



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Peru and Bolivia 23 – 29 March 2008

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Purpose of Trip: To coordinate soil science research, visit experimental field plots, provide training for use of soil quality kit, and supervise training of undergraduate and graduate students.

Sites Visited: National Agricultural University-La Molina (UNALM) and International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima Peru; and PROINPA-La Paz, Universidad Mayor de San Andres (UMSA), Umala field sites, Ancoraimes field sites in Bolivia.

Description of Activities:

Met with Sady Garcia, Julio Alegre and Braulio LaTorre of UNALM in Peru to coordinate soil science research for M.S. student, Clovis Baylon, comparing the effects of communal versus private land management on soil organic matter and soil quality. The items discussed were the focus of the research, the methodology and timing of sampling, the analytical methods to be used and the supervision of the student. Also discussed with Dr. Alegre and La Torre was permission for the use of their soil testing lab facilities by the M.S. student.

Met with Wilfredo Rojas, the new Director of PROINPA in La Paz to discuss the SANREM soil science research and possible M.S. thesis of Carola Chambilla. Visited the four field sites in Umala with Miguel Angel and provided training on use of the soil quality potassium permanganate kit. Participated in participatory mapping activity in Umala with community members. Met with two soil science students working in Umala (Juan Sepe and Carlos Caldera) and talked with them about the progress of their research. Visited three field sites in Ancoraimes with Roberto Miranda of UMSA and met with student (Marcos Willy) to discuss his progress. A bulk soil sample was taken from Cohani for a future incubation experiment, as well as samples of peat moss.

Participated in a workshop where students presented the progress of their research. Discussed coordination of the Ancoraimes research with Jorge Cusicanqui and worked with him on a peer-reviewed journal manuscript.

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		
Field demonstration	3/26/08	Professionals from PROINPA and UMSA	7	1	University of Missouri	To train professionals in PROINPA and UMSA to use soil quality kit.
Seminar	3/28/08	Students from UMSA	6	1	University of Missouri	To present and discuss research progress of students.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- Invite Wilfredo Rojas to the project's annual meeting in Puno so that he can become familiar with the project's activities and personnel.
- Provide a KMnO_4 soil quality kit to the Peru group so they can incorporate this methodology for assessing labile C into the research.
- Follow up with Jorge Cusicanqui to insure in-country soil science supervision when Roberto Miranda is on study leave in Brazil.
- Need to arrange for evaluation of corresponding soil classification using U.S. Taxonomy of local soil classification.
- Suggested modifications of soil quality kit include supplying more storage bottles and tubes and pre-preparation of standards. Analysis should be done in the morning or evening to avoid strong sun. Also, there may be a problem with the supply of KMnO_4 for some groups since it is a controlled substance and may be expensive to get reagent grade material.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Wilfredo Rojas	PROINPA	Calle Hermanos Manchego No. 2526, La Paz, Bolivia Tel no. (5912) 2141209 email: w.rojas@proinpap.org