



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Bolivia 10-18 August 2006

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Purpose of Trip: The Principal Investigator (PI) traveled to Bolivia on August 10-18, 2006 to meet with research counterparts and colleagues to 1. Participate in the National Advisory Committee meetings, and 2. Review progress made in field research activities.

Participants: Members of the research project team who participated in the mission included Krister Andersson (PI, U of Colorado), Rosario León (co-PI, CERES), Patricia Uberhuaga (research assistant, CERES), Diego Pacheco (research assistant, IU), and Pablo Pacheco (CIFOR), as well as 11 members of the Program's National Advisory Committee (see appendix A).

Description of Activities and Technical Observations:

1. National Advisory Committee Meeting

The component's first National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting was held in the city of Santa Cruz on August 15. Representatives from eleven partner organizations from central government ministries and agencies, non-governmental organizations, a user-group federation, universities, and USAID-funded forestry projects attended the meeting (see appendix A for a complete list of participants and the minutes from the meeting). Noteworthy in the list of participants is that the minister of rural development, Higo Salvatierra, and the Head of Forestry, José Martínez, participated in the meetings.

NAC participants welcomed the news of the four-year SANREM-CRSP research project as presented by the project leaders in Bolivia (CERES, CIFOR-Bolivia and PI Andersson). The Committee agreed with the overall strategy to undertake activities in three stages. During the first stage, the team will together with advisory council members carry out a diagnostic of the main unresolved issues related to the local governance of forests in the country. This includes reviewing and summarizing the existing literature on community forestry in Bolivia and gathering empirical data sets on communities that own forest resources. The project is currently designing a research instrument that will help gathering currently missing data on a representative sample of forest-dependent communities in Bolivia. The research group was asked

by the NAC members to develop a proposal for how the communities in this diagnostic study would be selected, given the lack of reliable government data on the location of such communities. It was agreed that a first step would be to inventory existing national level data that might be used either as a sampling base (less likely) or as auxiliary data (more likely) for creating a nationally representative sample of forest communities.

During the second stage, the project leaders will work with the government representatives on the NAC (especially the forestry superintendence) to document existing public policy programs that target forest communities in Bolivia. By comparing the existing policy programs with the results of the diagnostic, the project seeks to identify the areas and programs that are in need of policy responses and adjustments. NAC members thought this activity would be particularly valuable if repeated over time, as this could be used as a policy monitoring tool for community forestry initiatives.

In the third phase of the project, we will analyze the conditions under which some local communities decide to invest their scarce resources in forest management activities while others do not. A secondary analysis in this stage would be to examine, drawing on both the data generated by steps one and two above as well as the six in-depth IFRI studies, as to why some local groups that carry out forest management activities are more successful than others. The NAC members offered several hypotheses that we will be able to test during this stage. Having the NAC as a forum for learning about the effects of policy on local decision making will make it possible to discuss policy options with some of the actors who would be in a position to propose adjustments to existing policy instruments and programs.

While all NAC members agreed with the general strategy of the project, several members noted that several important issues were not clear and would need more discussion and explanation. Among the issues discussed were (a) the timing of the delivery of products; (b) how decentralization would be analyzed with the current research design; and (c) what one could expect to achieve from cross-national comparisons. These issues were discussed at some length and it was agreed that the project leaders would provide a summary of the discussion in the minutes of the meeting (see appendix) so as to clarify the participants' expectations on the project products.

2. Review progress in field research activities

The team of lead researchers of the project (Andersson, Leon, Uberhuaga, P. Pacheco, and D. Pacheco) met with CERES field staff who had just returned from the Yuracare indigenous territory. The field team (led by Leon and Uberhuaga) consisted of four social scientists, five foresters (three supported by USAID forestry project Jatun Sacha) and one local focal person in each of the sites. A combination of forest mensuration, household surveys, focus group discussions, informal meetings, as well as semi-structured individual interviews were used to document the existing forest-related governance arrangements in the two sites. For instance, a total of 272 forest mensuration plots were established, and in each one all individual specimens of woody vegetation were identified by scientific species and family name, and measured (dbh and height). Both sites were visited for the second time—the first visit was carried out in more than ten years ago, in 1995-1996. The field teams were trained in IFRI methods previous to the

fieldwork and community members participated actively in planning activities, data gathering, and in discussions of preliminary results.

The PI met with the lead researchers during a three-day seminar in the city of Santa Cruz—in connection with the NAC meetings on the 15th of August. The team discussed the main challenges faced during field work, preliminary findings, and explored potential ways of analyzing the recently gathered data. As an example of the type of preliminary data analysis that the team could undertake, the PI presented an illustrative case study that employed a combination of IFRI and GIS data.

One of the most important general findings from the revisit was that forest management is no longer a commercially viable activity in the two sites, and many user group members now dedicate themselves primarily to non-forestry activities. Several explanations to this change exist and one of the most pressing tasks is to test these explanations with the recently acquired data.

A list of contact persons with their title and organization affiliation

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email</i>
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Fabian Rodríguez	Forestal Indígena Nacional (AFIN)	
Fredy Cruz	CERES field staff	
Gerard Raessens	Jatun Sach'a	contacto@jatunsacha.bo
Harry Soria	CERES field staff	
Hugo Salvatierra	Ministry of Rural Development	
Jankiel Sainz	CERES field staff	
José Luis Mamani	CERES field staff	
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Pedro Badrán	CERES field staff	
Raquel Correas	CERES field staff	
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Rudy Guzmán	CADEFOR (Centro Amazónico de Desarrollo Forestal)	rguzman@cadefor.org

APPENDIX A

Memoria Resumida
Primera Reunión Anual del Comité de Asesoramiento
del Programa SANREM
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
El 16 de agosto de 2006

Antecedentes

En el contexto político actual, cuando el gobierno oficializó como política de Estado la FORESTERIA COMUNITARIA, el programa SANREM asume mayores desafíos en tanto, a partir de un trabajo articulado con las principales autoridades estatales, programas y actores de la FORESTERIA COMUNITARIA, se pretende crear bases de conocimiento e incidencia sobre los procesos locales, para encontrar los mejores canales de apoyo a la ejecución y diseño de políticas.

La conformación de un Comité de Asesoramiento Nacional, pretende facilitar espacios entre los diversos actores de la forestería comunitaria para realizar acciones conjuntas en la decisión y formulación de políticas públicas.

1. Introducción

El Centro de Estudios de Realidad Económica y Social (CERES - CRC/IFRI-PIIF), y el Centro de Investigación Cooperante del Taller de Teoría Política y Análisis de Políticas de la Universidad de Indiana, realizaron el pasado 16 de agosto del año en curso en los ambientes del hotel Cortéz de la ciudad de Santa Cruz la *“Conformación del Comité de Asesoramiento del Programa SANREM (NAC)”*.

El programa SANREM, desarrolla sus actividades en cuatro países del mundo Uganda, Kenia, México y Bolivia, y tiene un periodo de cuatro años de implementación. La conformación del NAC, es uno de ellos.

Por otro lado, otro objetivo de la reunión, fue el de compartir con todas las instituciones y organizaciones invitadas, el alcance del Programa, sus avances y desarrollar compromisos para el seguimiento de sus actividades. Para esto se contó con la presencia del coordinador regional, Krister Andersson; quien apoyó la reunión compartiendo los alcances del Programa a nivel global.

La reunión se enfocó en los siguientes temas:

- Presentación del programa SANREM por Krister Andersson
- El alcance a nivel global del programa SANREM
- El programa SANREM en Bolivia
- Intervenciones de los participantes
- Discusión del Plan de Trabajo

2. Asistencia y participación

Se contó con la participación de:



Nombre	Cargo
Hugo Salvatierra,	Ministro de Desarrollo Rural y Agropecuario
José Martínez,	Superintendente Forestal Nacional
Edwin Camacho,	Dirección General de Recursos Forestales
Albert Bokkestijn,	Asesor Senior de Manejo de Bosques, SNV
Edwarz Sanzetenea	Director ESFOR
Fabian Rodríguez,	Presidente AFIN
	CIDOB - GTI
Rudy Guzmán	Coordinador Componente de Forestería Comunitaria CADEFOR
Gerard Raessens	Asesor Técnico Principal Proyecto AD/BOL/179
Ricardo Roca	Especialista en Recursos Naturales, USAID
Pablo Pacheco	CIFOR
James Jhonsson	For Live
Oscar Llanque	For Live UAB
Rosario Leon	Coodinadora Programa SANREM
Diego Pacheco	Universidad Indiana
Krister Andersson	Univ. Colorado
Patricia Uberhuaga	Universidad KVL - PIIF

3. Conclusiones

- Entendimiento de la posición de asesoramiento nacional del NAC, a nivel nacional.
- Aceptación de la idea de realización de investigaciones conjuntas que involucren a todos los actores de la Forestería Comunitaria.
- El NAC entiende que es parte tanto del Estado como de la sociedad civil y debe aportar en su carácter colectivo a los procesos de política pública.
- Aceptación de los participantes para la conformación del NAC.
- Conformación de un comité Ad-Hoc para la realización del diagnóstico.
- El programa SANREM realizará el diagnóstico nacional con la participación e involucramiento de todos los actores del sector forestal. los participantes del NAC facilitaran los espacios.
- Aprobación del plan de trabajo.
- Se concluyo que la investigación debe tener un impacto real en las políticas y en los procesos. Que las investigaciones académicas puras no son de interés de las instituciones, ni de los actores locales menos del actual gobierno de Bolivia en las representaciones presentes en el NAC.