



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
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Trip Report: Philippines January 20-29, 2013

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Mary Harman, Gender CCRA Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip:

- 1) Provide restitution to the farmers involved in the Gender CCRA research during July-August 2012.
- 2) Hold focus group discussions to present and ground-truth results with farmers.
- 3) Collect additional data from farmer's fields.
- 4) Meet with Maria Elena Javier-Chong, gender expert of SE Asia LTRA in Manila to discuss gender research in Cambodia.

Sites Visited:

Manila
Claveria: ICRAF headquarters; Bug-ong, Rizal/SANREM demonstration plots and ICRAF training center; farmer fields in Rizal and Patrocenio.

Description of Activities

All objectives were met during this trip. The greatest achievement was the restitution to the farmers—providing household interview results through a PowerPoint presentation, soils analysis (both fertility and textural), and maps of the farmers' fields. Folders were distributed to each household that contained soil analysis results from the best and worst soils on their farm, fertilizer recommendations of those soils, and maps displaying the location of those soils. Additional documents were provided by ICRAF and included a brochure about ICRAF in Mindanao, flyers about conservation agriculture, and scientific articles on conservation agriculture trial plots in the Philippines. Soil results were made possible through collaboration with the Soils CCRA and the Philippines team. This event also included several presentations on conservation agriculture and the distribution of a small amount of seeds and seedlings—Arachis pintoi, Adlai, Stylosanthes guianensis and cowpea (var IT82D-889)—which will allow the farmers to experiment with crop diversification. During the focus group discussion, data from the 2012 research was validated in men and women-only groups, including the following key points: men and women agreed that plowing is necessary in farming, that women can best contribute to

farming by providing daily income through small businesses run out of their home, and that land ownership was essential to investing in conservation agricultural practices that provide long-term results.

Another key outcome was building the relationship between the SE Asia program and these farmers. This will help in conducting further research in this site and expand the network of SANREM collaborators now that 18 new households (men and women) have been introduced to CAPS and SANREM CRSP. This trip also increased the knowledge of the SE Asia team regarding access to resources and agricultural practices of the 18 households involved in this research.

Itinerary:

Jan 21, Monday

MEC and Mary arrive in evening to Manila.

Jan 22, Tuesday

MEC and Mary met with Ellen Javier and discussed her trip and MEC's to Cambodia. They agreed there must be coordination between the Gender CCRA and the gender research within the SE Asia LTRA in both Cambodia and the Philippines. Ellen would like to look at the impact CAPS would have on women and said that during her visit they seemed to think it would give them less work.

Jan 23, Wednesday

MEC and Mary worked in hotel to revise agendas and detailed questions for team meeting and FGD.

Jan 24, Thursday

Travel to Claveria via Cagayan de Oro; settle in.

January 25, Friday

Team meeting to prepare for field day on Saturday. Discussed the agenda, questions, and roles for the following day. Prepared a PowerPoint of the research findings after learning there was a projector and other PowerPoint presentations at the event. Went over the materials for the farmers' folders which included the soil particle analysis prepared by the Philippines team and other documents about CAPS, SANREM CRSP, and ICRAF. In addition to their own soil fertility analysis, farmers were given the soil particle analysis and land use information for their own field in a table comparing these with other farmers' data (names were not included). The folders were branded with USAID and SANREM CRSP logos on the cover. The ICRAF team very professionally created flip chart pages with translation of questions and prepared all materials and supplies for the following day.

January 26, Saturday

Agenda of Farmer Restitution and Capacity Building

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Person/s Involved</i>	<i>Time Allotted (Min)</i>
<i>PART I: Results of Mary Harman's study (Facilitated by Yuyen Duque)</i>		
Invocation	Farmer representative Prospero	

	Puro	
Welcome message	Jun Mercado	
Opening Message	Maria Elisa Christie	
Agenda	Yuyen Duque	5
Presentation of research findings	Mary Harman	30
Focus group discussion	ICRAF Team	50
Group 1: Women	Team: Yuyen Duque, Emi Hebron and Rionel (Shiongo) Ellacer	
Group 2: Men	Team: Ernesto (Toyans) Salimodao, Thelma Paday, and Sid Bagares	
Distribution of soil analysis results and explanation of folder contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Soil Analysis (long) ✓ Soil Analysis (short) and fertilizer recommendation ✓ Maps ✓ ICRAF documents 	Mary Harman, Maria Elisa Christie, and Jun Mercado	40
Discussion	Yuyen Duque	30
LUNCH		30
<i>PART II: Conservation Agriculture (Facilitated by Dr. Imelda Hebron)</i>		
Introduction and discussion on SANREM-CRSP, CA and findings and recommendations of CAPS trial plot	Jun Mercado	30
Distribution of seeds and explanation	Jun Mercado and Gil Arcenal	25
Open forum	Dr. Hebron	30
Closing message from team	Maria Elisa Christie	5
Closing message from farmers	Farmer representative (woman)	

January 27, Sunday

Team meeting at ICRAF office to reflect on and discuss the results, process, gender-based constraints and opportunities, next steps, and recommendations. All team members wrote and submitted reports on previous day's activities. Jun Mercado drives MEC and Mary to CDO to stay at Malberry Suites Hotel.

January 28, Monday

MEC and Mary write draft trip report.

January 29, Tuesday

Depart Philippines.

Development impacts

- One male farmer in the group had CA experience and shared this with others during Jun’s presentation. One woman farmer also had good understanding of conservation agriculture with trees (CAT) and shared with the group.
- Possibility of 18 new households becoming SANREM collaborators and carrying out experiments on their farms.
- Increased trust in researchers and willingness to collaborate in the future.
- Seed distribution was important because resource-constrained farmers may go to trainings and not be able to implement new ideas because they may not have the means to.

Recommendations and Follow-up Items:

- Conduct farm visits to provide technical assistance on seed planting and questions about soils analysis results and CAPS presentations.
- Follow-up study by the SE Asia team to ascertain if farmers planted their seeds, where they were planted, and the gendered decision-making process involved.
- Deliver folders and seeds, and discuss CAPS with farmers who were not in attendance at focus group discussion (total of two households out of 18).
- Develop livelihood activities for women that builds on their business experience and will support CAPS. For example:
 - vermicomposting, which women can do in their household space and can involve children
 - grow animal feed/grasses to address competition and conflict over pastureland
 - produce rubber and other tree species seedlings to integrate trees into conservation agriculture, which is particularly important on sloping landscapes

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Workshop	1/25/13	SANREM/ ICRAF team	3	4	SANREM Gender CCRA PI, Maria Elisa Christie and Graduate Student, Mary Harman	Prepare FGD
Farmer focus groups and workshop	1/26/13	Farmers involved in Gender CCRA household research in summer 2012	17	16	SANREM Gender CCRA PI, Maria Elisa Christie and Graduate Student, Mary Harman. Site Coordinator for SANREM SE Asia LTRA, Jun Mercado	Explain results of mapping, interviews, and soils analysis. Introduce CAPS.