



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

SANREM CRSP  
Office of International Research, Education and Development  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (0378)  
526 Price's Fork Road, Room 211  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Phone: (540) 231-1230  
Fax: (540) 231-1402  
sanrem@vt.edu  
[www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp](http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp)

### **Trip Report: Vietnam** 26-30 November 2007

Manuel C. Palada and Greg C. Luther  
AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center

- Purpose of Trip:**
- (1) To conduct participatory rural appraisal (PRA) survey focusing on ICM and IPM of vegetables and tree crops in Nghia Trung village; and
  - (2) To make recommendations and develop a work plan for ICM and IPM activities with project collaborators.

**Sites Visited:** Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City (27 Nov), and Nghia Trung Commune, Bu Dang District, Binh Phuoc Province (28-29 Nov).

**Description of activities, technical observations:**

The PRA survey was well organized by Nong Lam University with the support of AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center. During the first day of the activity the team from Nong Lam University and AVRDC met to discuss the survey questionnaires. Comments and suggestions were incorporated in the questionnaires. The questionnaires were developed to cover topics on IPM and ICM focusing on cashew, cacao, coffee and vegetable crops. Guidelines for the PRA survey and interviews were reviewed and discussed to ensure that questions were more focused on the major crops and farming systems. A slide presentation by Greg Luther showed the PRA approach and methodology used by AVRDC in other projects (Indonesia and Solomon Islands). This gave some guidelines and ideas for the team on conducting the PRA survey.

The team visited the facilities of Nong Lam University and viewed research plots for agroforestry trials as well as cacao and coffee plantations in the university farm. The trial design for the cover crop (*Arachis pintoii*) with vegetables was reviewed and discussed with the technical team. Suggestions were made on the experimental design, number of treatments, vegetable species, plot size and location.

Before conducting the PRA survey in the second day, the team visited the experimental site of the Crop Propagation Center for Cacao and Cashew in Binh Phuoc province. The trial on tree-crop interaction (cashew and vegetables) with full shading, partial shading and open field was

being established with drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation. In the afternoon the team proceeded to Nghia Trung village for the PRA survey and interviews with farmers. A total of 18 farmers (10 men and 8 women) were interviewed. Information gathered from interviews and direct observations in the field will be reported in the PRA Report. Following the interviews, the team visited the agroforestry farm mainly based on cashew, cacao and coffee. Observations were made on insect pests attacking the tree plantation. Backyard home vegetable gardens were also viewed by the team.

On 29 November, the team visited a farmer collaborator who conducts a drip irrigation trial with cashew and cacao. This is also the site selected for the trial on low-cost drip irrigation for vegetables. The components and instructions on the low-cost drip kit developed by IDE were explained to the farmer collaborator. The team went through the prioritization and ranking sections of the questionnaire with this farmer and his wife. Results will be reported in the PRA report.

The visit to the project sites and the PRA survey provided the team the general view of the agroforestry system based on cashew and cacao and how vegetables can be integrated into the system. The team identified major technical and socioeconomic constraints faced by farmers. Details of the PRA survey will be covered in the PRA Report which is being prepared by the Team.

Progress in meeting objectives: All the objectives listed above under “Purpose of Trip” were accomplished.

**Suggestions and Recommendations:**

Greg Luther provided suggestions to address the major insect pests of cashew and cacao. The Vietnam project team has to decide whether they will undertake an IPM activity. Manny Palada suggested improving vegetable integration into cashew and cacao agroforestry by evaluating and screening candidate vegetable species with tolerance to partial shading.

**List of Contacts Made:**

From Nong Lam University: Dr. Dang Thanh Ha, Ms. Nguyen Thi My Nguyet, Mr. Tran Van Thinh, Mr. Le Van Du, Ms. Le Thanh Loan, Dr. Nguyen Chau Nien and Dr. Trinh Truong Giang (Rector). Mr. Do Minh Thanh (Farmer collaborator).