



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Quarterly Report for April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005

Implementation of SANREM CRSP Phase III activities has been launched as 18 Planning Awardees and another dozen unsupported teams have been traveling to host countries and preparing long-term participatory research programs in the four USAID-targeted regions. Management Entity efforts have been directed to contract and subcontract establishment as well as preparing awardees to meet with USAID officials in their targeted countries. This preparation has been amply rewarded as reports are coming in that planning awardees have been well received by USAID Missions. System Coordinators have increased the pace of work on Knowledge Base systems. All planned graduate students have now been recruited and are working on the various landscape systems portions of the Knowledge Base.

Other highlights: SANREM CRSP Systems Coordinators at North Carolina State University have collaborated in a training conference with the Soil Management CRSP. One Planning Awardee was contracted by USAID/Madagascar to conduct a rapid assessment of deforestation and restoration potentials in the Didy Forest. Three host country and 10 US graduate students and 1 host country and 3 US undergraduate students are currently being supported by system coordination, bridging, and planning activities. Weekly meetings are being held with the IPM CRSP to share lessons learned, coordinate, search for synergy and approaches to solutions to common problems.

April 1 – June 30, 2005 Accomplishments and Milestones

Date Accomplishments

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| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly Report submitted to USAID• International Travel Approvals obtained• ERP comments to non-awardees prepared and distributed• Plans initiated for a BioDiversity Workshop to be held in Punta Cana next January/February• TOP Monitoring and Evaluation materials enhanced and posted to website• Instructions and procedures forms for contract implementation finalized and posted to website• Long-Term Research Award RFA revised and posted to SANREM CRSP website• Technical Committee teleconference on 28 April |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A subcontract was established with AHNR-IT (Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources Information Technology Center at Virginia Tech) for development of a web-based version of the SANREM Knowledge Base (data entry and data query templates and dynamic web pages)• Planning awardees commence meeting with host country counterparts and USAID/Mission officials, conducting site visits, and elaborating their research proposal strategies• Converted the SANREM Knowledge Base Data Entry template to an on-line version consisting of an on-line data base for storage of knowledge-base meta data and resources. |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Director participated in AIARD Annual Meeting• Program Director attended USAID's Stakeholder Meeting on the new agriculture/NRM strategy• Program Director participated in the CRSP Council Meeting• Associate Program Director promotes SANREM CRSP activities at USAID/Senegal, USAID/Mali, and USAID/WARP• Associate Program Director participates in ECOWAS Inter-Ministerial Conference on Biotechnology, Bamako, Mali• Planning Awardee was contracted by USAID/Madagascar to conduct a rapid assessment of deforestation and restoration potentials in the Didy Forest• Board of Directors established and the first meeting called for 16-17 August• SANREM CRSP Website revised and upgraded• Web-based SANREM Knowledge Base Data Entry website (https://www.ext.vt.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/SANREM.woa/wa/default) operational and being used create meta data for and transfer SANREM Phase I and II documents and resources to the SANREM Phase III website. |



Significant issues encountered and addressed

- Difficulties in identifying suitable and available candidates for the ERP continue to be addressed. The problem is finding candidates with research and development experience who have time and will accept our reimbursement rate.
- As planning award activities were initiated several awardees found it necessary to modify their travel plans. This entailed requesting changes to the approved travel authorizations by the USAID Contracts Officer. After four revisions were made the Contracts Officer noted that approvals were only needed when a new country was added to the list or there were changes in the budget. This will facilitate further travel modifications in the planning process.
- Initial partner unhappiness that they did not receive Planning Awards and lessons learned from the experience were discussed during the April Technical Committee teleconference.

Key Milestones for the Next Quarter

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| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit Quarterly Report to USAID• Complete Final Draft of SANREM CRSP POP Manual for Aug 16/17 BOD Meeting• Web-based SANREM Knowledge Base data entry site available for use by initial partners (systems coordinators)• Develop SANREM CRSP graduate student training database (glean training data from Phase I and II annual reports since no training records were passed on)• Detailed plan for long-term research application review process• Identification of potential EEP and ERP members (with confirmed willingness to serve)• Biodiversity Conservation in Agriculture Symposium program planning committee teleconference• Finalize Biodiversity Conservation in Agriculture Symposium program• Revise Virginia Tech cost share commitment in Cooperative Agreement |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SANREM CRSP Board of Directors Meeting, Blacksburg, Virginia (Aug 16&17)• CRSP Council Meeting, Portland, Oregon (Aug 11-13)• Implement online reporting system for SANREM CRSP partners• Formation of SANREM CRSP EEP (four members)• Formation of ad hoc ERP to assist EEP in review of long-term research applications |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long-Term research applications due (Sept 30)• EEP/ERP teleconference to discuss application review procedures and criteria prior to initiation of review process• Solicit annual reports from partners |

Respectfully Submitted,



Theo Dillaha, Program Director SANREM CRSP