



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Uganda 17-23 March 2011

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Purpose of Trip: To follow-up on Technology Networks CCRA field work and report on activities to USAID/Uganda

Sites Visited: Village of Kidoko, Tororo District; and USAID/Uganda, Kampala.

Description of Activities

Data collection for the Technology Networks CCRA is advancing well and has been completed for Tororo District and is nearly complete for Kapchorwa. Our meeting with USAID/Uganda offered an excellent opportunity to share SANREM CRSP progress and learn of the initiation of the Feed the Future (FtF) program in Uganda.

Rita Laker-Ojok, Executive Director of AT Uganda, and I presented the SANREM CRSP activities in Uganda (LTRA-10 and CCRA-8, respectively) to Martin Fowler and John Brighenti of Economic Growth Team, USAID/Uganda. USAID/Uganda has just had their FtF program approved in Washington, D.C. and a copy of this document should be available soon. Primary FtF value chains will be: coffee, maize, and beans, with a special focus on vulnerable populations. This fits nicely with the conservation agriculture rotations investigated by the LTRA-10 in eastern Uganda. We further assured Martin and John that significant linkages were being made with local seed companies, local suppliers, and the NARO.

As the LTRA-10 program is just beginning, conservation agriculture field sites and test plots have been marked out for planting with the onset of the rainy season. A summary report on the baseline data will be completed shortly. We also discussed the current technology and nutrition network field work being conducted by VT graduate student, Jeni Lamb. Martin and John were quite interested in this food security approach consistent with the FtF program and requested that Jeni provide a brief presentation on her work when she returned from the field.

The visit to the District of Tororo was very enlightening in terms of the Technology Networks study. Jeni introduced me to a range of stakeholders whom she had interviewed: a women's group and Farmer Field School leader; an agricultural information and supply center manager; a Reverend leading a small group of farmers in improved productive practices; and a university engineer coordinating multiple producer groups. All were central figures in their own agricultural networks and consciously building relationships to bridge their networks with others, both horizontally through farmer groups, and among suppliers, wholesalers and producers along the value chain. Many others have also been interviewed. Jeni is learning about the challenges of managing interviewees in the field and the importance of close supervision to obtain critical insights into network functioning. Full discussion of findings will need to await completion of data collection and analysis. However, the findings concerning the nutrition networks appear to be particularly interesting in that those networks are gendered in some communities by type and source of food.

Before leaving Kampala, I met with LTRA-10 collaborator, Dr. Bashaasha at Makerere University to discuss opportunities for collaboration on the Technology Networks research. He suggested that I review an IFPRI paper he had worked on which addressed similar technology transfer issues associated with decentralized rural service delivery in Uganda. We will be following up our discussions around these themes and the preliminary findings in the next few months.

Suggestions and Recommendations

We will need to follow-up with USAID/Uganda on their interest in nutrition networks associated with conservation agriculture as well as other SANREM accomplishments in Uganda. Jeni report on the nutrition/agriculture research to USAID and conduct a seminar on her research at Makerere University.

List of Contacts Made:

| Name | Title/Organization | Contact Info (address, phone, email) |
|----------------|---|---|
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