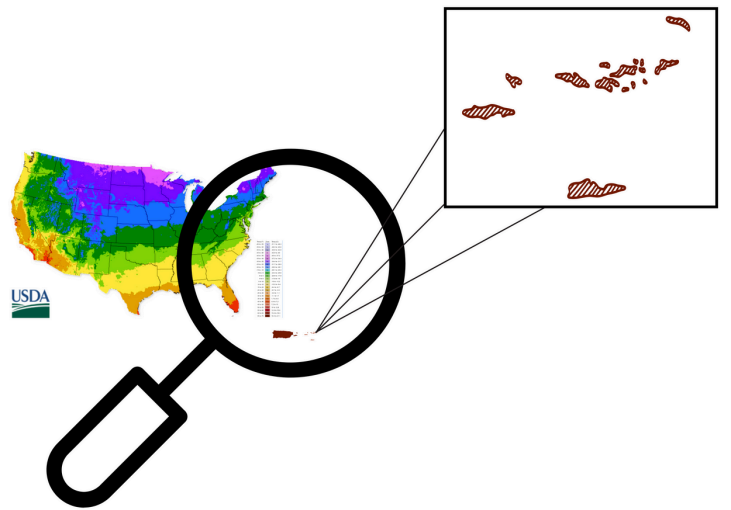
###



At the 29th Annual Mango Melee, SAE and MANRRS teamed up to showcase a Zone 13 favorite: MANGOES. The event featured Mango Tree Grafting, Mango Jeopardy, climatized seeds, and grow bags.

With International Mango Day (July 22) near, the event celebrated the fruit's cultural and economic value.

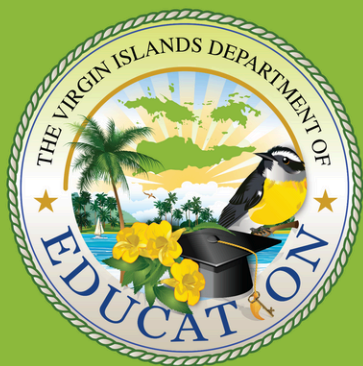
Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -55	1a	-51.1 to -48.3
-55 to -50	1b	-48.3 to -45.6
-50 to -45	2a	-45.6 to -42.8
-45 to -40	2b	-42.8 to -40
-40 to -35	3a	-40 to -37.2
-35 to -30	3b	-37.2 to -34.4
-30 to -25	4a	-34.4 to -31.7
-25 to -20	4b	-31.7 to -28.9
-20 to -15	5a	-28.9 to -26.1
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4
15 to 20	8b	-9.4 to -6.7
20 to 25	9a	-6.7 to -3.9
25 to 30	9b	-3.9 to -1.1
30 to 35	10a	-1.1 to 1.7
35 to 40	10b	1.7 to 4.4
40 to 45	11a	4.4 to 7.2
45 to 50	11b	7.2 to 10
50 to 55	12a	10 to 12.8
55 to 60	12b	12.8 to 15.6
60 to 65	13a	15.6 to 18.3
65 to 70	13b	18.3 to 21.1



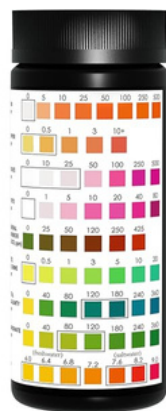
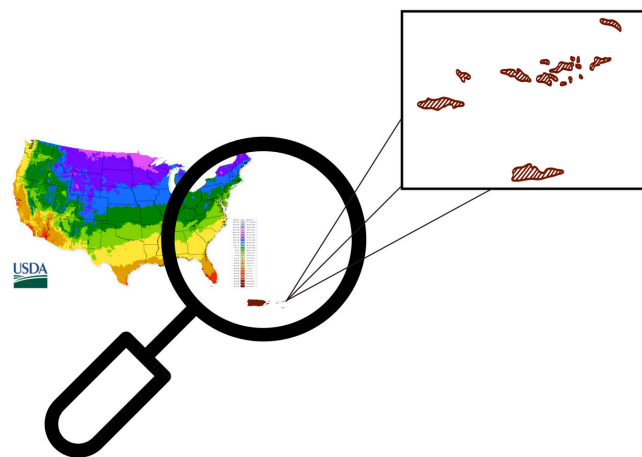
Together, we're fostering a new generation of innovators and planet protectors!



# OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS



## Girls In STEM Weekend Event: Engaging the Next Generation in STE(A)M



- ✓ Iron
- ✓ Copper
- ✓ Nitrate
- ✓ Nitrite
- ✓ General Hardness
- ✓ Free Chlorine
- ✓ Total Alkalinity
- ✓ Carbonate
- ✓ pH

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -55	1a	-51.1 to -48.3
-55 to -50	1b	-48.3 to -45.6
-50 to -45	2a	-45.6 to -42.8
-45 to -40	2b	-42.8 to -40
-40 to -35	3a	-40 to -37.2
-35 to -30	3b	-37.2 to -34.4
-30 to -25	4a	-34.4 to -31.7
-25 to -20	4b	-31.7 to -28.9
-20 to -15	5a	-28.9 to -26.1
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4
15 to 20	8b	-9.4 to -6.7
20 to 25	9a	-6.7 to -3.9
25 to 30	9b	-3.9 to -1.1
30 to 35	10a	-1.1 to 1.7
35 to 40	10b	1.7 to 4.4
40 to 45	11a	4.4 to 7.2
45 to 50	11b	7.2 to 10
50 to 55	12a	10 to 12.8
55 to 60	12b	12.8 to 15.6
60 to 65	13a	15.6 to 18.3
65 to 70	13b	18.3 to 21.1



Led interactive water and soil testing workshop with STE(A)M Division, C&I Directors, esteemed local summer camp partners and the Teacher of Year, inspiring young women to explore science careers and environmental problem-solving.

**Together, we're fostering a new generation of innovators and planet protectors!**

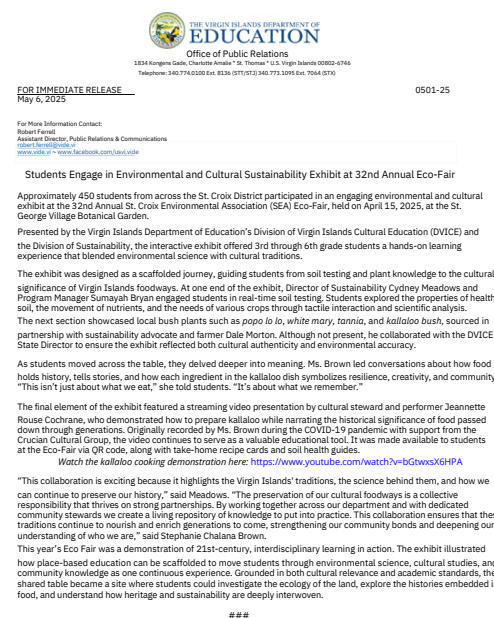






# OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

## Engaging the Next Generation at the 32nd Annual Eco-Fair



**Over 450 students explored sustainability with C&I's SAE and DVICE through hands-on activities, including:**

- Interactive demonstrations on soil testing for key foods grown in the USVI.
- Educational partnerships with key agencies and experts (ie DVICE, WAPA, UVI (Dr. Amy Dreves IPM), CORE Lionfish Awareness, CTECH's Welding Ag Fair 2 X Winners aka Mr. Charles, and DPNR)
- Inspiring future stewards of our natural resources and food systems.

Through exploration of the USVI's Kallaloo Plant and Recipe & partnership with the Botanical Gardens

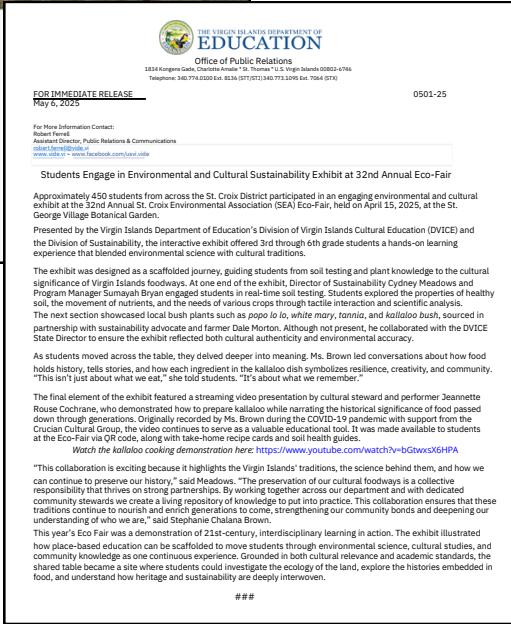
**Together, we empowered young minds to take action for a greener future.**



# SAE COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Continued Growth of SAE through SOS Council, Word of Mouth, In Person Support, & Calculated Marketing Plans



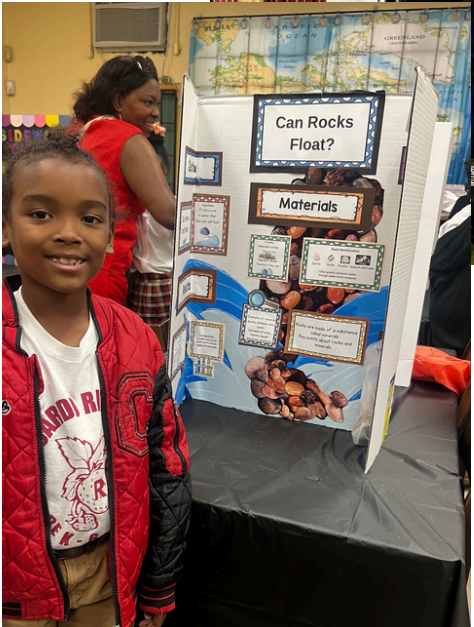
Integrated moon phase lessons (RRES) to teach traditional planting wisdom

Supported Ag Fair Science Fair to highlight agriculture as a STEM pathway

SAE support to non-public/private schools

Judge and mentor Science Fairs (Lew Muckle, Alfredo Andrews, Woodson, RRES)

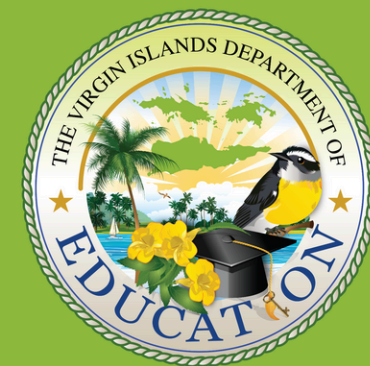
Supplemented the IEKHS Garden Club for the STT/ STJ District with Seedlings



**Accountability + Partnership = Cultivation Innovation for Ag in the Classroom**



# CULTIVATION INNOVATION



## Our First Hydroponic Freight Farm at Eulalie Rivera



**Our Freight Farm is a classroom that will help shape the next generation of sustainability leaders through:**

- **Cutting-Edge Technology:** This climate-controlled, soil-free system grows the equivalent of 2.5 acres of produce in a compact trailer.
- **Hands-On STEM Learning:** Students Territory-wide will explore hydroponics, food security, and eco-innovation in a mobile classroom.
- **Collaborative Success:** Funded by the Consolidated Grant Agreement (CGA) and spearheaded by VIDE's St. Croix C&I Team and SAE Division, this project reflects the power of partnership.



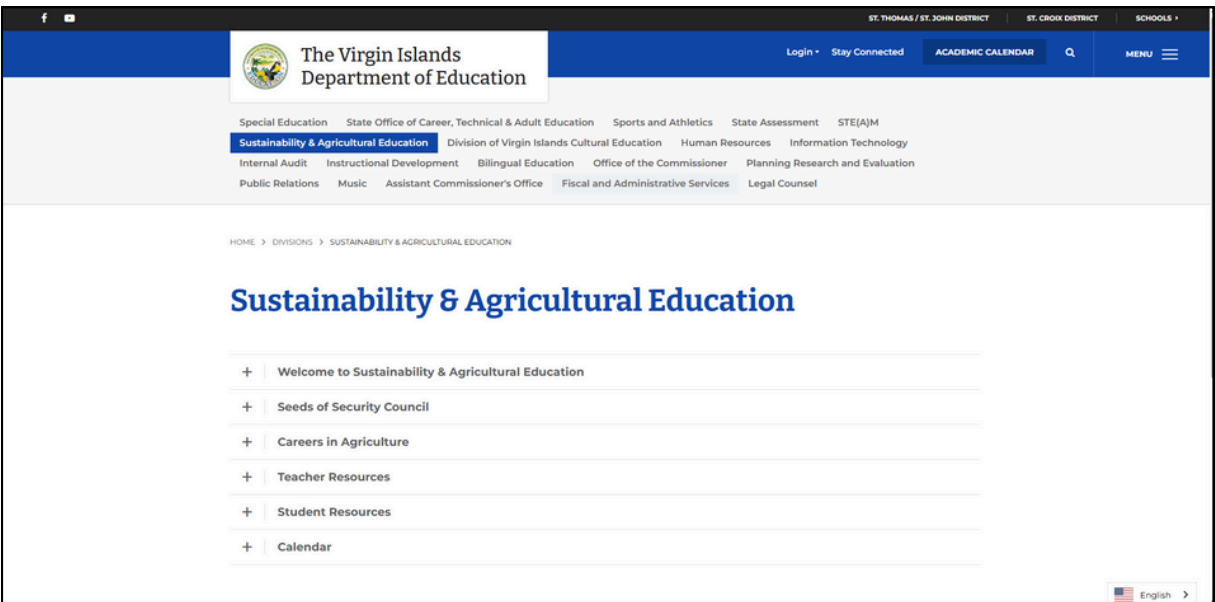
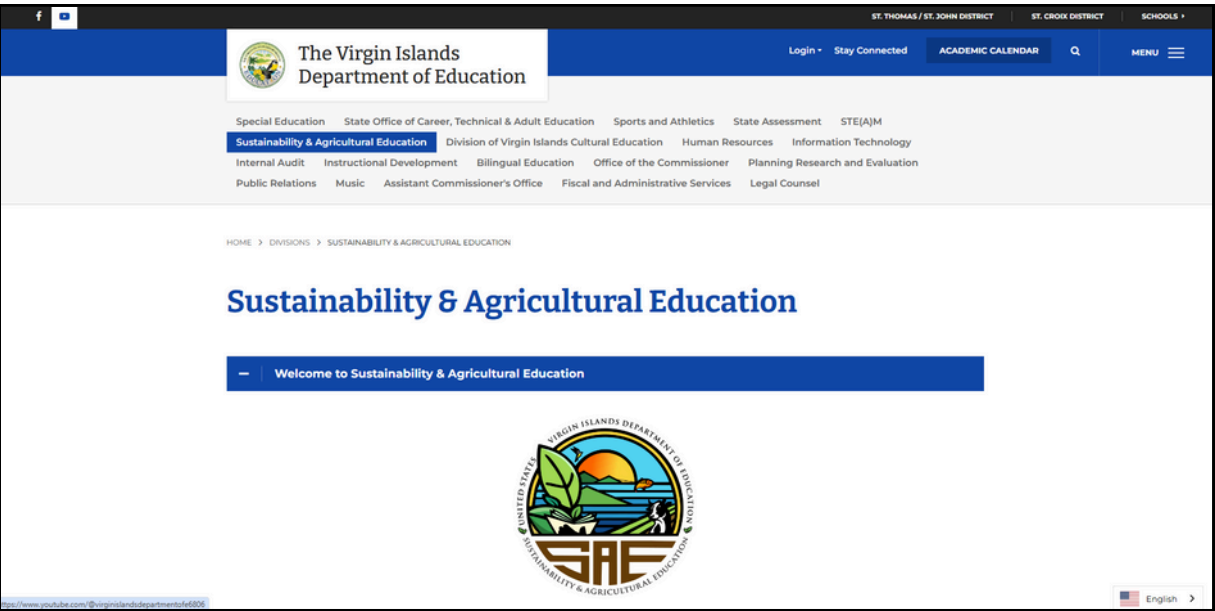
**VIDE's commitment to the TAP—proves that cultivation innovation grows right here at home.**



# ONLINE PRESENCE



## Online Presence & Organized Public Access Points



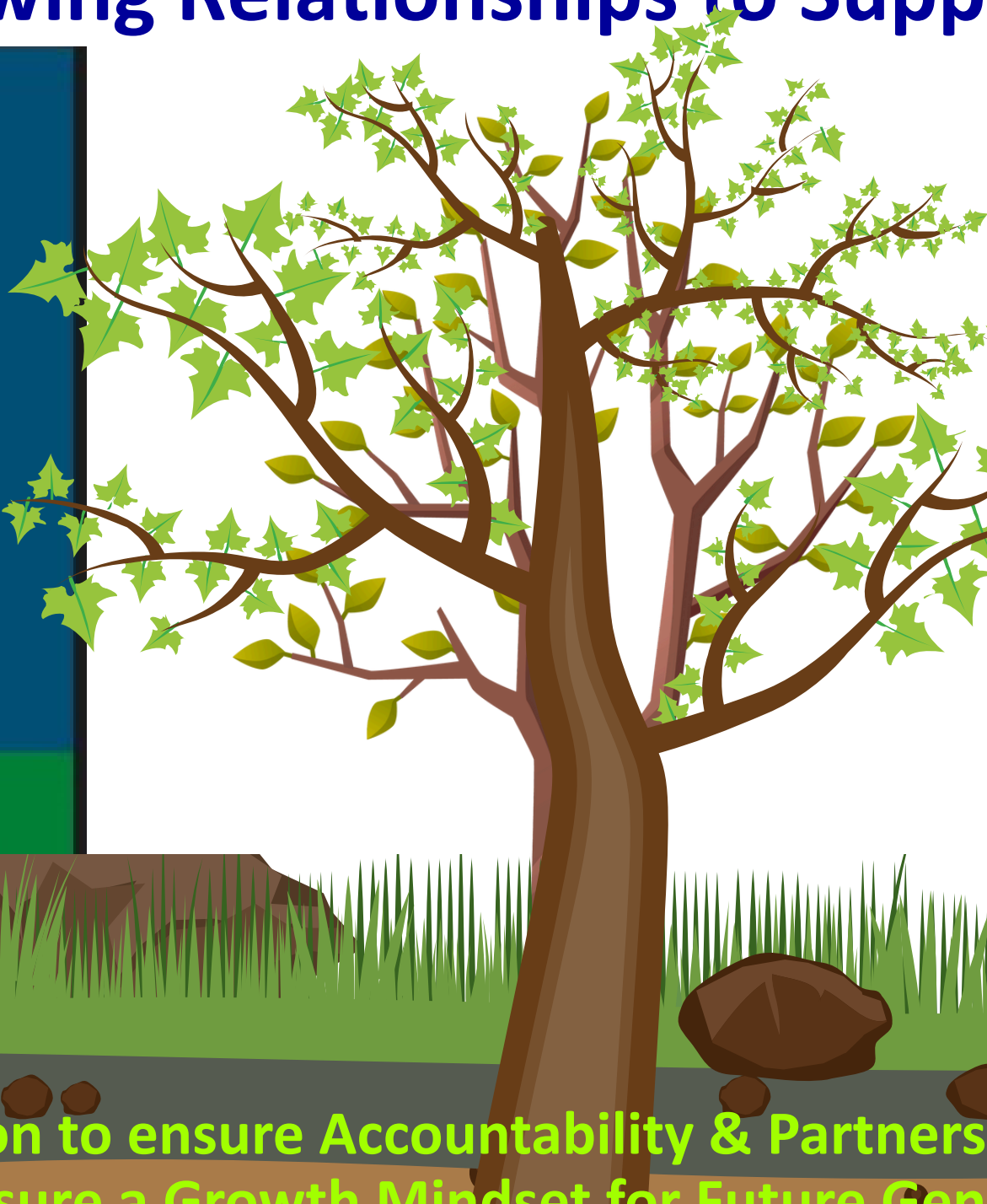
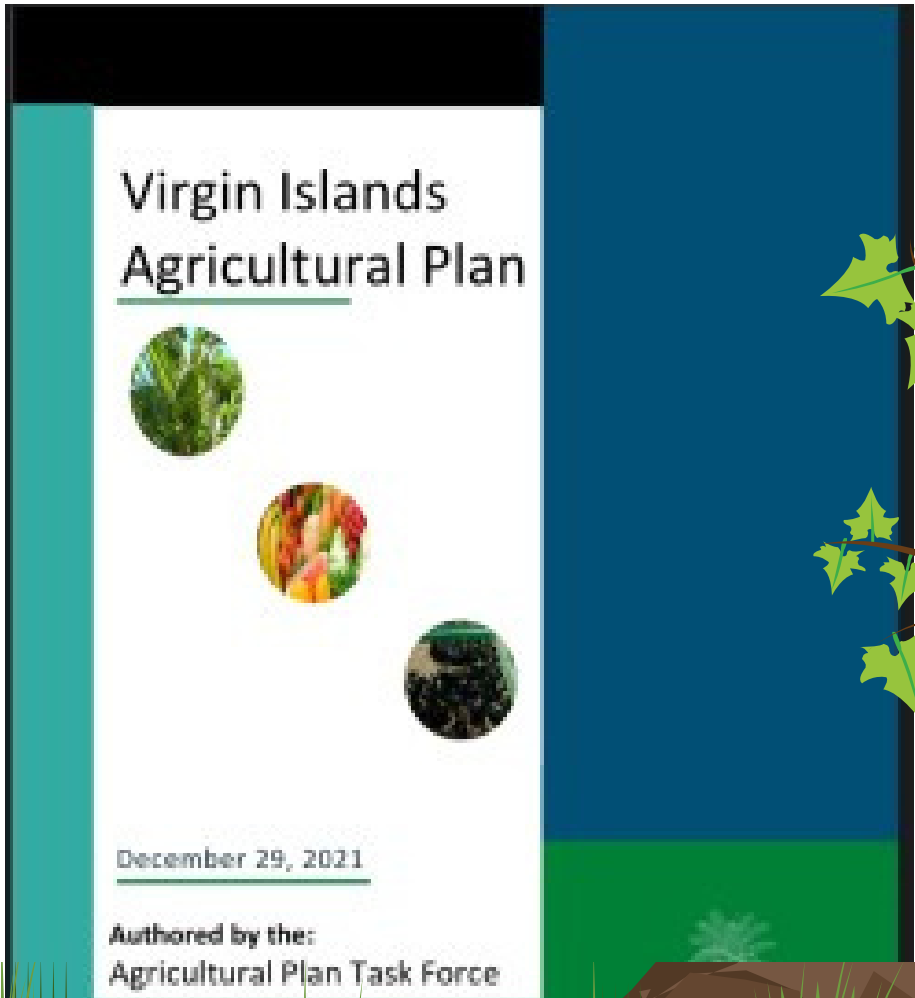
**Connecting, Marketing, & Cultivation Innovation is the fertilizer we use to grow Ag in the Classroom**



# STRENGTHENING THE “TAP”



## Growing Relationships to Support the TAP



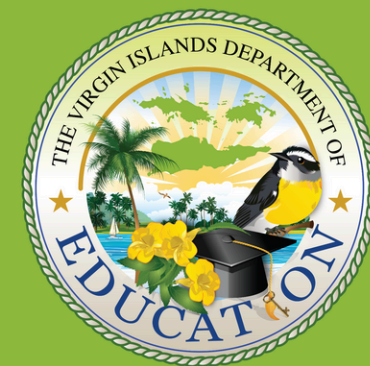
TAP WORK GROUP



Fertilizing Cultivation Innovation to ensure Accountability & Partnership to nurture our Territorial Ag Plan will help ensure a Growth Mindset for Future Generations to come.



# GROWING SAE NATURALLY



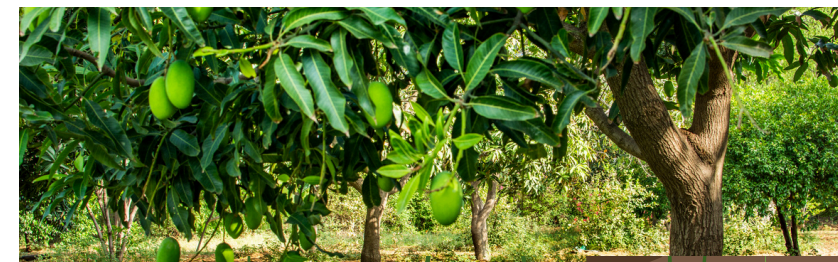
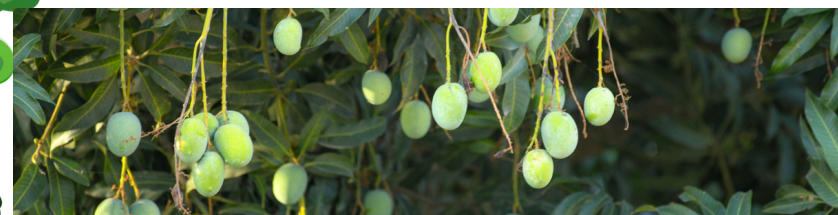
WIAA + DPNR Tree Council Partnership = More Food Orchards

*Graduate  
vibes*

Class of 2025

"Growth Mindset Scholars"

*Mangifera indica*



This is how we fertilize cultivation innovation—by linking hands-on action, partnership, and long-term vision.  
Together, we're not just planting trees; we're cultivating a growth mindset that will bear fruit for decades.



# CTSO FINANCIAL IMPACT SY 24-25



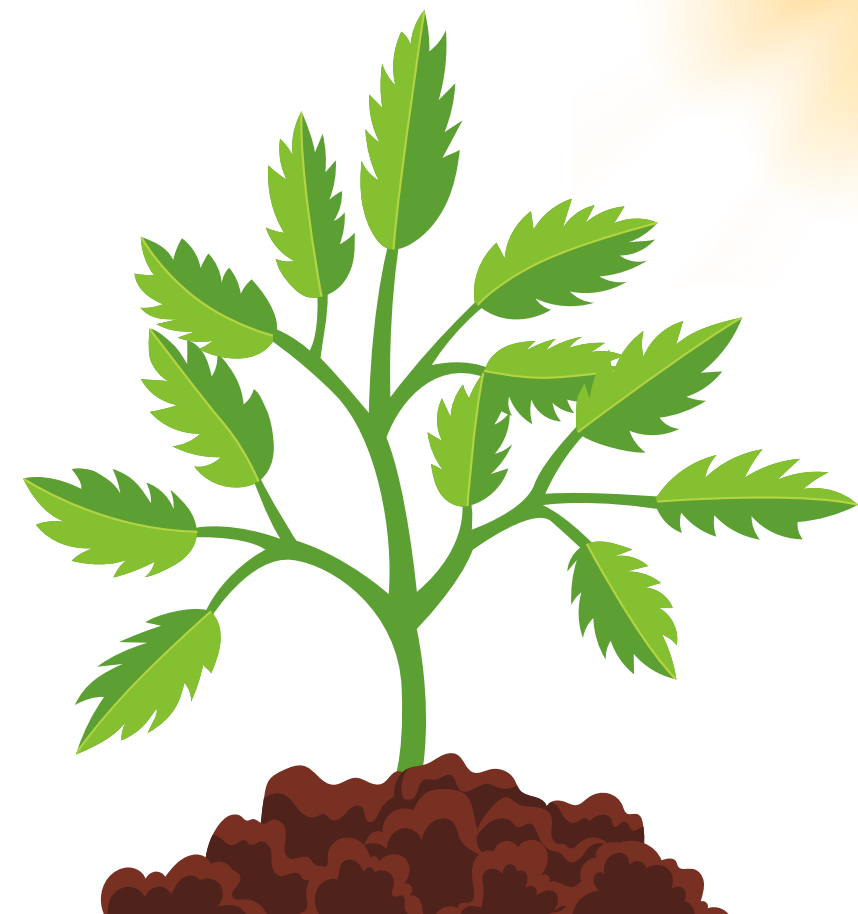
**Career and Technical Student Organization's are the nourishing our schools**  
through funds, volunteer support, and outreach programs.

## **\$500 FFA Funds**

- VIDA & FFA Collaboration to bolster heirloom seeds to provide drought tolerant seeds to designated SOS COUNCIL members
- Provided seedlings to STT/STJ District's Garden Club at IEKHS
- Provided Irrigation to Eulalie Rivera Greenspace & Freight Farm
- Provided Irrigation to Claude O. Markoe Greenspace
- Provided Irrigation to Lew Muckle Greenspace
- Supported DVICE "Sustainable VI: Our Future, Our Voice" Program with One Communications
- Professional Development opportunities and Microsoft FarmBeats Sensors Initiative (\$500 reward per FFA affiliated school!) (SY 25/26)

## **\$100 MANRRS Funds**

- Provided volunteer support, outreach, and a \$100 donation for the Mango Melee Outreach
- Collaborating with SFA and SAE for Eat with Manners Initiative (SY 25/26)





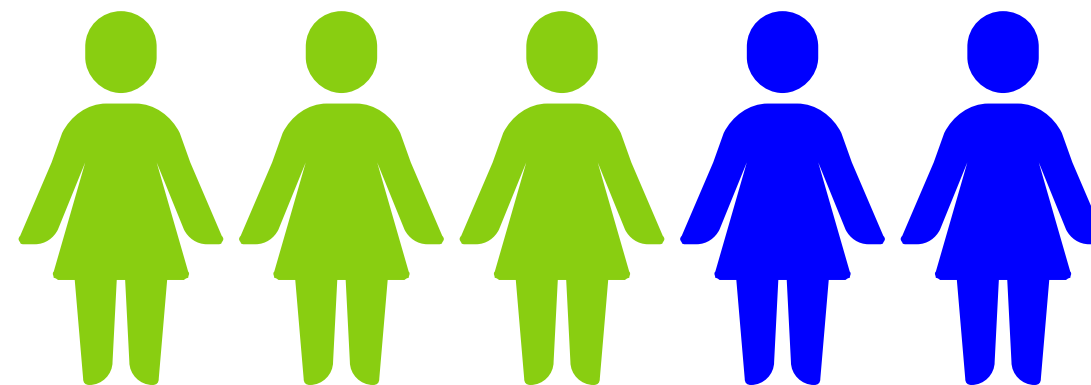


# CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

## Teacher Retention & Poaching

Competition for Ag teachers is fierce

The USVI lost 2 of the previous 5 Ag staff to high powered agricultural states like Georgia in the 2024. This stunts the growth of our Ag Plan and disrupts our momentum.



## Mitigation Strategies:

- Custom Curriculum: Developed in-house to reduce reliance on CASE-certified teachers.
- Working with UVI to create a work force that is nurtured locally
- Creating the SOS Council to create Ag Professionals in every school and uplift school Ag programs
- Paraprofessionals program to support more teacher certification
- Modular Design: Allows new teachers to plug in without waiting years to complete the full CASE cert.



# NEXT STEPS FOR SY 25-26

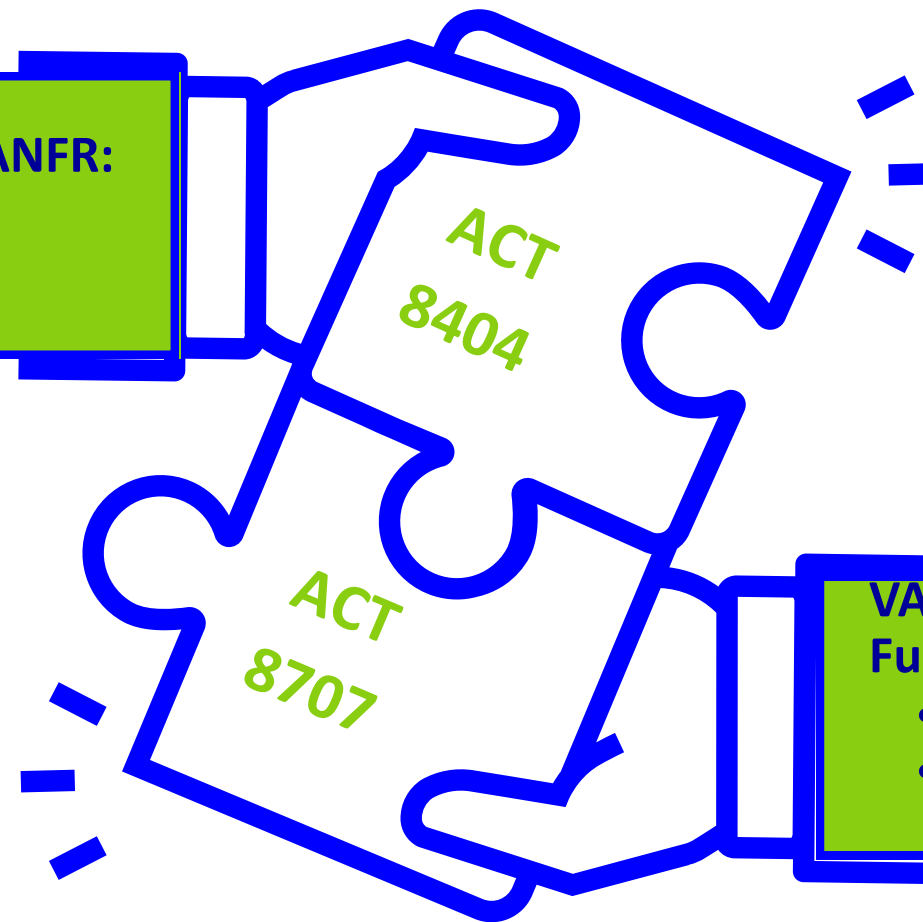


## Approval of the Sustainability & Agricultural Education Curriculum (Sunshine Curriculum & VISAE) by the SAE Curriculum Workgroup and Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE)

### Academic Integration

All SAE curriculum components align with VISA & ANFR:

- ELA (business plans, technical writing)
- Math (yield calculations, projections)
- Science (experimental design, data analysis)



### VALIDATED ENGAGEMENT

Full cooperation from district leadership:

- All territorial superintendents engaged
- Pilot Program School Principals implementing pilot programs and request from Principals to join the SAE program

Rooted in full superintendent support and principal demand, our SAE program now branches into every core subject - growing academic rigor through real-world Ag experiences.



# SET UP GREENHOUSES AT PILOTS



## Enhance Sustainability & Agricultural Education Curriculum

Hands on experience in both school districts.



### Progress Update:

- Curriculum materials ordered & in pipeline
- RFPs requested for build

### Includes:

- Classroom growing systems
- Seeds/ VI-specific crop starter packs
- Support Supplies for pilot schools' existing gardens



**Agricultural Education is the science of what we do and how we bring it to the table.**



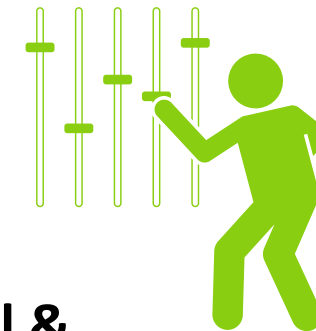
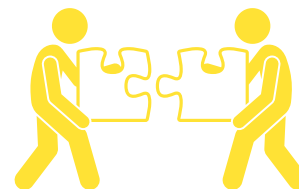
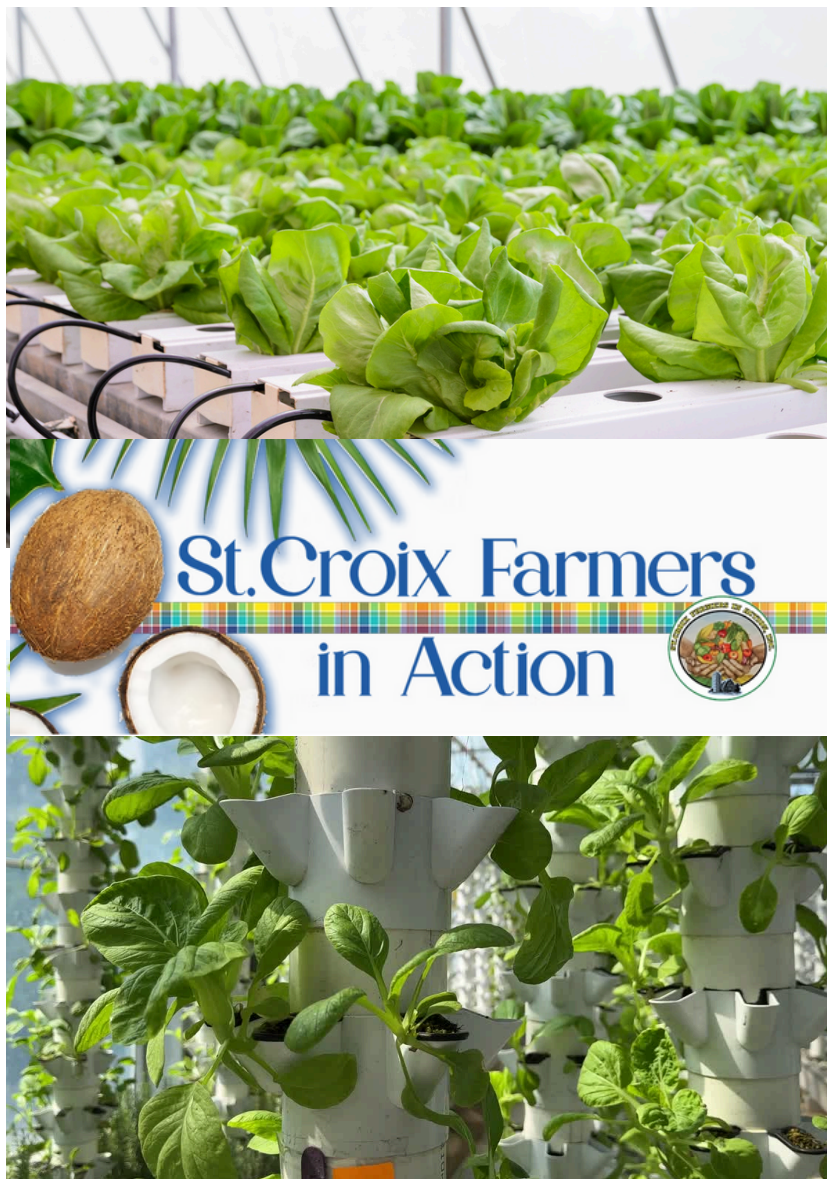
# SUPERVISED AG EXPERIENCES



## SAE FOR ALL:

Strengthening sustainable practices & youth engagement in agriculture.

- Working closely with the Local Food and Farm Council and UVI, parents, PTA, and schools to promote Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE)—the core of hands-on Ag Ed.



### Key Program Sites & Initiatives:

- Bethlehem Sugar Restoration Site – Historical & sustainable farming.
- Farmers in Action & Farm Education for All – Community-driven agriculture.
- UVI & Aquaponics at Bethlehem Site – Innovative farming techniques.
- Botanical Gardens & IEKHS – Historical Educational hubs.



**Nurturing Positive Partnerships for the Prosperity of our Community**

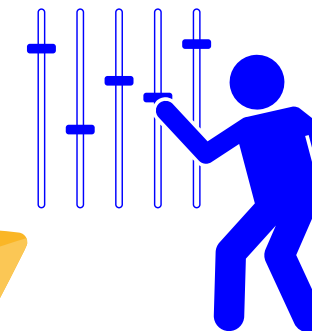
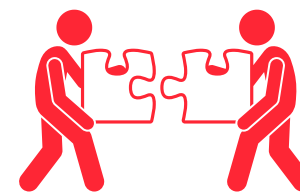


# THANK YOU FROM SAE



## Let's keep growing together!

**Thank you for finding your part  
in this growing movement.  
Together, we're not just building  
a sustainable future for the USVI  
—we're rooting it in community,  
innovation, and shared purpose.**



**None of this happens  
alone—every seed  
planted, every lesson  
taught, every hand that  
tends the soil brings our  
Territorial Ag Plan to life.**