



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
Office of International Research, Education, and Development
Virginia Tech (0378)
840 University City Blvd., Suite 5&7
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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

Trip Report: Bolivia May 15-24, 2006

**Krister Andersson
University of Colorado**

Purpose of the Trip

The Principal Investigator (PI) traveled to Bolivia on May 15-24 to meet with research counterparts and colleagues to

1. Discuss and validate project strategy, activities and their implementation, including the clarification of administrative procedures, requirements for financial accounting and human subjects research;
2. Plan the implementation of upcoming field research activities, and
3. Visit the USAID mission in Bolivia to update their staff on project plans.

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), and Diego Pacheco (research assistant, IU).

Activities and Technical Observations

The participating members of the core research team met on May 17-22 in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba. The discussions focused on:

1. *The Bolivian counterpart's recent activities related to SANREM-CRSP*

CERES recently joined the University of San Simon's Forestry School to create a new research center called Programa Instituto Investigacion Forestal (PIIF), whose creation was supported by the Danish Cooperation (DANIDA). The forestry school has provided a new building with equipped offices where the IFRI-CRC for Bolivia will be based. The construction of the new facilities is on schedule and is expected to be inaugurated in August 2006. PIIF has a team of two



researchers and five research assistants dedicated to the field research component of the SANREM-project.

With funding from the IFRI network's Ford Foundation grant, the team recently completed a revisit to one of the first IFRI sites in the network—the Yuracaré indigenous territory in the Department of Cochabamba. The first visit took place in 1994 just before the Bolivian government implemented a series of decentralization and property rights reforms in the forestry sector. It was also before the Yuracaré people acquired the exclusive rights to their land and the country's first government-approved forest management plan in an indigenous territory. The results of the revisit, when processed and analyzed, will shed light on the effects these policy actions have had on local decision-making and activities related to forest use.

Another activity funded by the IFRI network was the National Workshop on Community Forestry Research, which was held in Cochabamba on March 30-31. Thanks to additional funding from BOLFOR II (FAO, AID), Jatun Sach'a (AID), The Dutch Embassy, DANIDA and others, the organizer (PIIF) was able to invite over 150 participants, representing all major stakeholder organizations involved with community forestry in Bolivia, in one way or another. The main objective of the Workshop was to create a research agenda in support of community forestry in Bolivia. The participants were divided into three groups to work on research proposals related to public policy, socioeconomic, and forestry resources. On the final day, Bolivia's minister of rural development, Hugo Salvatierra, attended the workshop to comment on the working groups' presentations. All participants agreed that the role of research for policy making in the forestry sector has been seriously undervalued in Bolivia, especially when it comes to socioeconomic and institutional aspects of forest use by local communities.

The news of the four-year SANREM-CRSP research project was welcomed by the participants, some of which will be invited to participate in the National Advisory Council (NAC). Due to recent political events and the changes in governmental policies as well as official government representatives, the first meeting of the NAC has been postponed to take place in mid-August.

2. Project research strategies, activities and their implementation

Similar to the project strategy for SANREM Mexico, the Bolivian component will undertake its 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 the number of rural communities that rely on forest products for their livelihoods, the characteristics of their use, and main barriers to sustainable forest management. The first step of this research is to acquire and assemble national level data from INE, INRA, and SIF.

A GIS analysis using the data from Stage 1 will produce a list of rural communities (meeting the following preliminary selection criteria: less than 2000 inhabitants located less than 2 km from a forest larger than 1000 ha) that rely on forest resources in Bolivia. This is the general population

of communities that we will study during the next four years. To get a better idea of what the main issues, concerns and potentials for sustainable forest governance are in these communities, the team will carry out a survey instrument in a carefully selected sample of communities (n=90-100). The survey will be concluded before March 2007. After analyzing the results of the survey, and testing the main hypothesis of the project through quantitative analysis (see Project Document for a description of the project's main hypotheses), we will select eight communities that represent conditions that vary in terms of their predicted adequacy for sustainable forest governance. What is particularly interesting about this way of selecting the case studies is the possibility to link results to a more general population of communities, which is always a challenge when doing case studies.

Parallel to the survey work, the team will document existing public policy programs that target forest communities in Bolivia. By comparing the existing policy programs with the results of the survey, we will be able to identify the areas and programs that are in need of policy responses and adjustments. In the third phase of the project we will analyze why some communities opt to invest in forest management while others do not and why some of those that do invest in forestry achieve better results than others. The purpose of this exercise is to study whether a different public policy approach could increase the efficacy of the policy interventions.

The budgetary implications of this strategy is shifting some resources (USD \$20,000) from the planned, in-depth IFRI cases to the survey of nationally representative sample of rural forest communities. This means doing six instead of eight IFRI studies in Bolivia. We believe this shift is justified for two reasons. First, from a scientific point of view it is better to select the much more localized IFRI studies with the survey results in hand so that it is possible to relate the case study findings to existing phenomena at the national level. This nested research design is not possible to implement without data from a nationally representative sample of communities.

Second, the policy relevance of the survey findings combined with the six carefully selected sites will exceed that of the eight stand-alone IFRI studies. In addition, the potential for developing this survey instrument in close consultation with the Mexican component paves the way for some very interesting comparisons. The Bolivian and Mexican components will urge the two African components to adopt a similar selection strategy.

The PI informed the Bolivian counterpart of their responsibilities related to the project's administration and bookkeeping as well as the requirements of the Human Subjects Committee at Indiana University.

3. Agreement on general work plan and sequence of activities

The team produced general time line for future project activities. The agreement for how to proceed is summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1: SANREM Bolivia timeline

Time line SANREM-CRSP Bolivia				
Activities	Yr 1 (2006)	Yr 2 (2007)	Yr 3 (2008)	Yr 4 (2009)
2. Form National Advisory Committee	mid-Aug	1 meeting	1 meeting	1 meeting
3) Household Survey tests	Jul-06			
4) Resource and Recourse flow for IFRI sites	2 sites (ex ante)	1 site (ex ante)	3 sites (ex ante)	6 sites (ex post)
5. Field survey with a representative sample of 100 forest communities	July, 2006-Feb, 2007			
6) IFRI sites with HH survey	2 sites	1 site	3 sites	
7) Regional Meetings with Mexico			May (Mex)	May (Bol)
8) Global meetings	19-Jun-06		June	June
9) PEN survey		1 site		

After the meeting in Cochabamba, the PI traveled to La Paz to meet with the USAID office staff. The objective of that meeting was to update the USAID staff on progress made in the research project. The PI met with Morris Israel, who is the officer in charge for USAID's environment and natural resource activities in Bolivia, and presented the results of the March Workshop along with the outcomes of the past week's planning. Mr. Israel welcomed the focus and planned activities of the Bolivian component of the project and accepted the invitation to participate in the first National Advisory Committee Meeting next August.

A list of contact persons with their title and organization affiliation

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email</i>
Krister Andersson	University of Colorado	Krister.andersson@colorado.edu
Rosario León	CERES/PIIF	crcbolivia.ifri@gmail.com, rleonceres@GMAIL.COM
Patricia Uberhuaga	CERES/PIIF	Uberhuaga.pat@gmail.com
Diego Pacheco	Indiana University	dipachec@indiana.edu
Rudy Guzmán	CADEFOR (Centro Amazónico de Desarrollo Forestal)	rguzman@cadefor.org
Telmo Muñoz	Superintendencia Forestal	tmunoz@cotas.com.bo
Gerard Raessens	Jatun Sach'a	contacto@jatunsacha.bo
Ricardo Roca	USAID	rroca@usaid.gov
Morris Israel	USAID	misrael@usaid.gov
Fabian Rodríguez	Forestal Indígena Nacional (AFIN)	
Edwarz Sansetenea	ESFOR	investigacion.forestal@gmail.com
Pablo Pacheco	CIFOR	p.pacheco@cgiar.org