



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

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### **Trip Report: Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam** 17 May – 13 June 2008

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#### **Purpose of Trip:**

- (1) participate in the SANREM CRSP annual meeting;
- (2) review the results of previous SANREM CRSP interventions in the Philippines;
- (3) coordinate cross-cutting gender activities, facilitate the gender workshop, and advance the gendered market network research effort;
- (4) review the implementation of the LTRA-5 (TMPEGS) project “Agroforestry and Sustainable Vegetable Production in Southeast Asian Watersheds”; and
- (5) meet the project teams and their partners, learn about the implementation contexts, and develop linkages with USAID Missions.

#### **Sites Visited:**

- Philippines:** SANREM CRSP Annual Meeting, Los Baños; Lantapan Municipal Hall, LTRA-5 field sites and Henry Binahon farm, Lantapan, Bukidnon, Mindanao (all ICRAF-Mindanao, SANREM CRSP Phase I and II participants; University of the Philippines-Los Baños, and USAID/Philippines, Manila (Moore) Agora Market in Cagayan de Oro (Christie)
- Indonesia:** Bogor Agricultural University, Leuwiliang and Kemang Markets, Bogor; IPPTP farm site and Pak Andi farm, Nanggung, Bogor; USAID/Indonesia, Jakarta (all) Environmental Services Program (ESP), Jakarta (Moore & Christie)
- Vietnam:** Nong Lam University and US Consulate General, Ho Chi Minh City; Nghia Trung and Nghia Binh villages, Binh Phuoc Province (all) USAID/Vietnam, Hanoi (Dillaha)

### **Synopsis of Observations/Activities:**

Moore interviewed local and provincial government officials, indigenous leaders and farm organization members involved in Phases I and II of SANREM CRSP activities in the Lantapan, Bukidnon Province site of the current LTRA-5. They told him that SANREM had introduced a new way of thinking about and managing natural resources, including improved practices such as, natural vegetative filter strips, tree nurseries, and inclusive participatory methods. One of the key lessons learned was that the key to success of SANREM CRSP research efforts was collaboration with other projects and local partners. The SANREM research program was complemented by the LandCare Program, which scaled up the interventions, and numerous local organizations, which grew up around these activities, most notably the *Tigbantay Wahig* (water watch association) and the local indigenous organizations that contributed to the co-management plan for the Mount Kitanglad National Park and formed the national park volunteer guard force. As a consequence, several ordinances were developed and passed by the municipal government to enforce environmental protection and to improve water quality in the watershed.

The current SANREM CRSP LTRA-5 activity builds on those accomplishments in Lantapan by focusing on agricultural intensification through vegetable agroforestry. The Vegetable Agroforestry experiments were visited during the Field Trip to the site preceding the SANREM CRSP Annual Meeting. The vegetable-tree complementarity experiments show the greatest progress demonstrating good interaction between vegetables and trees in the intermediate zone of partial shade. There is a concern, however, about this year's use of plastic mulch, which introduces an additional factor into the experimental design that compromises comparisons with previous year's data. The population and local government are very supportive of the SANREM CRSP presence in Lantapan, appreciate the contributions that have already been made, and look forward to additional benefits. A strong working relationship with the community was observed.

The SANREM CRSP Annual Meeting was opened in Los Baños by SANREM CRSP Administrative PI S. K. De Datta, USAID Mission Director Jon Lindborg, IRRI Deputy Director General William Padolina, and UP-Los Baños Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco. The first day's presentations highlighted PI reports on the Long-Term Research Award (LTRA) and Cross-Cutting Activities. The second day consisted of scientific presentations of LTRA research findings. LTRA research teams and the Technical Committee met on day three, which concluded with a field trip to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Day four was devoted to the gender workshop on market networks. Details for each of these events can be found on the SANREM CRSP 2008 Annual Meeting website at <http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/AM2008/AM2008home.php>.

During the gender workshop, progress was made on developing a unified methodology to address market information networks and bargaining power/empowerment/status across LTRAs. Each LTRA team discussed their market network analysis plans and methodology. They also developed and presented diagrams of their market network case studies. These activities allowed for a successful exchange of ideas and allowed the group to move towards a common framework, standardizing research question, hypotheses, indicators, and outcomes. It was agreed that participants would develop a collective publication for a peer-reviewed journal. Strong interest was also expressed in developing a Spanish-language publication as well.

The SANREM CRSP LTRA-5 work in Indonesia has had significant capacity building impact on research activities at the Bogor Agricultural University. Increased interdisciplinarity and collaboration with ICRAF has encouraged a more applied research focus. This has led to numerous major grants from the Ministries of Agriculture, of Education, and of Technology and a new vision about how the university can contribute to agricultural development. The current technology transfer model being followed is unidirectional and the team is encouraged to develop the necessary feedback mechanisms to ensure continued relevance to farmer stakeholders. Commercial vegetable production is new in the targeted intervention zone, but farmers appear interested in learning improved production techniques. At the experimental level, one major concern for the originally planned tree/vegetable intercropping is the labor required to clear the land. The initial cost/benefit analysis indicated that the labor costs could be prohibitive. On the other hand, work on indigenous vegetable production for identified markets looks promising.

The meeting with USAID staff in Jakarta was informative and interest was expressed in the work SANREM was conducting on vegetable agroforestry. USAID/Indonesia is in the process of developing a new 5-year strategic plan, which will be completed by October 2009. This coincides well with SANREM CRSP renewal and design for Phase IV. SANREM will maintain contact with Katherine Osborne Valdez to identify possible opportunities for collaboration. The ME also explained how SANREM is soliciting Mission input in designing the SANREM Phase IV research program. Valdez will represent the Mission in this effort. Christie and Moore met with FIELD/Indonesia of the Environmental Service Program (ESP) supported by USAID. Their work is focused on environmental, water delivery, and sanitation services. They have main-streamed gender in all of their activities. A gender workshop planned for later this summer may provide a useful opportunity for collaboration with the gendered markets study of researchers at the Bogor Agricultural University.

The LTRA-5 work in Vietnam focuses on the introduction of cocoa (government policy) under cashew with little emphasis on vegetable production. This has led to considerable mission drift from the original research design, due in part to USAID's suggestion that SANREM's contribution to Mission goals would be more valuable in this location. There seems to be a lack of US scientist collaboration in these activities as no project presentations listed US collaborators. The vetiver grass experiment for termite control looks quite promising, but will require a more refined experimental design to determine the optimum practice for dissemination. Although SWAT was mentioned, it was not clear what SWAT will be used for, nor whether there were any hypotheses to test. The gendered market research is progressing well with a strong research team. Meetings with the USAID Mission in Hanoi and the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City were brief, allowing us to convey SANREM's mission and goals and learn that Vietnam has been raised to full Mission status. At the Hanoi Mission, Dillaha introduced the SANREM and CRSP programs to a new staff member and explained how SANREM is soliciting Mission input in designing the SANREM Phase IV research program. David Brunell agreed to provide input for the planning process.

A follow-up meeting with USAID/Philippines led to the identification of the Northern Mindanao Vegetable Industry Association (NMVIA) as a potential partner for scaling up SANREM CRSP vegetable agroforestry findings. The NMVIA is supported by USAID/GEM. Moore noted that

SANREM was evaluating technologies to intensify agricultural production and thereby reduce pressures on the natural resource base. Other priorities that may lead to future collaboration between USAID/Philippines and the SANREM CRSP included water availability and upland forestry/agroforestry as it affects land and resource use that can be scaled up to natural resource management plans at the national level. USAID/Philippines would like to see a pilot study of how agriculture could be brought into line with other land use planning at the provincial level.

The site visits and meetings with the SE Asia Gender Team strengthened the individual research efforts and supported the role of the gender coordinator for LTRA-5. With very different cases in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the region in itself reflects the complexity of the gender cross-cutting research and the challenges it poses to achieving a collective product with comparable findings across sites. Plans were made for next steps and guidance was given after reconnaissance of markets and meetings with producers and vendors. A forthcoming regional site visit by Elena Javier, the LTRA-5 gender coordinator, in August to follow up on this trip will help assure that the team will have some common basis for comparison between themselves.

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