



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Haiti 17 July – 15 November 2011

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- Purpose:** Complete the economic household survey:
- (1) Establish final sampling area and methodology based on logistic constraints,
 - (2) Identify and hire a six-person enumeration team,
 - (3) Complete the survey design and translation with input from Haitian stakeholders and subject matter experts,
 - (4) Develop logistic and financial solutions with Zanmi Lasante that will facilitate the completion of data collection, and
 - (5) Complete data collection for 600 randomly selected households within the identified survey area.

Sites Visited: The survey team was based out of the Zanmi Lasante facility in Cange. Survey work was conducted over a 16 by 16 kilometer square area. The southern border of the survey area began approximately 1 kilometer north of Mirbalais. The eastern border began about 1 kilometer west of Cange.

Description of Activities

All of the objectives of the trip were completed except for number five. Six hundred surveys were completed; however, the harvest data is not complete for the majority of crops integral to our study. An additional data collection effort in Spring 2012 will complete the data set.

Objective 1: The sampling strategy was developed in order to collect at least 500 agriculture-based households that are representative of those on the Lower Central Plateau. At the same time, logistical considerations including accessibility and partner support also influenced the decision on how and where to sample. Zanmi Agrikol's team of agronomists, agents, and technicians primarily operate in an area south and west of their headquarters in Cange. After consultation with the Zanmi Agrikol and other experts familiar with the region, a sixteen by

sixteen kilometer square centered near the town of Duffalty was identified as the sample area. The sixteen-kilometer square was divided into 256 one-kilometer square quadrats, which were subsequently used to produce a random sample of 80 one-kilometer square quadrats. The survey area contained various topography and socioeconomic conditions that are largely representative of those on the Central Plateau. It included the mountain regions of Bois Joli and Balandre; the foothills of Boucane Carre and Porc Cabrit; and the lowland areas of Corporant and Grand Savane. A team of six Haitian agronomists visited every household within each of the 80 sampled quadrats. Once a household was identified, an enumerator would flip a coin resulting in a 50/50 chance that a household would be surveyed. This additional element of randomization was incorporated into the sampling strategy in order to achieve broad coverage of the study area while attaining the target of at least 500 completed household surveys.

Objective 2: Interviews for the survey team actually began in Haiti on January 12, 2010 (the day of the earthquake). Emails were sent to short-listed candidates prior to returning to Haiti in July of this year. Four out of the 12 short-listed candidates accepted the offer of \$30 per day and began training in late July. All four enumerators were recent graduates of FAMV. Two additional enumerators from Cange were identified with the help of Zanmi Agrikol, completing the team of six enumerators. The survey team completed a week of hands-on training in sampling strategy, GPS, and survey administration before work officially began in early August.

Objective 3: A complete translation of the pretested survey instrument was completed prior to this trip. However, it needed more work with a more nuanced approach to word selection and question structure that was better suited to rural farmers in Haiti. To achieve this objective input was solicited in July from Zanmi Agrikol agronomists, local farmers, our survey team, and subject matter experts. One expert that provided valuable input was John O'Malley Burns from Mouvaman Moun Mango. John has 40 years of experience in Haitian agriculture and a superior understanding of the use of Kreyol in rural Haiti. With the help of John and others, a Kreyol version of the survey was finalized in late July.

Objective 4: Working through logistical and financial issues with Zanmi Lasante was the biggest challenge of the survey effort and the trip. Three interrelated areas needed to be addressed: transport, lodging, and payroll/expenses. It is first important to note that Zanmi Lasante, and not Zanmi Agrikol, dominates the decision making process with regards to finance and logistics. They are effectively the same organization, but Zanmi Lasante controls the money and essential resources.

Zanmi Lasante's fleet of vehicles was strained over the course of the entire trip. For the most part, we were still able to move around effectively by sharing cars and planning well in advance of any drop-off or pickup. There were occasions where we had to wait hours for vehicles, and occasions when the team had to resort to taking motorcycle taxis. Traveling by taxi is extremely dangerous. In fact, we witnessed multiple fatalities during our time on the Lower Plateau. Due to safety and logistic concerns, we took the decision to rent a dedicated vehicle for survey work during the last few weeks of work. Zanmi Lasante provided a driver free of charge.

Cange was the base for our team, and from there we were able to operate effectively with Zanmi Lasante Point of Contacts (POCs) and resources close by. Occasionally the survey team had to

base itself in remote locations inaccessible by car for extended periods of time in order to administer the survey. Zanmi Agrikol technicians provided rustic but acceptable lodging solutions when we needed them.

On the ground financing of the survey was very difficult. The initial POC was Marie Flore Chipps, Director of Zanmi Lasante finance and operations. Our financial needs were explained clearly early in the trip, but unfortunately issues that prohibited the distribution of funds slowed and halted our work. On three occasions disbursement of payroll and operational funds were delayed past an agreed upon date. Two of the delays resulted in work stoppages; one of which lasted for 10 days. A large cash advance by Virginia Tech was the only thing that resolved the impasse over financial issues. This appears to be the only method to fund the work scheduled for Spring of 2012.

Objective 5: 600 surveys were completed, but the harvest data were incomplete. The majority of corn is harvested in September, October, and November, and we currently have insufficient data for this important crop. Other crops such as millet and pigeon peas are not harvested until January and February. We must revisit households after the February harvest to complete our data set.

List of Contacts Made:

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