

# **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

# Quarterly Report for April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007

Long-Term Research Award (LTRA) PIs and their teams met and shared progress on their respective research projects at the SANREM CRSP Annual Meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia on 24-27 June 2007. The primary meeting activity involved each LTRA Activity presenting their accomplishments and open discussions of clarification, synergies and perspectives on their findings. An External Evaluation Panel (EEP) desk-top review of the LTRAs was conducted before the meeting and EEP Members participated actively in the meetings discussions. The LTRA activities are achieving results and progressing on schedule. Gender researchers discussed preparation of a joint research publication.

Draft papers for the Sourcebook on Payments for Environmental Services have been completed for the <u>Associate Award for Payments for Environmental Services</u>. This collaborative effort with the BASIS CRSP will culminate in a policy seminar on PES in Washington, D.C. in October 2007.

A publisher has been selected for the Landscape Systems book and final chapter reviews have commenced. A few case study chapters have yet to be completed. The <u>SANREM Knowledge Base</u> has been upgraded with a new and improved interface to facilitate searches. There are now over 1900 entries in the SANREM Knowledge Base.

#### Other highlights:

Sixteen host country and 15 US graduate students and five host country undergraduate students were supported this quarter by the SANREM CRSP's partners.

# April 1 – June 30, 2007 Accomplishments and Milestones

#### Accomplishments

- The Payments for Environmental Services Associate Award papers were drafted.
- Draft chapters of the SANREM Landscape Systems book were posted to the website.
- Quarterly Report was prepared and submitted to USAID.
- The homepage of the SANREM CRSP website was upgraded with an interactive map telling about LTRA activities across the world.
- Community leaders were trained in survey procedures in preparation for a community and forest survey in Bolivia (LTR-1).
- Interactive training with community members in Uganda and Kenya is building local networks and increasing local knowledge of rights and responsibilities (LTR-1).
- The national survey of 146 forest communities in 5 states of Mexico has been completed (LTR-1).
- HACCP certification training was conducted at the Lundazi Community Trading Center (CTC) (LTR-2).
- Hygiene training materials were developed for CTC employees and their families (LTR-2).
- A new relationship has been developed for food quality control testing with the University of Zambia food laboratory (LTR-2).
- Field sites for soil erosion experiments under single and mixed-crop management regimes have been established in Ecuador (LTR-3).
- A comprehensive assessment of local, regional and national institutions was completed for the Province of Bolivar, Ecuador (LTR-3).





- Undergraduate student interns participated in short-term research activities in Ecuador (LTR-3).
- 64 geo-referenced maps depicting perceptions of change in natural resources, land use, cropping areas, and natural hazards/vulnerabilities have been completed for 10 communities in the Bolivian Altiplano (LTR-4).
- Climate change parameters for the Central and Northern Altiplano have been characterized (LTR-4).
- Community leaders in Apopata and Santa Maria, Peru participated in study tours of regional NGO projects (LTR-4).
- Increasing climatic stress will be the result of evapotranspiration in the Altiplano due to higher temperatures (LTR-4).
- A video documentary and written materials highlights sustainable farming practices adopted by model farmers Henry and Perla Binahon in the Manupali Watershed, Philippines (LTR-5).
- Soil and Water Assessment Tool Model workshop was successfully completed by project researchers from all sites (LTR-5).
- Documents on government policies, payments for environmental services (PES) and Rewarding Upland Farmers for the Environmental Services (RUPES) reviewed for applications in the study area (LTR-5).
- Review of Payments for Environmental Services Associate Award papers was conducted.
- Program Director and two other consultants conducted a technical assistance mission to assess forest restoration activities in the Didy Forest of Madagascar.
- SANREM CRSP Newsletter was published and disseminated.
- Associate Program Director and Gender Equity Coordinator visited project sites in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru
  to assess the initiation of the SANREM CRSP LTRAs in the Andes Region, meet the project teams and their
  partners, learn about the implementation contexts, and develop linkages with USAID Missions.
- A publisher has been selected for the Landscape Systems book.
- The SANREM CRSP Annual Meeting was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

### Significant Issues Encountered and Addressed

- TraiNet use requirements continue to hinder US-based research activities by foreign scientists. An alternative visa procedure is needed to accommodate foreign researchers who come to the US to participate in research activities and conferences that are not training activities. Foreign scientists are refusing to come to the US for fear of losing their existing visas and this is reducing the ability of the US to conduct world class research. To address this, SANREM is avoiding holding meetings in the US.
- Associate Award Obstacles: As reported in our last quarterly report, we are experiencing problems when
  communicating with USAID Missions concerning Associate Awards because some Missions are under the
  assumption that USAID is terminating the SANREM CRSP. This misunderstanding is the result of the
  2005/2006 CRSP portfolio review and current USAID Agriculture website materials that state that the
  SANREM CRSP is being terminated in 2009. See:

http://www.usaid.gov/our\_work/agriculture/crsp/index.html
http://www.usaid.gov/our\_work/agriculture/crsp/major\_changes.htm

Since those website materials were developed and posted in 2005/2006, USAID has changed their plans and promised to conduct a review of the SANREM CRSP in 2008 before making a decision on whether SANREM will be terminated. The USAID website has not been updated to reflect this change and Missions are still obtaining incorrect information on the status of the SANREM CRSP from the USAID website. SANREM respectfully requests that USAID correct this misinformation on its website by posting the new plan for SANREM's review and communicating with Missions via email and other means that SANREM is being evaluated in 2008 and not necessarily terminated in 2009. We requested that the USAID web pages be corrected in our last quarterly report, but this has not happened. We respectfully request again that the requested changes be made.

## **Key Milestones for the Next Quarter**

| July   | Quarterly Report submitted to USAID          |
|--------|--|
|        | Completion of SANREM EEP LTRA Interim Review |
|        | Continual updating of website                |
| August | Quarterly Newsletter issued                  |

|           | Responses to EEP reviews of LTRAs prepared                 |
|-----------|--|
|           | LTRA Work Plans submitted                                  |
| September | SANREM CRSP Work Plan submitted                            |
|           | Progress on summer field work at sites reported            |
|           | Summary of Cross-cutting activities across LTRAs completed |

Respectfully Submitted,

Lleo A. Dillaha H

Theo Dillaha, Program Director SANREM CRSP