



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Bolivia 9-21 January 2008

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Purpose of Trip:

- 1) To conduct a class/workshop on the role of technology transfer and participatory research in agricultural development in the graduate school,
- 2) to meet with SEHNAMI on possible collaboration, and
- 3) to plan workshops designed to bring our results back to the communities where we are working.

Sites Visited:

Universidad Mayor San Andres, La Paz, Bolivia

Description of Activities:

Gave 5 3 hour workshops on agricultural development and technology to 14 Bolivian graduate students which included the students receiving masters degree support from our project. The course went really well and should be the beginning of a longer collaboration with Bolivian Universities.

Met with SEHNAMI to discuss collaboration for studying extreme weather events but they need some training in the software used to study these impacts and they also need more training in numerical analysis. Currently they are using climate models developed by the Japanese but these models use dedicated software so they are having to do considerable amounts of programming in order to link this model with their data sources. Agreed that we would try to provide them with training on the use of programs available from NOAA.

The research team met to develop a plan for workshops designed to share our findings to date with our participating communities and to coordinate future participatory evaluations. Each working group its criteria and a final timetable will be developed at the team's February 8th meeting.

This year's la Nina has brought extremely heavy rains to the Altiplano. Producers can plant their potatoes early (October-Novembe) intermediate (November) or late November-December.

Planting dates depend on the perceived climate risks. Although the soil conditions favored early planting this year, the early potatoes were severely affected by frost in December. The late potatoes also did not respond well because of cool rainy weather and water-logging.

Training Activities Conducted:

<u>Program type</u> <u>(workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>		<u>Training Provider</u> <u>(US university, host country institution, etc.)</u>	<u>Training Objective</u>
			<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>		
Workshop/ short course	Jan 10-18	Graduate students at UMSA and CRSP trainees	9	5	University of Missouri-UMSA	To introduce the theories behind technology transfer and participatory research.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

Recommend that the number of community meetings for evaluation of research results and for the discussion of research findings be reduced. There seems to be some fatigue on the part of community members. This recommendation will be followed up by the Bolivia team.

Recommend that we develop an agreement with SEHNAMI for analysis of extreme climate events and that we coordinate with Bolivia's recently created climate change program. It was also agreed that we provide SEHNAMI scientists with training on the use of software for analysis of extreme events.

List of Contacts Made:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Organization</u>	<u>Contact Info</u> <u>(address, phone, email)</u>
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