

**Kanand Brooks, USDA/NRCS Assistant Conservationist for
Texas Field Operations**
Is presented the
**Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers
Community Based Organization
FY2010-2011 USDA Partner of the Year
Highest Achievement Award**



Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers/CBO has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture/Office of Advocacy & Outreach (USDA/OAO) to increase participation of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers in services available through our local USDA programs by holding workshops & training events throughout Texas for FY2010, 2011 & 2012. These training events are used to inform the targeted audience of the assistance available through USDA programs and to increase participation in USDA programs which include:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Rural Development (RD)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Also involved are other Federal entities such as Texas Agri-Life, Texas Soil & Water Conservation and Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas institutions of high learning and other Texas CBOs & Landowners.

Since this outreach project began November 1, 2010 each agency has participated in providing field support for more than 48 TSFR/CBO workshops and training events held in more than 43 counties across central and East Texas.

Kanand Brooks is consistent in not only providing and assisting with USDA NRCS representatives and speakers for training and workshop presentations, but on occasion, he also speaks directly to our producers on the necessity and importance of the advocacy and outreach partnerships for USDA as well as producers across Texas. His agency representatives are always equipped with the necessary information and tools to encourage and attract the producers to visit their local USDA service centers to acquire information and services that will assist in making them better stewards of their land. Kanand continually emphasizes and represents the following important key point to producers - "Trust building is essential...get to know your agencies."

As recipient of TSFR/CBO FY2010 – 2011 USDA Partner of the Year Highest Achievement Award, we look forward to Kanand continuing his tradition of service to the traditionally underserved producers by supporting and representing the USDA/NRCS at many training and workshop events.

His selection for the award was announced August 6, 2011 at the TSFR/CBO Executive Board Meeting in Palestine, Texas.