



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Lesotho 17 January - 8 February 2010

Neal Eash and Forbes Walker, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, and
Michael Wilcox and Dayton Lambert, Agricultural Economics
University of Tennessee

Purpose of Trip: Plan biophysical and social research, expand collaborative relationships

Sites Visited: Maphutseng and the National University of Lesotho, Lesotho

Description of Activities

Several visits were made to Maphutseng with Dr. Marake to review progress and plan for the upcoming 2011 cropping season. Discussions were held on future work that will be centered on cover crops for weed suppression, biomass production, grain production, and residue cover. Cover crops that will be assessed include wheat, barley, oats, and rye. For example, two stands of wheat will be established – one will be hand-harvested prior to rolling and the other will not be harvested but will be used solely as a soil residue cover. The reason for this is the fact that it will be difficult to get farmers to produce a food cover crop such as wheat and not harvest the grain (as is the common practice with most cover crops). A number of legume observation plots will be established to assess the potential of including a legume with the cereal/grass cover crop. Legumes to be included will be medics, subterranean clover, rose clover, sweet clover, sweet vetch, grazing vetch, pink serradella and sweet narrow leaf lupin. A plot plan for this study was developed with our partners during this visit.

Drs. Wilcox and Lambert met with local collaborators, Dr. Mampiti Matete who is an Agricultural Economist with The National University of Lesotho and with Jaap Knot who is a Ph.D. student at the University of the Free State, to devise a strategy to sample CAS households in Lesotho in the November 2010. Dr. Matete has expertise in participatory rural appraisal and is keen to work collaboratively on this project. Her information about local resources will be crucial as the survey development/logistics phase of the project approaches. Dr. Matete also introduced the team to her student, Ms. Puselesto Likoetla. Ms. Likoetla (MS, Agricultural Economics) was encouraged to apply to the University of Tennessee for PhD studies. In her MS work, Ms. Likoetla has hands-on experience working with survey data.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Research Plots look very good but we need to work on the flow of money into the project, they are constrained by the lack of promised financial support. Local collaborators are doing an excellent job with a lot of community support. Work is needed on the survey list frame for the baseline assessments; however, a lot of progress has been made on this trip. Our collaborators are excited about the project and seem ready to assist with the survey in November 2010.

Training Activities Conducted:

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		
seminar	22 Jan	University faculty and students	7	4	University of Tennessee	Explanation of CAPS in subsistence agriculture

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Dr. Mokoala Marake	National University of Lesotho (NUL)	mv.marake@nul.ls
Dr. Mampiti Matete	NUL	Me.matete@nul.ls
Dr. EM Sebatane	NUL	emsebatane@nul.ls
Dr. John Willemse	University of the Free State (UFS)	
Ms. Puseletso Likoetla	Lesotho Agricultural College	
Mr. Maccae Rankoro	Local beekeeper	
Mr. August Basson	NGO Growing Nations	
Mrs. Mee Matibello	Local farmer	
Mr. Herman Nieuwoudt	Bophelo Natural Products	
Dr. Wijnand Swart	UFS Entomology	
Arthur Johnson	UFS International Partnerships	
Jaap Knot	Graduate Student, UFS	
Mr. Craig Anderson	Management Officer	
Mr. Robert Nolan	US Ambassador to Lesotho	
Elizabeth Power	Deputy Chief of Mission	
Sara Devlin	PDEP Officer	develinse@state.gov