



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines April 21 to May 29, 2006

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Purposes of Trip: (1) To hold the Vietnam, Indonesian and Philippine program Kick-off Workshops for the SE Asia SANREM CRSP project (TMPEGS). (2) To visit prospective project sites and hold meetings with the farmers and village officials to determine interest in the project. (3) To visit USAID – Hanoi, Jakarta and Manila staff and communicate the progress about project objectives/plans and obtain their input. (4) To establish contacts with current and prospective TMPEGS institutional partners.

Names of Traveler: Manuel Reyes, North Carolina A&T State University.

Vietnam. Reyes traveled with many others in the project site like Howard Shapiro (Mars Inc), Vietnam coordinator Dang Ha (Nong Lam University) and Vuong Tuan (FSSIV). Reyes visited USAID office in Hanoi.

Indonesia. Reyes was with Greg Luther, from AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. Many others from ICRAF and BAU, including Indonesian coordinator Anas Susila, traveled to the project sites. Reyes, Luther and Susila attended the meeting with USAID in Jakarta.

Philippines. Reyes was with Manuel Palada from AVRDC. All Philippine partners (Ellen Javier, DLSU; Victor Ella & Vicky Espaldon, UPLB; Jean Saludadez, UPOU; Paul Catalan, DBTC) visited the site and were at the kick-off meeting. A representative from the USAID-GEM (Jasmin Agbon) and USAID-ECOGOV (Mark Ramirez), the Mayor of Lantapan, other LGU, and NGO representatives were at the meeting as well.

Sites Visited:

Vietnam. USAID office, Hanoi, May 8; US-Consular office, Ho Chi Minh, May 10, project site in Nghia Trung commune, Binh Phuoc Province, May 11; Kick-off meeting in Nong Lam University (NLU), Ho Chi Minh, May 12.

Indonesia. Bogor Agricultural University (BAU/IPB) on May 2; future project sites in Parakan Muncang village, Nanggung subdistrict, Bogor regency, West Java, on May 3; an in Sukaluyo village and Hambaru village, May 4; and USAID office, Jakarta on 5 May.

Philippines. Vegetable growing area, Tagaytay, April 26; in Lantapan, Bukidnon, kick-off meeting May 15-16, and future project sites May 17; Central Mindanao University and Don Bosco Technical College, May 18; University of the Philippines at Los Baños, UP-Open University, & PCAARD, May 23; University of St. Thomas, May 24; and USAID office, Manila, May 26.

Description of activities, technical observations: The Kick-Off Workshops in all of the three countries were well organized and provided a good introduction to the projects and their main objectives, themes and emphases. They also provided an opportunity for many team members in each country to meet each other for the first time. The site visits in each country were also very useful because they introduced the researchers to the farmers and village officials and demonstrated that a large number of people from all villages are interested in participating in the project. Many village members expressed interest in trying vegetable – agroforestry (VAF) systems to gain the potential benefits from them. The villagers showed the researchers a number of indigenous vegetables. The meetings with USAID Missions in each country were also positive, productive and informative, with Reyes learning about the expectations and support that each country’s USAID Mission has for the project. Chancellors from UPLB and CMU; and a director of research from UST met with Reyes to discuss future SANREM related research prospects.

Progress in meeting objectives: All four objectives listed above under “Purposes of Trip” were met.

Suggestions and Recommendations (as appropriate): Under the present plan, Reyes will continue to manage the implementation of the work plans in each country. Contacts with current and prospective partners will be enhanced for accomplishing project goals. Other funding sources will be sought that are explicitly related to project objectives.

List of Contacts Made:

Vietnam. NLU faculty: Dang Thanh Ha (Vietnam site coordinator), Le Van Du, Trang Thi Huy Nhat, Phan Thi Giac Tam, Pham Hong Duc Phuoc, Nguyen Van Loi, Pham Trong Thinh, Le Quang Hung; FFIV: Vuong Dinh Tuan, Mars Inc. and UC-Davis: Howard Shapiro; US Consul office-Ho Chi Minh: Consul General Seth Winnic, and Heather Variava; USAID/Hanoi: David Brunnel and Dennis Zvinakis and many other TMPEGS-Vietnam partners.

Indonesia. IPB or BAU faculty Anas D. Susila, (Indonesia Site Coordinator), Bambang S. Purwoko, Tri Koesoemaningtyas, and Meine van Noordwijk, Jim Roshetko, Suseno Budiharsono, Gerhard Manurung and Joel Tukan (ICRAF-Indonesia staff); USAID/Jakarta, Prijanto Santoso and Agus, and many other TMPEGS-Indonesian partners.

Philippines. ICRAF-Philippines: Delia Catacutan (Philippine site coordinator), Raul Margate, Regina Banalida; Don Bosco Technical College Paul Catalan and Olive Tiglao; UPLB graduate student Jason Beebout; UP Open University: Vice-Chancellor Melinda Lumanta, Dean Paz H. Diaz and Jean Saludadez; De La Salle University, Maria Elena Javier; UPLB: Chancellor Luis Velasco, Dean Victoria Espaldon, & Dean Victor Ella, and Agnes Rola; USAID GEM Jasmin Agbon, USAID-ECOGOV Mark Ramirez, Lantapan Municipal Mayor Narciso Rubio; Central Mindanao University: President Mardonio Lao, Vice-Presidents Porferio Balanay and Anthony Penaso, Victor Amoroso; Farmers: Henry Binahon, Randy and their wives; UST-Director of Research Father Rogelio de la Rosa, and USAID/Manila Daniel Moore, Tyler Holt, Oliver Agoncillo and Rowena Vasquez.

If you need contact information for most of the above individuals, you can email Manuel Reyes at mannyreyes@nc.rr.com