## Adjuntas Agricultural Experimental Station Managed (Agriculture) Site Adjuntas, Central Mountain Region, Puerto Rico 18.17464N 66.79870W

Contact: Skip Van Bloem; svanbloem@uprm.edu; 787-832-4040 x 2442, 2218 http://estacion.cca.uprm.edu/adjuntas/infgen.aspx

**History:** The Adjuntas Agricultural Experimental Station was established in its present location in 1963 and is run by the University of Puerto Rico's Land Grant College in Mayaguez. Current agricultural use has been maintained for at least two centuries at more or less the same level of intensity, although the peak agricultural use was in the early 20th century.

Key Contribution to Domain and Continental issues: The site is proposed for study of the effects of hurricane passage, global climate change, pathogen outbreaks, and invasive species on agricultural systems. The site represents a tropical dry landscape totally dominated by agricultural activity. It offers an opportunity to contrast this landscape with urban and forested landscapes in terms of the effects of hurricanes, invasive species, land use, disease outbreaks, and climatic change. Within the domain, this site is a contrast to dry sites on a precipitation gradient and wet sites along a land use gradient (urban, coastal, and forested). Gradient studies complemented by mobile unit campaigns, will be able to evaluate the relationships between climate, nutrient cycling, and management practices.

**Key Characteristics:** Elevation is 550-750 masl. Soils are all volcanic, clay, and acidic. Mean annual temperature is 21.6°C and rainfall is 189 cm/y. Agricultural activities include production of coffee (both in sun and shade), citrus, banana, plantain, and research into pest control, plant diseases, and nutrient export.

**Existing Infrastructure:** Education is an important component of the Adjuntas AES's mission. There are 4 full-time researchers stationed at the farm. Currently, there are 19 active research projects conducted here in collaboration with U.S. universities, non-profit institutions, the PR Dept of Agriculture, and companies.

**Facilities:** The farm has laboratory space plus infrastructure typical to working farms. Most facilities on site have internet connections.

