



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
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Trip Report: Philippines July 3-August 21, 2012

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Purpose of Trip: (1) To launch student research into gendered knowledge of soils using GIS and participatory, qualitative methods; (2) to carry out Focus Group Discussions including various activities with farmers from Rizal and Patrocenio Barangays; (3) provide methodological or logistical assistance for the student fieldwork, (4) to wrap up the reporting and reflections on the FGDs; (5) to clarify how the soil sampling and analysis and restitution to the farmers would proceed; and (6) provide training on geospatial techniques to ICRAF staff.

Sites Visited: Farm households in Rizal, Patrocenio, Bug-ong, Rizal, Hinaplanan, and Cabacungan. All are in Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao.

Description of Activities

The team from ICRAF and MOSCAT (Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology) trained in February on Dr. Christie's (MEC's) last visit, along with a few new team members, implemented Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Rizal and Patrocenio Barangay farmers to complement activities carried out in the FGD in February. Participants for household visits were selected from a randomized list of farmers in both Barangays. Household and field visits began in conjunction with the SE Asia LTRA team; the student (Mary Harman)—along with translator Sid Bagares and note-taker Thelma Paday—have made tremendous progress at a rate that ensured a successful 6 weeks of data collection. The team implemented the full Gender CCRA methodological package and adjusted it for future fieldwork. Mary's arrival coincided with that of LTRA PI, Manny Reyes, and SANREM CRSP Director, Adrian Ares, facilitating her orientation to SANREM CRSP work in Claveria through observation of a Farmer Field Day and visits to farmer-managed and demonstration sites with the team. Ellen Javier, gender coordinator for SE Asia during the previous phase of SANREM CRSP, was also there and helped orient Mary. Several team meetings were held to prepare for and reflect on the research. Mary delivered soils testing supplies. Logistics and budget were clarified for remaining weeks of

student fieldwork and subsequent soil sampling. Plans were made for giving back to farmers and increasing the impact of the Gender CCRA on the SE Asia LTRA through a Field Day and capacity-building activities the coming year.

All activities have been supported by an excellent team under the direction of Jun Mercado, with transportation provided by ICRAF, including driver and vehicle (essential on the difficult and muddy roads). This has allowed the work to be conducted efficiently and in the local language and to have the reports in both local language (Bisaya mixed with the local dialect) and English, providing for better understanding of nuances and local identifiers, especially with several people providing notes on the same activity and including their observations and personal reflections as well as the data. Mary has learned key expressions and words associated with soils and grasses, making the farmers relax and smile when she says or recognizes them. Mary's core team for fieldwork is Sid Bagares for translation and Thelma Paday as notetaker. Sid is also typing notes of her observations during each field day. The following team supported the FGDs: for Rizal the team consisted of Mary Harman, Caroline Duque Piñon, Shiongo Ellacer, Sid Bagares, Thelma Paday, Dr. Emelda Hebron, and Bensive Gabibano. The FGD in Patrocenio team was Mary Harman, Caroline Duque Piñon, Shiongo Ellacer, Apolinario Gonzaga Jr., Sid Bagares, Thelma Paday, Dr. Emelda Hebron, and Bensive Gabibano.

The FGD (Part II) with Patrocenio farmers was a continuation of the FGD led by MEC in February of 2012 and consisted of the timeline and the activity chart. The same participants were invited. In both villages, there was perfect attendance on the part of the women invited. For the men invited in both villages, many could not come due to obligations on their farm.

MEC's accompanying the research team to several household interviews and field visits served to clarify some key points in the methods (such as the importance of mapping best and worst soils on paper and with the GPS) and to update the interview guide to match changes the team had already made but to help ensure consistency in the way the questions were asked. Thus, one key outcome was a revised set of research tools.

The following activities were conducted:

FGD Part I

1. Preliminary Opening
2. Discussion: What is Soil?
3. Soil Samples Discussion
4. Prioritization of Local Soil Quality Indicators
5. Community Soils List
6. Map Community Soils List on Satellite Image
7. Presentation of Results

FGD Part II

8. Timeline Activity
9. Practices and Participation Activity
10. Presentation of Results

A total of 19 households were interviewed, including 18 men and 18 women (2 households consisted of a widow and a widower). The participants' ages range from 30-72 for women and 33-77 for men.

The household interview activities include:

1. Gaining demographic and land ownership information
2. Soil Samples
3. Picture Interpretation
4. Participatory Mapping
 - a. Access, Control, and Labor of resources
 - b. Drawing different types of soils on their farm and indicating the best and worst
5. Changes in Climate, Pasturing, Planting, and Soil Management Practices
6. Drawing their community soil types on a satellite image

Field Visit Activities:

1. Get the area calculation of entire farm using GPS
2. Get the area calculation of woman's best and worst soil locations using GPS
3. Get the area calculation of man's best and worst soil locations using GPS
4. Discuss with each their perception of the farm, crops, and soils

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

-Look at land tenure issues and stress the importance of this to the municipal government from the perspective of soil conservation. The local government keeps putting money into training and soils sampling but farmers don't know if they will be keeping their land.

-Soil analysis should be done early on because farmer cooperators are telling us that if they do not plow their area they will have little production because soil is hard and roots will not penetrate. With an early soil analysis and targeting of plots that are likely to be successful with CAPS, we will increase adoption and address this farmer perception that is an obstacle to adoption. Soil analysis results should be given to the farmer to give them information and recommendations on their soils. Provide results of soil analysis to farmers early on. In fact, keeping our word about and providing results of mapping and soil analysis will build trust that may increase farmer receptivity to CAPS recommendations. (Several farmers reported that the government had taken soil samples 5 years ago and still has not having provided results.)

- Target farm owners who hire other farmers as their source of labor. Include large-holder farmers because many of the small-holder farmers work on those farms. This may 1) result in adopters who are able to take more risk and try new things (and are more likely to adopt as per CAPS literature) and 2) could serve as the ultimate demonstration plot for the many local farmers who both have their own farms and also hire themselves out.

-Provide more constant support to farmers (more regular visits), especially during planting and "side dressing" (fertilizing). The following is related to this:

-Ensure that farmers use the fertilizer provided by SANREM on the plants/plots used for CAPS trials as per recommendation rather than on other crops.

Itinerary:

- Thursday 5 Mary Harman arrives in Claveria (with no luggage!)
- Friday 6 Team meeting at ICRAF office; discussed logistics and planned activities for the FGDs and the household interviews. Mary presented SANREM's Gender CCRA and review of Maria Elisa's visit in February.
- Saturday 7 Mary visited three farmer-managed sites for SANREM CRSP in the Barangays of Patrocenio, Hinaplanan, and Cabacungan with Manny Reyes (Manny) , Adrian Ares, Maria Elena Javier (Ellen), Sid Bagares, and Jun Mercado (Jun). That evening, Mary traveled to Cagayan de Oro (CDO) to receive delayed luggage and stayed the night there. Had dinner with Manny Reyes and Adrian Ares to discuss upcoming field research.
- Sunday 8 Breakfast with Ellen; discussed Filipino culture and mixed-methods research. Visited Jun Mercado's CAPS experimental plots in Bug-ong with Jun, Manny, and Ellen.
- Monday 9 Attended Farmer Field Day at Jun's farm in Bug-Ong along with 70 farmers from the municipality. The goal was to tell the farmers about the 2 years of research and the results of the experimental CAPS plots, discuss new farming technologies, and visit the field and vermicomposting demonstration.
- Tuesday 10 Conducted full-day FGD (Parts I and II) in the Barangay of Rizal. In gender-segregated groups, the farmers discussed their perceptions of soil, looked at soil samples, listed soil quality indicators, listed community soils, drew them on a satellite image, created a timeline, and filled out an activity chart on socio-economic practices and participation (see description below). Both groups presented their activities and results. Mary met with and obtained permission from the Barangay Council and the Barangay Captain, Ricardo Ejem, to conduct household interviews in Rizal. The Secretaries for the two Barangay Councils were very helpful: Gina Susmeña for Rizal and Fely Lagrasas for Patrocenio.
- Wednesday 11 Held team meeting led by Caroline (Yuyen) Duque Piñon to de-brief after the FGD in Rizal. The team thought the activities went very well and that participation was excellent. Also discussed the household sample selection; the team suggested going to the Barangay Council with the randomized list of farmers to find out if the first 15 fit our criteria.
- Thursday 12 Went to Rizal Barangay Council and met with the Secretary, Gina Susmeña, and two Barangay officials, Tata Sayon and Nicholas Macabugto. We

explained our criteria for respondents was based on the following: smallholder farmer that had their own land even if they were also hired labor, married (adult man and woman in the household), they were not at the FGD, and were not a SANREM farmer cooperator. We obtained a list of farmers for each Barangay through the Barangay Nutrition Scholar for 2011. It was created from a population survey where they had to list their occupation and from that we obtained the names who listed their occupation as “farmer.” We showed them this list and they eliminated those not fitting the criteria. This was crucial because it turned out that most of the first 15 did not. In fact, many of the farmers didn’t because they were either strictly hired labor, had moved, or were widowed. Once that was done, we had one of the officials escort us to the houses and introduce us. This was deemed necessary to reduce suspicion and increase the likelihood of farmers speaking to us. In this way, we were able to schedule nine households and got GPS points of all the household locations.

- Friday 13 Conducted part II of the FGD in Patrocenio, consisting of a timeline exercise and an activity chart. We had a total of 6 men and 12 women farmers. We had the men do their activities in the Barangay Hall and the women went to the school behind the Hall. We reconvened after both groups were done and they presented their results. Mary introduced herself to the Patrocenio Barangay Captain, Leo Casiño, and got permission to do household interviews and field visits in the community.
- Saturday 14 Stayed in CDO, typed field notes, and reviewed household interview and field visit tools.
- Sunday 15 Return to Claveria and rest.
- Monday 16 Conducted interview and field visit for household #2 (household #1 was in Patrocenio from February trip) in Rizal. Got area calculation of farm boundary but not the best and worst soils because the husband needed to get back to work and the wife needed to get back home. We rescheduled for return visit. (Note that IRB/protection of human subjects procedures are being followed and household data is associated with a number and code only.)
- Tuesday 17 Interviewed husband and wife of household #3 in Rizal, visited their field, and got area calculation of their farm; did not get the area calculation of their best and worst because we ran out of time as they had to get back to work. We will schedule a return visit. We also interviewed the husband of household 4 and visited one of two parcels that he owns. We were unable to interview his wife because she was working at a nearby tomato plantation but we scheduled her interview for later in the week.
- Wednesday 18 Interviewed and did field visits for households #5 and #6. We were not able to get the good and bad soil area calculations for household #5 because the wife did not accompany us to the field as she had to stay home with the kids and run

her sari-sari store. Got all the area calculations for household #6.

- Thursday 19 Interviewed both husband and wife and visited fields separately for household #7. Maria Elisa arrived in Claveria.
- Friday 20 Interviewed both husband and wife for household #8 and visited their field; got area calculation of their farm and best and worst plots for both man and woman.
- Saturday 21 Field visit with husband from household #4 on his second parcel of land, obtaining all necessary GPS data. Got the area calculation of the second parcel. We waited for and then interviewed his wife once she got off work (as hired labor on farm with 300 workers) at mid-day. Visited the Barangay Hall of Patrocenio to get assistance reviewing our list of farmers and selecting the ones fitting our criteria there. After that, scheduled two household interviews for the following week.
- Sunday 22 Attended the Corn Festival in Claveria, complete with pig roast competition including pigs from each Barangay. Went to CDO to buy soil sampling supplies and withdraw cash from ATMs to pay staff and lodging.
- Monday 23 Interviewed the husband and wife for household #9 and completed field visits. Interviewed a widow and visited her field (household #10). Also went to Patrocenio and scheduled three more interviews with farmers. MEC and Jun held meeting to discuss progress and logistics of the gendered soils knowledge research and Mary's fieldwork; Also inspected soil equipment (5 hydrometers, 1 clinometer, and 1 lb of sodium hexametaphosphate (HMP) which Mary brought, discussed soils protocol and developed a schedule for and discussed details of soils work (collection, drying, sieving, and analysis of physical properties, packaging, and shipping to Virginia Tech) —from sampling to a plan for a field day in February to provide restitution to the farmers and increase SANREM's cooperators. Good discussion about progress. Made budget and received approval from the Soils CCRA to cover soils sampling and restitution event costs.
- Tuesday 24 Mary went to CDO to obtain visa (required if staying longer than 21 days). Full team updated field notes and wrote reports—note-takers and facilitators from FGDs, Mary, translator and note-taker from field days. Reports were received from: Caroline Duque Piñon, Shiongo Ellacer, Sid Bagares, Thelma Paday, Dr. Emelda Hebron, and Bensive Gabibano. These provide an excellent, detailed description of research activities with the richness that comes from local researchers and assistants with different perspectives providing the data and their observations. The training in February was evident in this and in the execution of the FGD and the follow up team reflections. Emphasis had been made on collecting information in original language (and

provide translation) and include full ethnographic quotes, and, separately from this data, to include reflections on process and findings.

- Wednesday 25 Jun, Maria Elisa, and Mary met with Mayor of Claveria, Redentor Salvaleon and with the Deputy Chief of Police, Banay-an to discuss Mary's presence and research in the area. Had provided basic data the previous day already but had not had formal introductions at the municipal level, despite having done this at the Barangay level with Rizal and Patrocenio. Team meeting with Maria Elisa to discuss general findings, recommendations, and suggestions for upcoming interviews. Consolidated best of team photos and held slideshow for team and Jun. Interviewed household 11 in Patrocenio. Maria Elisa left for CDO—en route to US via one night in Manila.
- July 26-August 4 Conducted interviews and field visits with households #12-#18.
- Sunday 5 Interviewed President of Women's Association in Patrocenio. Wrote reports and drafted maps.
- August 6-9 Follow-up interview with household #1 (Maria Elisa interviewed them in February); follow-up field visits with households #2, #3, and #5. Conducted interview and field visit with household #19.
- Friday 10 Attended SANREM farmer-cooperator meeting. Obtained GPS points of community resources in Patrocenio. Went to Municipal Planning and Development Office and asked about available GIS data.
- Saturday 11 Wrote reports and drafted charts.
- Sunday 12 Rest.
- Monday 13 Met with Oscar S. Moreno, Governor of Misamis Oriental as part of a courtesy call and to discuss research and experience in the Philippines.
- Tuesday 14 Led training seminar with the ICRAF staff on using GPS units and geospatial software. Obtained GPS points of community resources in Rizal.
- Wednesday 15 Went to the Municipal Office of Development and Planning and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office to get GIS data and information on Claveria's Women's Association Group.
- Thursday 16 Assisted in soil sampling the best and worst soils for household #3 in order to clarify protocol and shipping strategy for soils analysis.
- Friday 17 Held a team meeting to thank everyone; wrote reports.

Saturday 18 Left Claveria. Stayed in Cagayan do Oro.

Sunday 19 Wrote reports.

Monday 20 Flew from Cagayan de Oro to Manila.

Tuesday 21 Flew from Manila to US.

Training Activities Conducted:

| Program type | Date | Audience | Number of Participants | | Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.) | Training Objective |
|--------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|-------|--|---|
| | | | Men | Women | | |
| Geospatial Seminar | 8/14/12 | ICRAF Staff | 1 | 3 | Virginia Tech | Introduce and train ICRAF staff on how to use GPS units and open-source GIS software. |

List of Contacts Made:

| Name | Title/Organization | Contact Info (address, phone, email) |
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*ICRAF-International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (World Agroforestry Centre)

**MODP-Municipal Office of Development & Planning