



## Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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### Trip Report: Mexico 18-23 June 2008

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**Purpose of Trip:**

- 1) To meet with USAID/Mexico to ascertain priorities to consider in next round of SANREM CRSP; and
- 2) to work with gender researchers and identify relevant literature and contacts in support of cross-cutting research.

**Sites Visited:** USAID/Mexico, Universidad Autónoma de México-Xochimilco campus, and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City

**Description of Activities:**

I met with Jorge Landa Bonilla, Energy and Climate Change Advisor and Susan Wofsy, Environment Officer in the Energy and Environment Office at USAID/Mexico. Geoff Chalmers was also contacted and expressed interest and support of CRSPs but was not able to attend. Dan Evans and Jorge Richards (who used to be SANREM's contact at USAID/Mexico) left in March and have not been replaced. I presented an overview of SANREM CRSP and of LTRA-1 activities in Mexico. Jorge and Susan were not aware of SANREM or CRSPs in general and appreciated the fact I informed them. We also discussed areas of Mission priority for us to take into consideration during the next phase of SANREM; I also explained the Associate Award mechanism.

USAID just finished a contract with Chemonics providing technical assistance in coffee production, harvesting and processing with indigenous people in Chiapas, and with cacao in Tabasco, and with forestry in Oaxaca. They also were working with ecotourism in Chiapas. Maria Baron is the person in charge of gender for USAID in Mexico; she is in DC until mid July. However, Susan sent me a report Chemonics prepared for USAID on Gender Strategy for Rural Development and Agriculture.

Areas of interest that may overlap with SANREM are watersheds and environmental services. However, their primary area of interest was Democracy and Governance; thus Jorge said decentralization of forest management “rings a bell”. They are interested in possibilities for scaling up for setting policy standards. Economic Growth is another area of priority (see SEGUIR II IQC).

I also met with gender researchers at the national autonomous university (UNAM) and the autonomous university of Mexico (UAM). The gender studies (PUEG) library revealed a lack of literature on gendered networks and the need to produce and publish research in this area in Spanish. While there is much NGO and governmental work with women farmers throughout the country (and indeed Latin America), this does not translate into a wealth of scholarly production on the subject. “There are many experiences but little systematization,” I was told several times.

However, I was able to identify the key organizations and academics who might be able to provide useful references. The principal contact is Paloma Bonfil, at GIMTRAP (Interdisciplinary Group on Women, Work, and Poverty). Dr. Bonfil has edited several publications on women’s micro-enterprise and empowerment, including *Genero, Empoderamiento y Sustentabilidad* and *Panorama de las microempresas de mujeres pobres*. Another key contact made is Hilda Salazar, Red Genero y Medio Ambiente: 5658 9690: [hildasal\\_7@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:hildasal_7@yahoo.com.mx). Hilda recommended two faculty at the graduate school of the Autonomous University of Chapingo who work on gender: Veronica Castro (Rural Development) and Pilar Alberti (Socioeconomics) in Colegio de Posgrado de Chapingo (<http://www.colpos.mx/nueva/acerca/>). The website includes links to existing publications (via the Montecillo campus link).

“Economia de la solidaridad” was identified as a field of work which might have useful literature; Laura Collin of the Colegio de Tlaxcala was contacted for information in this area. Dr. Margarita Velazquez of the UNAM Regional Center for Multidisciplinary Studies (CRIM-UNAM), an expert on gender and natural resources, is now in a top administrative position and was not available. Dr. Ursula Oswald, also a senior researcher at the CRIM, was out of the country but provided reference to Laura Collins.

Additionally, meeting with faculty from the Department of Women’s Studies at the autonomous university (UAM) Xochimilco presented possibilities of research bringing together water and gender that may be of interest in next round. I contacted Dr. David Barkin, economist and water expert at the UAM, to recommend he look at SANREM website and consider whether the UAM might have relevant research to propose.

Two institutions with relevant (though not academic) documents and experience including excellent websites with access to key international gender documents in Spanish are: INDESOL – Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Social ([http://www.indesol.gob.mx/3\\_genero/gen\\_caleidos.shtml](http://www.indesol.gob.mx/3_genero/gen_caleidos.shtml)). Lourdes Avila at INMUJERES (was a INDESOL) headed a World Bank study funded by INDESOL on networks. Will try to obtain this study.

**List of Contacts Made:**

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