



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
Office of International Research, Education, and Development
Virginia Tech (0378)
840 University City Blvd., Suite 5&7
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Phone: (540) 231-1230
Fax: (540) 231-1402
sanrem@vt.edu
www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp

Trip Report: Bolivia 15-19 June 2008

Jeffrey Alwang
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip:

Supervise research progress, meet with research partners, discuss linkages with cross-cutting initiatives, and begin planning for subsequent year.

Sites Visited: Cochabamba, Bolivia

Description of activities:

Met with PROINPA administration to discuss training prospects, ongoing work and perspectives on how the SANREM research fits their agenda. Dr. Gandarillas expressed hope that more graduate training would be possible and was concerned about the project ending in September 2009.

PRONPA/SANREM project researchers presented an overview of achievements this year. The basic descriptive analysis of the baseline survey has been completed, and a CD with data tables and some analysis is available. Additional analysis will be led by Virginia Tech. The experiments in Tiraque were only marginally successful this year, due to extreme rainfall events which led to an atypical year. PROINPA expressed a strong need for collaboration in the nutrient management area; the nutrient management experiments lack rigor at this time. Alwang agreed to seek assistance.

Nadezda Amaya, who will be studying for a marketing/economics MS degree at Virginia Tech this fall, presented her work on gender, market access, and information sources. She has completed most of her field work, and would focus on the remainder of it—case study interviews with families—between June and August. She arrives in Blacksburg in August. Her thesis will combine quantitative (analysis of our baseline survey and market chain analysis) and qualitative



(key informant interviews, observations at markets and the case study) approaches. She will work closely with Maria Elisa Christie in the fall.

Contacts were made with collaborators for the cross-cutting soil initiatives. Dr. Jose Castillo and Dr. Javier Franco expressed interest and connections with Drs. Garrett and Motavalli were made.

A meeting was held at the Universidad Mayor San Simon with the partners who conducted the environmental/biodiversity assessment. Suggestions were made to improve the existing product and ideas for the subsequent year were discussed.

A meeting was held at PROMIC, the group leading the watershed modeling and management effort. They presented an update on the land use plans that are being created by small working groups in Tiraque, additions to the SANREM GIS, and the group discussed plans for next year. The group also discussed the watershed modeling workshop, to be presented at PROINPA in September.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

1) Find a soil scientist to collaborate with team; 2) take steps to increase communication between the Bolivian partners and the USAID mission; and 3) take steps to broaden participation by US researchers in Bolivian site.