



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Haiti

7-14 January 2010

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Nathan Kennedy, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, and
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Purpose: To bring together the Virginia and Haitian team of the SANREM CRSP Conservation Agriculture project for their initial planning meeting. The goal was to go over the project, establish responsibilities, and begin to build a team.

Sites Visited: Haitian Ministry of Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV), State University of Haiti, Port-au-Prince (PAP)

Description of Observations:

The SANREM CRSP Haiti Team held its first planning workshop involving all partners on 11-12 January 2010 in the FAMV Auditorium. Partners included Co-PI representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, FAMV, Zanmi Agrikol, and Caritas-Hinche, as well as the SANREM CRSP Management Entity (ME) representatives. Research designs and Conservation Agriculture conceptual issues were presented and discussed. The SANREM CRSP ME introduced cross-cutting gendered knowledge and technology network research themes. Unfortunately, the earthquake struck before preliminary field work could be conducted by the team. The following details the activities that were accomplished.

Keith Moore and Jim McKenna traveled to PAP on January 8, prior to the workshop to meet with Robert Badio, Coordinator for the Haitian team. We went over the logistics of the meeting. We visited the State University campus, and met with the Dean of the College and Head of the Natural Resources (Agronomy) Department. We visited the meeting site. On Saturday morning, January 8, we met with Robert Badio and Jean Herold Camille, the Haitian social scientist in the project at the University. Then we met Nathan Kennedy, the graduate student responsible for the baseline study and Maria Elisa Christie, gender specialist for the SANREM project at the airport and checked them into the hotel. On Sunday, January 10 we picked up Mark Alley, Wade

Thomason, and Katy Martin Rainey at the PAP Airport and checked them into the hotel. We then coordinated our presentations for the workshop the next day.

1. The opening day of the workshop was Monday, January 11 at the State University of Haiti campus. The day began with sign-in at 8:00. Formal greeting from McKenna followed with the introduction of the team members. The balance of the day was involved with the description of the project and the responsibilities of the partners. Haitian coordinator Badio presented the context of CAPS research in Haiti. Guedry agronomist from Caritas, described the farming systems in the Maïssade location in the Central Plateau, followed by Stenio, agronomist from Zanmi Agrikol discussed the farming systems of the Corporant and Boucan Carré region of the Central Plateau. Alley then introduced the concept of conservation agriculture and addressed Objective 2 of the project, followed by Thomason's discussion of the research design of the project. After a catered lunch, Kennedy introduced the baseline survey concept and the framework of a survey addressing Objective 1 of the project. Following up on Nathan's presentation, Moore discussed informal survey methods, focus groups, farmer field schools and farmer field trials. After a break, Christie discussed cross-cutting activities and data collection across all SANREN CRSP projects. The first day's workshop was concluded with McKenna and Badio leading a question and answer session on the day's presentations.
2. The second day of the workshop began at 8:00 with sign in. We had attracted quite a crowd, with count of attendees for the second day of the workshop 62. There was a good representation of students and faculty from the University in attendance. The workshop began again with McKenna and Moore continuing the reflection of the Monday program. Then Rainey discussed the cultivar trials addressing Objective 3 in the proposal. After a coffee break, Kennedy spoke on farmer organizations and farmer field schools. Thomason then discussed coordination of team and sub-team implementation and reporting responsibilities. We had a catered lunch and then just the team returned to plan for informal field work and farmer discussions led by Moore and Kennedy. This developed into a very productive give and take between all the partners. There was clarification of role and responsibilities. This session went nearly 2 hours longer than planned, and the team began to come together. The scope and responsibilities of each partner's efforts were articulated again. All in all, the introductory workshop accomplished the objectives. We (McKenna, Moore, Christy, Thomason, Rainey, and Kennedy) plus the team from Caritas-Hinche and Zanmi Agrikol left PAP at 4:30 pm for our trip to Wozo by car.
3. The plan for the next four days was to visit the research plots at Corporant and Boucan Carré and then, travel to Hinche. Thursday was to be a workshop on Baseline Survey tools and participatory field work protocols. On Friday we were to visit Maïssade and conduct informal surveys with farmers. All of this changed at 4:53pm when a 7.0 earthquake struck PAP with the resultant displacement of 3 million people and the loss of 200,000 lives. We realized as we arrived at the hotel in Wozo that it would be impossible to proceed with our plans. Our partners we immediately engaged with a reaction to a disaster. The Caritas-Hinche and Zanmi Agrikol partners left the Wozo Hotel early

Wednesday morning. Keith and I visited with Gillaine Warne at Cange before we left for the Dominican Republic Wednesday am.

4. On Wednesday, January 13th, we (McKenna, Moore, Christie, Thomason, and Kennedy) left Wozo. Our driver took us to the Dominican border. We crossed and went through passport control. We paid for a ride in an open truck to the nearest town where we caught an express (7 hours) bus to Santo Domingo. We found lodging and OIRED rebooked our tickets to leave Santo Domingo in the morning to return to Blacksburg.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

- 1) We proposed to contact our partners at the Ministry, University, Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas when we returned to Blacksburg to see if we can reschedule the fieldwork and workshop activities left not completed.
- 2) We discussed the baseline survey in light of the migration to people from PAP to the villages, and if that would change the timing of the baseline study.
- 3) We made contact with our partners a week after the earthquake to find them all alive much to our relief. We asked them to give us an approximate time when we might continue the project.
- 4) The team in Haiti wanted to move forward with the project and felt we could plan our next visit in Mid-March prior to the rainy season.
- 5) We are presently working on the plans to go to the Highlands in Mid-March. This trip would involve McKenna, Thomason, and Rainey.

Training Activities Conducted (complete Form 17):

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Workshop	11-12 January 2010	University faculty and students	58	4	Virginia Tech	Introduction to CAPS project and research design and implementation issues in the Central Plateau

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Augustine, Guedry	Caritas-Hinche	372-14646
Badio, Robert J.	Ministry of Agriculture	3558-0500
Deus, Larose	Zanmi Agrikol	3840-1309
Etienne, Herby	Caritas-Hinche	3841-4156
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Frandy, Alezander	MARNDR	3567-8861; 3872-9366
NeGuerlande, R. E.	UNEPH	3758-332
Sonneus, Fereste	Zanmi Agrikol	3840-3606
Stenio, Louis	Zanmi Agrikol	3632-8793
Warne, Gillaine	Zanmi Agrikol	3874-4410