



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 Price's Fork Road, Room 211
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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

Trip Report: Haïti 3-9 October 2010

Steve Hodges, Lead-PI, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and
Keith M. Moore, Associate Program Director, SANREM CRSP
Virginia Tech

Purpose: To re-establish relations with partner organizations at the national level, in particular with the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV); discuss their potential roles in research implementation in the Central Plateau, in particular identifying a Haitian technical coordinator at the national level; discuss opportunities for training and long-term study; and explore opportunities for additional collaborative efforts.

Sites Visited: State University of Haïti Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV), Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR), and National University of Quisqueya, Port-au-Prince.

Description of Activities

Robert Badio, of the MARNDR and Project Coordinator in Haiti, arranged meetings and accompanied us throughout most of the week. We met with the Director General of the MARNDR, the Minister's Technical Councilor, the Director and Associate Director of the Direction of Forest and Soil Resources, and the Director of the Direction of Research and Documentation. They were all enthused with the prospects of SANREM CRSP collaboration in Haiti and reminded us to keep them in the loop about the progress of our activities. Indeed, one of the primary concerns repeated at every level was that the Ministry was trying to establish a database that would allow them to track agricultural development activities throughout the country. They realize that the vast majority of agricultural research and development is occurring through projects run by NGOs. They find this somewhat frustrating because the NGOs do not report to them and may be gone tomorrow leaving no trace of what they have learned or accomplished. We assured them that the SANREM CRSP would keep them in the loop and that in fact our project design incorporated them, as well as FAMV, as the central node in a decentralized network of research activities.

Our meetings were open and fruitful with the Dean and Vice-Dean of FAMV. They have agreed to identify and appoint a SANREM coordinator for the Faculty and we will send them a draft budget in the near future. While the overall focus of their activities will be in the area of soil fertility – we met with several faculty interested in working on the program – the primary focus for this year will be conducting the baseline survey. They were enthused with the opportunity not only to participate in the research, but also to have the opportunity for students to have field experience at the research sites in the Central Plateau.

We shared a draft MOU between Virginia Tech and FAMV and the Dean agreed to review it and have a final version translated into French for signing. We noted that it would also need to be signed in English to satisfy our administration.

We visited the Centre National d'Information Geo-Spatial (CNIGS) and acquired ArcView database and shape files mapping the agricultural soil potentials for Haiti. This will be extremely useful for several of the different project activities.

We also interviewed fifth year students at FAMV and Quisqueya Faculty of Engineering for potential semester-long internships at Virginia Tech to complete their theses under the mentorship of a VT professor. Many of the students seemed well prepared for the experience. Our assessments will be shared with program coordinators and mentors at Virginia Tech.

Finally, we visited with James Woolley at USAID to discuss our activities and progress to date, and to explore potential connections. Robert Badio of the MARNDR accompanied us. We discussed infrastructure and capacity building needs involving FAMV, local agronomists, and the US team. We obtained information on the WINNER program, and were later able to make contact with Jean Robert Estime, Chief of Party. We briefly introduce the research goals and approach of SANREM CRSP project, and obtained contact information for future information sharing and collaboration when we return to Haiti.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items

A technical coordinator for project management has to be identified in the very near future so that activities can advance with full collaboration between Virginia Tech and host country partners. The technical coordination is particularly important for supervision and reporting on CAPS technology development, field trials, and training activities.

Better communications between Virginia Tech faculty and FAMV faculty need to be maintained. The Vice-Dean noted that email connectivity on campus was very poor and had not been working for a while. The Dean's mailbox is full and messages just bounce back. Nevertheless, it was agreed that email exchanges could occur in English and French through email accounts that individual faculty members held at home. The Vice-Dean will soon have good connectivity at his home. Support for reinforced communications should be considered in future SANREM/FAMV budgets.

Our next visit to Haiti should include making connections with the coordinator of the WINNER project in the Central Plateau.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Jean Marie Robert CHERY	Conseiller du Ministre de l'Agriculture, MARNRD	(509) 3454-6426 cheryr04@yahoo.fr
Lyonel VALBRUN	Directeur Général, MARNRD	(509) 3478-3500 lyonelval01@yahoo.fr
Bredy CHARLOT	Agronome, Direction Départementale Agricole du Centre, Ferme Papaye, Hinche	(509) 3718-4343 bredycharlot2008@gmail.com
Carvil Ophny NICOLAS	Vice-Doyen Recherche, Faculté d'Agriculture et de la Médecine Vétérinaire (FAMV), Université de l'Etat d'Haïti	vicedoyen-re.famv@ueh.edu.ht nicarvil@yahoo.com (509) 37 33 59 46
Alix RICHMOND	Professeur, Ressources Naturelles et Environnement, FAMV	richmond.alix@ueh.edu.ht
Jacques BLAISE	Doyen, FAMV	
Jean Fenel FELIX	Professeur, Plant biotechnologie FAMV	jffelix@hotmail.com
Jean Pierre-Louis OGE	Directeur, Direction des Ressources Forestiers et des Sols (DRFS), MARNRD	(509) 34 58 28 45 pierreoge@yahoo.ca
Jean Serge ANTOINE	Directeur Adjoint, DRFS, MARNRD	(509) 38 85 26 18 jsantoine_2000@yahoo.com
Eunide ALPHONSE	Directrice, Direction de Recherche et de Documentation Agricole, MARNRD	(509) 34 21 07 24 mealphonse@yahoo.com
Evenson CALIXTE	Vice-Doyen Faculté des Sciences, de Genie et d'Architecture (FSGA), Université Quisqueya (UniQ)	(509) 34 01 23 40 calixte@uniq.edu.ht
Evens EMMANUEL	Doyen, FSGA, UniQ	(509) 34 01 23 35 evemml@yahoo.fr
Beatrice FELIX	Professeur, Chemie des Sols, FAMV	beatrice.felix@hotmail.com
Rosemay GUIGNARD	Cellule Urbanisme et Habitat, Comité Interministeriel d'Aménagement du Territoire	(509) 37 24 24 07 rosemay@ciat.gouv.ht
Jean-Robert Estimé	Chief of Party/Director Haiti WINNER Project 42, Route de Péguy-Ville, Pétiion-Ville, Haïti	(509) 37 58 26 40 jestime@winner.ht