



## Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP  
Office of International Research, Education and Development  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (0378)  
526 Prices Fork Road, Room 211  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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

### Trip Report: Vietnam December 9-17, 2012

Adrian Ares, Director

- Purpose of Trip:**
1. Attend the Third International Conference on Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia
  2. Meet international donors
  3. Discuss SANREM CRSP's activities and future in Cambodia

**Sites visited:** Hanoi, Vietnam

#### **Executive Summary:**

Adrian Ares travelled to Vietnam to attend the Third International Conference on Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia co-sponsored by SANREM CRSP, meet representatives of international organizations and discuss the possibilities of continuation and expansion of SANREM CRSP activities in Cambodia. Ares gave a presentation about the program in a meeting with international donors and met with SANREM CRSP PI, Co-PIs and collaborators for the LTRA-12. He also, discussed collaboration between SANREM CRSP and the University of Battambang with Rector Touch Visalsouk.

#### **Description of activities:**

##### *Monday December 10*

Ares arrived to Hanoi after the start of the meeting. The trip was postponed because of visa and passport problems.

##### *Tuesday December 11*

Ares attended conference sessions on "Agriculture system design and assessment" chaired by SANREM CRSP LTRA-12 PI Manuel Reyes that included keynote presentations by Stephane Boulakia, LTRA-12 Co-Pi, on alternative "Direct-sowing mulch-based-cropping systems." He also participated in a session on "Agroforestry options with conservation agriculture systems"

chaired by Delia Catacutan from ICRAF. He also met with Stephane Boulakia, J.C. Moraes Sá, Manny Ramirez and Florent Tivet to discuss studies on soil organic carbon in Kampong Cham, Cambodia. Soils samples down to 1-m depth have been already collected and shipped to Brazil where Lyda Hok, a graduate student at North Carolina A&T University funded by SANREM CRSP will perform laboratory analysis. Ares agreed to ask authorization to USAID so that Lyda can be trained in Brazil for up to six months.

*Wednesday December 12*

Ares did not attend the day-long field trip and stayed in the hotel working on a proposal.

*Thursday December 13*

Ares attended the session “Which conservation options optimize ecosystem services?” chaired by Florent Tivet and Tran Duc Toan with the keynote presentation “Managing organic carbon with agricultural systems” given by J.C. Moraes Sá.

Ares and Manuel Reyes participated in a conference call with the Rector of the University of Battambang, Cambodia; Dr. Touch Visalsouk. He expressed strong interest in collaborating with SANREM CRSP. The university will host Ellen Xavier who will help to conduct gender studies in Cambodia for the LTRA-12. Maria Elisa Christie and Daniel Summer will be also visiting Battambang in January to conduct preliminary work related to Daniel’s graduate program. Rector Touch would like to start an M.S. program in Conservation Agriculture at the University of Battambang and he is looking for potential faculty. Reyes mentioned that some SANREM CRSP-funded graduate students and technical personnel like Lyda Hock and Rada Kong could join the University of Battambang in the future. Ares briefed Rector Touch about the recently launched InnovATE program, funded by USAID and managed by Virginia Tech to enhance higher-education capacity in Feed the Future countries.

*Friday December 14*

Ares attended the keynote presentation for the session “Conditions, strategies, barriers and opportunities for scaling-up conservation agriculture.” He then participated in a concurrent session with donor agencies (ACIAR, AFD, FAO) and other organizations/programs (CANSEA, CIRAD, NOMAFSI) that are working in Southeast Asia. Ares gave a presentation describing SANREM CRSP activities and strategies to continue and expand conservation agricultural work in Cambodia that was followed by numerous questions. During the meeting, several attendants expressed concern about the difficulties of getting funding for conservation agriculture projects owing to the current focus on short-term initiatives with high impact. The conference ended with a conclusive session and a closing ceremony.

*Saturday December 15*

Ares worked on a proposal in the hotel

*Sunday December 16*

Ares departed to the U.S.

## Contacts Made

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Stéphane Boulakia	CIRAD	Stephane.boulakia@cirad.fr.
Delia Catacutan	ICRAF	D.C.Catacutan@cgiar.org
Stéphane Chabierski	CIRAD	stephane.chabierski@cirad.fr
Olivier Gillard	AFD	gilardo@afd.fr
Damien Hauswirth	CIRAD	damienhh@gmail.com
Francois Jullien	AFD	jullienf@afd.fr
Amir Kassam	University of Reading	kassamamir@aol.com
Rada Kong	PADAC	
Agustin Mercado	ICRAF	agustin9146@yahoo.com
João Moraes Sa	Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa	jcmsa@uepg.br
Geoff Morris	ACIAR	geof.morris@aciarc.gov.au
Jeremias Mowo	ICRAF	j.mowo@cgiar.org
Nguyen Huu Nhuan	Hanoi University of Agriculture	huunhuan@uqconnect.edu.au
Oleg Nicetic	University of Queensland	o.nicetic@uq.edu.au
Krishna Paudel	Forest Action, Nepal	krishna@forestaction.org
Samran Sombatpanit	WASWAC	Samram_Sombatpanit@yahoo.com
Sujata Tamang	Forest Action, Nepal	
Pablo Tittonell	CIRAD-WG	Pablo.tittonel@wur.nl
Florent Tivet	CIRAD	florent.tivet@cirad.fr
Tran Duc Toan	SFRI	