



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Bolivia

24-31 March 2007

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Purpose of Trip: To coordinate activities related to soil science research with collaborators and students, review progress of field experiments and plan future activities including publications and data management.

Sites Visited: La Paz, Bolivia; Ancoraimes, Bolivia; Umala, Bolivia

Description of Activities

Met with Bolivian collaborators, including researchers, students and staff from the Universidad Mayor de San Andres, Universidad de la Cordillera, and PROINPA, to discuss the progress of soil science-related research, the preparation of possible presentations and publications from the research, and plans for sample collection and analysis. One of the researchers volunteered to centralize the data so all the researchers from the different institutions could have access to the soils information. Groups of researchers were also identified to be responsible for particular presentations and publications and possible appropriate places for those presentations/publications were discussed. Gaps in the data sets were also identified (e.g., soil samples for soil characterization from a specific community) and researchers committed to obtain the needed information.

I participated in two field days that were held in Chinchaya (a community in Ancoraimes) and in Vinto Coopani (a community in Umala). At Chinchaya, approximately 30 male and female community members evaluated the effects of soil fertility treatments in experimental plots on potato yield and quality and selected their preferred treatment based on several criteria, including the economic cost and benefits of the fertility treatment. Two Bolivian *licenciatura* students, who are conducting research on soil classification and crop response to fertility treatments, gathered data for their theses and assisted in the field day. Another field day was held in Vinto Coopani and involved individual male and female community members making presentations about different subjects, including our soil fertility research and pest management, to other community members (approximately 60) from Umala and other areas of the Altiplano. Participatory evaluations were made of the impacts and outcomes of the field days.

I also visited all the field sites related to soil research with the Bolivian students working at the sites as well as with Bolivian collaborators. We reviewed the experiences and challenges involved with each site and any additional measurements that needed to be made.

A final meeting was held in La Paz with all the Bolivian collaborators in which the Bolivian students involved in soil science research made presentations on their first year results. Further discussion was conducted about future plans and activities and any other potential opportunities for research that may be available.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

To facilitate maximum research productivity of the soil science research results, efforts should be made to increase the processing and accessibility of the data among researchers. The identification of an individual or several individuals who are responsible for managing and centralizing the database will be important to promote integration among several disciplines. The previous establishment of a Blackboard website for the project will greatly facilitate the possibility of data sharing among researchers.

List of Contacts Made:

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