



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
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Trip Report: Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines

15 May – 16 June 2009

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with Samran Sombatpanit, Past President of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, and
Manuel Palada and Edwin Javier, from AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Purposes of Trip:

- (1) To hold the Vietnam, Indonesian and Philippine final meetings to celebrate of the accomplishments/obstacles/boo-boos of the SE Asia SANREM CRSP project (TMPEGS);
- (2) To hear the testimonies of stakeholders on what TMPEGS meant to them.
- (3) To show-case to USAID – Hanoi, Jakarta and Manila staff TMPEGS technologies that have potential for scaling-up, and
- (4) To discuss themes for SANREM IV proposal to be submitted by TMPEGS.

Sites Visited:

Vietnam. Can Tho University, US-Consular office, Ho Chi Minh, project site in Nghia Trung commune, Binh Phuoc Province; Nong Lam University (NLU), Ho Chi Minh; and success alliance (Reyes with Sombatpanit).

Indonesia. Bogor Agricultural University; and Parakan Muncang and Hambaro villages, Nanggung subdistrict, Bogor regency, West Java (Reyes with Palada).

Philippines. International Rice Research Institute; Pines Hotel and Lantapan Municipal Hall, Lantapan, Bukidnon ; and Claveria, Misamis Occidental (Reyes with Palada and Javier).

Description of activities:

The TMPEGS-celebrations in all of the three countries were well organized and provided atmospheres to discuss impacts TMPEGS had on stakeholders, and a review on success and weaknesses of the project, and how the project can be improved to better serve stakeholders.

In Vietnam, several farmers both women and men participated in the celebration. It was explained that vegetables for home-gardens with cashew trees is feasible but potential for adoption is unclear. Cacao grown under trees has better prospects. Many varieties of cacao grew well under cashew. Furthermore, Vetiver grass was found to control termites in young cacao, yield of cashew increased when planted with cacao, and soil quality improved when cacao was planted under cashew. The potential for adoption is high but since cacao is new in the region, marketing assistance and other technological extension services need to be provided. However, during the open discussion it appeared that many farmers have other questions which were not related to TMPEGS project. They were taking advantage of the presence of the extension expert.



In Indonesia, a group of 5 women katuk farmers from Hambaro, five men katuk farmers from Parakan Munchang, a male farmer from Sukaluyo, and lastly a male farmer from Hambaro testified on the benefits TMPEGS brought to them. They encouraged TMPEGS to continue disseminating katuk. Women said that katuk production was like an automated teller machine for them. It gave them extra cash that they can control and enabled them to use land that is already used for guava, since katuk grew very well under guava trees. The men had a similar testimony as well. Sukaluyo was not as successful. It was also stated that TMPEGS Indonesia is pioneering the development of standard soil nutrient analyses approach for vegetable production. No standard methodology existed in Indonesia.

In the Philippines, local government and farmers both women and men recommended the need for cluster marketing. The community enacted an incentive based policy on sustainable production which included vegetable agroforestry systems. Because of SANREM they have gained knowledge on sustainable farming systems and its benefits for vegetable production with several farmers adopting sustainable practices. However, they relayed that they can't sell their vegetables at a competitive price. Hence, they requested assistance in research and development of cluster marketing.

Brainstorming was done on possible themes of SANREM IV proposal with agreements on the direction of the proposal. The testimonies of stakeholders were very useful in assessing the project's impact in local government and farming community both women and men. It is emerging that TMPEGS may venture in continue vegetable agroforestry with added crops of upland rice, and ornamentals. Vermicomposting and biopore technologies for soil quality improvement may also be pursued. Cluster marketing research and assistance, policy incentives, informal gender, adaption of vegetable agroforestry, SWAT research, and scaling up will likewise be pursued.

No USAID-Mission representatives were able to attend the celebrations despite many invitations.

Progress in meeting objectives: Objectives listed above under "Purposes of Trip" were met except objective 3 since USAID-MISSIONS were not able to send representatives.

Suggestions and Recommendations (as appropriate):

Reyes together with partners was able to identify potential themes for SANREM IV proposal that will capitalize on the technologies and good will developed in previous SANREM researches. He wrote a conceptual note that was sent to partners for their comments. After receiving comments, he will proceed leading the development of the proposal for SANREM IV.

List of Contacts Made:

Vietnam. NLU faculty: Bui Xuan An, Vu Thi Hong Thuy, Nguyen Le Hung, Hunh Thanh Hung, Le Quoc Tuan, Nguyen Phu Hoa; Cantho University: Nguyen Hieu Trung, Vo Quang Minh Trang; Dai Hoc An Giang University: Vo-Tong Xuan; US-Embassy: Douglas Sonnek, Dovas A. Saulys. We met with several students, farmers, and local government officials.

Indonesia. IPB or BAU faculty Ir. M. Fauzi, and Didy Sopandle; Mandiri Jaya Flora: Benny Ijia; and Taiwan Technical Missions: Yeong Lang Yang. We met with several other faculty members, students, farmers and local government officials.

Philippines. International Rice Research Institute: Filiberto A. Pollisco Jr.; International Rice Research Institute: Casiana M. Vera Cruz, and David Johnson.

If you need contact information for most of the above individuals, you can email Manuel Reyes at mannyreyes@nc.rr.com