



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Bolivia and Peru

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Purpose of Trip: This mission involved overall coordination and administration of collaborative community research, and the development of stakeholder linkages with CIP, USAID, communities, and research collaborators in Bolivia and Peru.

Sites Visited: Lima, Peru; La Paz, Bolivia; Umala, Bolivia; Ancoraimes, Bolivia

Description of activities:

1. Participated in community meetings in Ancoraimes and Umala with officials to present the project, coordinated by UMSA and PROINPA. Four communities in Umala and three in Ancoraimes agreed to participate in the project. Meetings involved mutual learning about main issues that preoccupy families, and on the communities' and the project's aims.
2. Developed with the team, under the lead of Dr. Jiménez, the Community Participatory Assessment (CPA) protocol. This included mapping of natural resources, land use patterns, and geographical vulnerability assessment, as well as mapping of changes as perceived by the participants. It also consists of focus group discussions on soils, crops, wildlife, and plant diseases and pests in each community, and on current perceived risks, coping and adaptation strategies developed. A large group exercise on sources of risk and dreads in agriculture, natural resources, markets, social and political conditions, and climate was also conducted.
3. Liliana Sanchez (CIP-UNALM) and I trained co-investigators from UMSA, PROINPA, UC and enumerators in the CPA techniques. Seven women and seven men were trained.
4. Liliana Sanchez trained four men and four women from PROINPA on geo-referencing and worked with Luz Lopez (UMSA) on GIS to develop maps for CPAs. Key community landmarks were geo-referenced with community officials in Umala and Ancoraimes.
5. Met with CIP-ALTAGRO in Bolivia to agree on collaboration in Umala.
6. Developed survey instruments with UC, UMSA and PROINPA. Participated in the interviews, led by Dr. Jiménez, of candidates for the enumerator positions. Three men and three women were selected, and participated in the training for the CPAs.
7. Coordinated with Dr. Jimenez, Dr. Bruce Bower (MAPA) and Jorge Calvo USAID MAPA CTO, access to data base, as well as future studies (MAPA, USAID and SANREM).

8. Participated in the CPA in Umala, with nineteen key informants from four communities (12 men and 7 women, all farmers, ages range from 17 to 73).
9. Developed a matrix for methods, identified participants and monitoring through the life of the project for assessment of medium and long term impacts. Discussions are on-going.
10. Met with Save the Children to discuss monitoring protocols. Agreed to send them our completed instrument once this was approved.
11. At UNALM met about the participatory rural appraisals conducted in June and July. Provided feedback on questions to guide discussion with the communities. Cecilia Turin, Silvana Vargas, and Pedro Córdor a new team member, presented their findings on Santa María and Huariconse. I shared the Bolivian-developed instruments (CPAs, baseline survey, and monitoring of impacts).
12. Visited with the Chancellor (Rector) of the National Agrarian University La Molina Peru to discuss the project activities, and future interests in climate change and environment.
13. Visited with the Dean of Agriculture at UMSA to discuss the program on-going activities and administration.
14. Met with the Director of PROINPA La Paz about the future travel to the US of Javier Aguilera, co-investigator. Director Enrique Carrasco will become involved in biodiversity activities, and Dr. Bruno Condori, crop modeler, will be active in the project. He also coordinates PROINPA-ALTAGRO activities.
15. Met with Elizabeth Jimenez, co-investigator from UC and site leader, on strategies to involve Agricultural Economics graduate students from Universidad Andina and from UMSA, in the research activities led by UC. Dr. Jimenez teaches at Universidad Andina and collaborates with the faculty there. CIDES, the Social Sciences graduate institute of UMSA has also indicated interest, which J. Gilles will follow during the next visit.
16. Met with USAID Environment Dr. Morris Israel about plans for the Apolobamba research and our on-going activities in Bolivia. Biodiversity indicators are being developed in the projects funded by USAID Environment projects. I expressed our interest in learning more about the indicators, and collaborating in this area. J. Gilles will follow up in September.
17. Revised survey protocols with ALTAGRO in CIP, Lima Peru, to capture livelihood strategies for baseline assessment to measure the development impact of this project in Peru and Bolivia. Our project benefits from a larger number of communities being assessed in the Bolivia and Peru Altiplano region.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

1. Implement CPAs at each site to confirm demands and align researcher and farmer interests in practices/strategies.
2. Share instruments with Save the Children. They have to conduct integrated assessments involving income generation, environment and well-being indicators, which is what our survey instrument is set up to address.
3. Implement an advisory group to RAC in Bolivia that will support coordination with stakeholders. Members of the group should be Enrique Carrasco, Director of PROINPA La Paz; Pamela Calla, Prof and Director of Graduate Studies of UC; UMSA Graduate Studies representative.
4. Continue to foster coordination with CIP ALTAGRO project in order to address sites like Peru, which do not have the funding for in-depth research activities like our primary sites.

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