The field of plant-food technology offers numerous career options. Besides employing people for research and development, the industry also caters to various other agricultural biotech-related fields including high-tech farming, in vitro and in vivo plant propagation, food processing, and post-harvest technology. Occupations related to agricultural pharmacobiotechnology are expected to increase 10%-12% by 2018 (DILR Research and Statistics Office, 2010). The average projected growth for Precision Agricultural Technicians from 2012 to 2022 is from 8% to 14%, with employment of 64,000 employees and a median annual salary $43,130 in 2012 (O-NET Online Summary Report, 2011).

In order to attract a new generation of skilled agricultural-food technicians, Windward Community College offers a Certificate of Competence in Plant-Food Production and Technology (CO PFPaT). The CO PFPaT serves as a leading pathway certificate toward the Certificate of Achievement (CA) in Agripharmatech, and/or Certificate of Completion (CC) in Agriculture Technology, as well as prepares students for immediate employment.

CO PFPaT is a credit certification program requiring a total of 9 credits. Select three of the following classes:

- BOT 105 (Ethnobotany, 3 credits) or
- BOT 130 (Plants in Hawaiian Environment, 4 credits) or
- BOT 160 (Identification of Tropical Plants, 3 credits) or
- BOT 199 (Independent Study, 2 - 3 credits) or
- AG 120 (Plant Science, 3 credits) or
- AG 149 (Plant Propagation, 3 credits) or
- AG 152 (Orchid Culture, 3 credits) or
- FSHN 185 (Human Nutrition, 3 credits)

Students will be trained in plant identification, in vivo and in vitro plant propagation, plant growth and culture, medicinal/nutritional uses of plants, as well as practical training in the labs, medicinal garden and greenhouse. The CO graduates will participate in mentoring programs where they work in local companies to gain experience before entering the workforce.

Contact Information

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