



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: To finalize Year 2 research and to organize Year 3 research activities. These objectives were accomplished by: a) working with Bolivian students doing graduate work in country, b) assisting in the analysis of participatory research results, c) finishing a manuscript to be submitted to an international journal, e) presented seminars to stakeholders, f) developing a calendar for in project activities, and g) working on a way to link participatory evaluations to baseline data sets.

Sites Visited: La Paz, Bolivia, and Puno and Apopata, Peru

Description of Activities:

In La Paz helped finalize arrangements for the Masters programs of Freddy Navia and Edwin Yucra at UMSA in geographical sciences and helped develop proposals for the funding of the graduate programs of Justina Condori and Mirco Penarada in natural resource management. Worked with Olga Yucra in the analysis of data on participation and advised her on the final research design for her thesis on community participation in agronomic research. In Peru assessed the site where Cecilia Turin proposes to do her research on overgrazing and participated in a workshop on pasture management. Met with CIDES faculty where Alejandro Romero and Griselda Gonzales are studying. As a result we decided to design a course on technology transfer that could be taught by Jimenez, Gilles and Valdivia in 3 intensive modules in January, February and March 2008. The course will be attended by other CIDES graduate students and will be required of the students in their rural development doctoral program. .

Analyzed survey data and worked on a paper to be submitted to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society with Edwin Yucra and worked on a format for the reporting of the results of participatory research evaluations.

Presented a seminar at USAID for approximate 20 persons (60% male) on the implications of observed climate change in the Bolivian Altiplano. This was well received and we hope that it will be the first in a series of seminars. Maximum temperatures are rising throughout the region,

but minimum temperatures are falling in the North and climbing in the South. Precipitation has only changed near Lake Titicaca where some drying is observed. Gave a seminar on knowledge systems and rural development at the Universidad del Altiplano in Puno, Peru as part of the 25th anniversary of the Department of Anthropology. Participated in the research exposition celebrating the 25th anniversary of UMSA's Faculty of Agronomy.

Worked with colleagues to develop a schedule for returning data from participatory evaluations and survey research to communities, so that we would minimize the burden on community members. In addition we worked to clarify the roles of team members in the area of participatory assessments.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

The amount of participatory research that we have been carrying out in the communities is becoming burdensome for community leaders and members. For that reason the team it is necessary to development a calendar of activities that would combine and coordinate activities that require community participation.

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Abbreviations: CIDES (Center for Research and Development Studies)
UNALM (National Agrarian University Peru)
UNA (National University of the Altiplano, Peru)