



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management  
Collaborative Research Support Program

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## SANREM CRSP Newsletter, August 2008

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Promoting stakeholder empowerment and improved livelihoods through  
knowledge-based sustainable agriculture and natural resource management systems

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## Director's message



The past quarter has been one of the busiest and most productive in the SANREM CRSP's history. After a highly successful annual meeting in the Philippines, I traveled to research sites in Indonesia and Vietnam with Associate Program

Director Keith Moore, Gender Equity Coordinator Maria Elisa Christie, Ron Cantrell of the SANREM External Evaluation Panel (EEP), and Manuel Reyes, lead Principal Investigator (PI) for Long-term Research Award Activity 5 (LTRA-5). On farms and test plots, at markets and in villages, we saw evidence and heard testimonials from stakeholders that SANREM practices can improve lives and livelihoods in Southeast Asia. We concluded our trip with a visit to the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, and I also visited the new USAID Mission in Hanoi. When visiting Missions and USAID-Washington, SANREM Management Entity (ME) personnel and I are soliciting USAID's suggestions on research priorities for SANREM Phase IV. So far, we have met with USAID officers from the Philippines; Indonesia; Mexico; Vietnam; EGAT/AG; and the Africa, Asia, and LAC bureaus. Food security and sustainable production of staple crops are emerging as the top priority.

Several other events of the past quarter raised SANREM's profile internationally and nationally. I had the opportunity in May to participate in the United Nations Commission on Sustainability in New York and speak on the need to improve agricultural water management in the current food security crisis. In July, I testified before a subcommittee of the House Committee on

Agriculture on how the United States can improve the effectiveness of its food aid and foreign agricultural assistance programs. S.K. De Datta, SANREM's administrative PI, was recognized by the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for his contributions to Asia's Green Revolution and other agricultural innovations. Alton Thompson, chair of SANREM's board of directors, was appointed Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. And in late July, Director General Dennis Garrity of the World Agroforestry Centre visited Virginia Tech, in part to discuss possible collaborations with SANREM on a variety of issues.

SANREM's five LTRAs continue to make steady progress. This newsletter highlights LTRA-1, Decentralization Reform and Property Rights, led by Elinor Ostrom of Indiana University. The five cross-cutting initiatives, launched less than a year ago, are showing results already. Plans are well underway for Southeast Asia's first Soil and Water Assessment Tool workshop and conference, which SANREM is co-sponsoring next year in Thailand. As PIs and researchers prepare their annual reports and craft their work plans for Year 5 of SANREM, the ME also is looking ahead. With positive reviews from the EEP and the Administrative Management Review team, we hope to announce at any time that SANREM has been renewed for another five years, ensuring that our work to promote sustainable agriculture and natural resource management will continue through 2014.

I also just visited the new "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" exhibit, which opened July 19 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington and will run for 18 months. Covering 5,000 square feet of

space, "Dig It!" is outstanding, exploring the complex world of soil and how this hidden ecosystem supports nearly every form of life on Earth. I encourage all SANREM

participants to see this significant exhibit if they have an opportunity.

**Theo Dillaha**  
Program Director

## **Research spotlight**

### **LTRA-1: Decentralization Reform and Property Rights: Potentials and Puzzles for Forest Sustainability and Livelihoods**

**PIs:** **Elinor Ostrom**, Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science, Indiana University; **Krister Par Andersson**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Colorado; **Ruth Meinzen-Dick**, Senior Research Fellow, Environment and Production Technology, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); **Esther Mwangi**, Giorgio Ruffolo Post-doctoral Fellow in Sustainability Science, Center for International Development, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; **Bruce Campbell**, Director of the Research School of Environmental Studies, Charles Darwin University (CIFOR); **Marty Luckert**, Professor of Forest Economics, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta.

Governance reforms are policy tools promoted to improve livelihoods and achieve sustainable forest management. However, policy reforms such as decentralization do not automatically translate into new property rights for forest users or immediately clear benefits to the environment. This project, working in Uganda, Kenya, Mexico, and Bolivia, seeks to link policy changes with outcomes for people and the environment. Researchers are focusing on the role of institutions at multiple scales and examining how decentralization policies create incentives that affect behaviors and livelihoods as well as outcomes for forests.

As part of this multi-scale analysis, the project is completing a large survey of households in selected forest communities in

the four host countries and analyzing data on a wide range of topics, including incomes and livelihoods, use of natural resources, and perceptions of change in forest cover and quality as new policies are implemented. In Uganda in particular, researchers so far have found few cases where both favorable livelihood changes and sustainable forest management have been achieved. In some sites, increases in income have been attributed mainly to sale of illegally harvested timber. Forest cover in some areas has decreased only slightly, but reduction in tree diversity, water quality, and presence of large trees indicates diminishing forest quality. These findings call into question the benefits presumed to accrue from decentralization approaches. Building on studies demonstrating that women's access and decision making are crucial for the sustainable management of forests, the project also is examining whether conditions vary under predominantly female user groups compared with predominantly male or mixed forest groups, how, and why.

Researchers have found that large discrepancies exist between decentralization policies on paper and on the ground. Further, they observe that high-level changes in decentralization trickle down to local people along complex paths. Building on their findings, researchers are developing capacity at the selected forest sites to enable resource users – particularly women, the poor, and other marginalized groups – to identify, understand, and participate in forest governance, benefits, and policy processes.

They also are developing capacity within government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to understand the effects of policy changes and to monitor and evaluate the impact of decentralization and other property rights reforms on livelihoods and natural resources, including biodiversity. By building capacity at both levels, researchers hope to increase the ability of actors at many scales to work together effectively.

LTRA-1 has reported significant progress. Data from the project's Uganda partner was used in a campaign to protect the Mabira forest, a preserved area since the 1930s, from reallocation for sugar cane production. Citing environmental concerns, Uganda's National Forestry Authority announced in July that it will not grant a sugar company's request to increase its acreage. Also in Uganda, researchers found that, while wealthier households have experienced gains in income after policy reforms in 2003, lower-income households have seen losses.

In Latin America, LTRA-1's nationwide survey in Mexico caught the attention of a number of influential groups. The World Bank, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the National Forest Commission have expressed interest in the survey results and subsequent data analyses. The Bolivian team, which has

just completed data collection for its nationwide survey, notes that researchers frequently cannot locate the authorities in charge of forest management at the local level. This underscores the discrepancy between decentralization policies in theory and in practice.

Though violence and protests in Kenya following the recent election delayed some of the research team's activities there, the project continues to sponsor community meetings and training sessions, and to network with farmers and other stakeholders. Links also have been established with influential groups such as the National Museums of Kenya, CARE Kenya, Friends of Lake Victoria, and Maseno and Moi universities.

Training is a key part of this project's overall mission, enabling stakeholders to participate in researchers' work, to share and discuss the findings, and to understand and benefit from policy changes. Training also allows researchers to convey their findings directly to community members and to representatives of organizations that affect forest management. Through April 2008, LTRA-1 had trained 1,192 individuals in various topics related to sustainable forest management.

## **News, notes, milestones**

### **Annual meeting focuses on researchers' results**

More than 60 agriculture and natural resource scientists, engineers, and development experts from around the world gathered in May for the SANREM CRSP 2008 Annual Meeting in Los Baños, Philippines. A daylong tour of experimental fields and research sites in Lantapan, Bukidnon, Mindanao, where SANREM has been operating since 1992, preceded the scientific

meeting. A gender workshop concluded the four-day session.

"In the Philippines, local farmers and government officials are very supportive of SANREM's presence and appreciate the contributions that have been made," Program Director Dillaha said. "Through our strong working relationship with the community, we anticipate continued progress."



**Theo Dillaha, Ron Cantrell, Willie Padolina, Alton Thompson, S.K. De Datta, Keith Moore, and Mike Bertelsen pause for a photo before the banquet.**

In Indonesia and Vietnam as well as the Philippines, SANREM is researching techniques such as low-cost drip irrigation, reduced tillage, reintroduction of indigenous vegetables, and soil quality; and offering local workshops to introduce improved cultivation and production practices. In the face of the current world food crisis, SANREM's goal is to develop economically viable and ecologically sound farming systems. On the field trip to Lantapan, participants saw agro-forestry experiments demonstrating techniques for the successful integration of vegetable crops with tree production.

Before the annual meeting, Associate Program Director Keith Moore interviewed government officials, local leaders, and farm organization members involved in earlier phases of SANREM CRSP activity in Lantapan. "They told me that SANREM introduced a new way of thinking about and managing natural resources," Moore said. "The key to the program's success was in using this new discourse to leverage collaboration with other projects and local organizations." The current SANREM CRSP LTRA-5 builds on those earlier accomplishments.

Representatives from all the SANREM long-term research activities and cross-cutting research programs participated in the annual meeting. SANREM CRSP Administrative PI S.K. De Datta convened the meeting with welcoming remarks and a brief update on SANREM's progress to date. Keynote speakers were Jon Lindborg, USAID Mission Director for the Philippines; William Padolina,

Deputy Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); and Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, which hosted the meeting. The first day's program featured progress reports by PIs for SANREM's five LTRAs and its cross-cutting activities. The second day's program was a scientific conference on research findings to date. Individual project and collective business and planning meetings were held on Day 3, which concluded with a field trip to IRRI. That evening, SANREM Gender Equity Coordinator Maria Elisa Christie hosted a dinner, and Moore led a discussion on gendered market networks. Day 4 was devoted to the gender workshop, which emphasized development of a unified methodology to address market information networks and bargaining power across SANREM activities.

Following the meeting, Dillaha, Moore, and Christie traveled to Indonesia with Ron Cantrell, chair of the SANREM EEP; and Manuel Reyes, lead PI for LTRA-5. They visited Bogor Agricultural University and toured farms and agricultural markets serving the village of Nanggung. They concluded their Southeast Asia trip in Vietnam with visits to Nong Lam University and the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City; and tours of agro-forestry sites in Binh Phuoc Province. Sustainable agriculture and natural resource management are viewed by many scientists as crucial to global food security. "The SANREM meeting enhanced collaboration among regions and gave researchers an opportunity to share success stories from different parts of the world," Dillaha said.



Clockwise from top left:

- Keith Moore, S.K. De Datta, and Theo Dillaha meet with the mayor and vice mayor of Lantapan.
- A farmer in Bukidnon harvests calla lilies.
- Vegetables and trees grow together in an experimental agro-forestry plot.
- Maria Elisa Christie, Elizabeth Jiménez, and Victor Ella visit a SANREM site.
- Proprietor Henry Binahon leads a tour of his family's farm.





**Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco (left) chats with S.K. De Datta and SANREM Board Chair Alton Thompson at the opening session.**

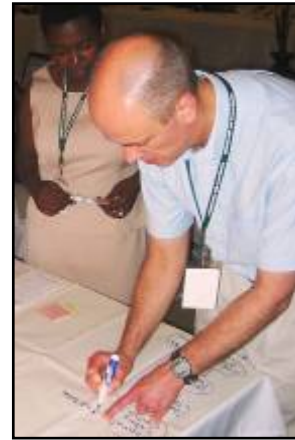


**Keith Moore and Elinor Ostrom discuss researchers' work and compare notes at the poster session.**



**Researchers Jorge Cusicanqui, Elizabeth Jiménez, Edith Fernández-Baca, and PI Corinne Valdivia conduct business under the palms at Splash Mountain and Oasis Resort near Los Baños. At right, Jiménez, Valdivia, and Fernández-Baca stand by to answer questions about their posters.**





Clockwise from top left:

- Jeff Alwang, Conrad Heatwole, and Ruben Botello confer between sessions.
- Vongai Kandiwa and Alex Travis participate in the gender workshop.
- Isidra Bagares, Caroline Duque, Cora Abao, and Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier chat at dinner.
- PIs Elinor Ostrom, Alex Travis, Corinne Valdivia, Jeff Alwang, Manuel Reyes visit IRRI.
- Lydiah Gatere and Arthur Arinaitwe share a light moment at the poster session.





## **Dillaha testifies at congressional agriculture hearing**

Program Director Dillaha was among experts testifying in Washington July 16 at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Specialty Crops, Rural Development and Foreign Agriculture. Subcommittee Chair Mike McIntyre (D-NC) said in his opening statement that the United States has a large commitment to delivering food aid to address the current hunger crisis around the world, but an increase in aid is necessary. He emphasized the importance of continued agricultural research and the proper allocation of funds to enhance food production capabilities in developing countries.

In his testimony, Dillaha stated that agricultural development is essential to economic gains in developing countries, and he made a series of recommendations for short- and long-term actions. In the short term, the United States should fully fund Food for Peace and other food assistance programs, reconsider U.S. agricultural policies that contribute to the food security crisis, and facilitate the immediate provision of seeds and fertilizer for countries most affected. Dillaha also recommended that the United States increase foreign agricultural

development assistance funding as a way to decrease the continuing need for emergency food programs. In the long term, Dillaha recommended that the United States help developing countries build the capacity to help themselves through partnerships with land-grant universities, by expanding agricultural research and education, and by restoring the agricultural development capacity of USAID.

Dillaha and other panel members testified that current responses may ease the food crisis, but without long-term agricultural development assistance, the global situation will be much the same in a year's time. Other experts on the panel were Sean Callahan of Catholic Relief Services; Andrew Barnes of Food for the Hungry; Avram "Buzz" Guroff of the economic development organization ACDI/VOCA, and Nicholas Minot of the International Food Policy Research Institute. Their testimony was part of a congressional review of U.S. foreign assistance programs and hearings on the foreign operations appropriations bill being considered by Congress. Testimony by Dillaha and the other panel members is online at: <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>

## **Philippines honors De Datta for role in global agriculture**

Administrative PI S.K. De Datta was recognized in separate awards for his contributions to Philippine agriculture and to the Green Revolution in Asia in the 1960s. University of the Philippines-Los Baños recognized De Datta at a ceremony on May 20, and IRRI honored him on May 26.

The ceremonies were part of the annual meetings of SANREM and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Collaborative Research Support Programs, both of which De Datta

oversees at Virginia Tech, where he is Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Director of the Office of International Research, Education, and Development. Both awards recognized De Datta's contributions to agriculture and his 27 years in research and education, which included overseeing 77 master's and Ph.D. students from 22 countries. Those honoring De Datta also cited his contributions as an affiliate professor in the soil science and agronomy departments at University of the

Philippines-Los Baños; his wide-ranging research in agronomy, soil science, weed science, and other aspects of rice production; his major contributions to the Green Revolution; and his leadership role in advancing agricultural productivity for poor farmers in Asia.

The term "Green Revolution" refers to the transformation of agriculture during the 1960s, when farmers used scientific discoveries to plant higher-yielding rice varieties with great success. In 1968, De Datta, then an agronomist at IRRI, published his findings about IR8, a variety of rice that yielded 5 tons of rice per hectare with almost no fertilizer and 9.4 tons per hectare with fertilizer. This was nearly 10 times the yield of conventional grain and came to be known as Miracle Rice. The introduction of IR8 and new management practices were significant achievements, for rice sustains 3.5 billion people either partially or fully for caloric intake around the world, mostly in Asia.

"I am humbled by receiving these awards," De Datta said. "I am reminded that now

more than ever, in light of the global food crisis, we need to continue to support agricultural and natural resource management research to ensure food security and reduce poverty."

De Datta holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Banaras Hindu University in India and a master's degree in soil science and agricultural chemistry from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. After completing Ph.D. studies at the University of Hawaii on a fellowship, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Ohio State University. He joined the 2-year-old IRRI in 1964. De Datta's book, *Principles and Practices of Rice Production*, is considered the definitive work on rice cultivation.

He has also written a handbook on rice weed control, six book chapters, six technical bulletins, and 351 journal articles. He has received awards from organizations in several countries as well as the Presidential Citation from the Philippine head of state in 2004 and an outstanding alumnus award from the University of Hawaii.

## **SANREM board chair Thompson appointed to NCA&T post**

Alton Thompson, chair of the SANREM CRSP Board of Directors and Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, has been appointed Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Thompson became NCA&T's second-highest official on July 1, succeeding Janice G. Brewington, who is retiring.

"Dr. Alton Thompson's outstanding performance as dean of our award-winning School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences has certainly prepared him for this important new leadership role as chief academic officer for NCA&T," Chancellor Stanley F. Battle said June 24 in announcing the appointment. "Thompson's track record in academics, research, recruitment, and

grantsmanship will serve him well as the No. 1 leader of undergraduate and graduate instruction."

One of the original directors of SANREM CRSP Phase III, Thompson was elected chair at the board's first meeting in August 2005. He also serves on the boards of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, the Rural Advancement Fund International, and is chair of the 1890 Association of Research Directors and the 1890 Council of Deans of Agriculture. He has served on advisory boards for the Ford Foundation's Rural Economic Policy Program; Census of Agriculture Advisory Panel of the National Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics; and the Southern Governors' Southern Growth Policies Board.

## ICRAF director visits SANREM faculty at Virginia Tech



Director General Dennis Garrity of the [World Agroforestry Centre](#) met with SANREM faculty and staff as part of a July 16 visit to Virginia Tech. In discussion sessions and at an open seminar, Garrity addressed key global

development challenges in agro-forestry as well as opportunities for collaboration between the center and various programs and projects organized and managed by the university.

The World Agroforestry Centre was formerly the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry and still uses the acronym

ICRAF. The center advances the science underpinning use of trees in agricultural landscapes by rural households for improved food security, nutrition, income, health, shelter, energy, and environmental sustainability. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, it is an international consortium of governments, private foundations, and development banks created to support sustainable land use.

Garrity is a systems agronomist whose career has focused on the development of small-scale farming systems in the tropics. He chairs the Global Steering Committee of [Landcare International](#), a community-based approach to natural resource management challenges. Previously, he served as regional coordinator for ICRAF's work in Southeast Asia and headed the Agroecology Unit at IRRI in the Philippines. Garrity's visit to Virginia Tech was hosted and organized by Administrative PI De Datta, a former colleague at IRRI.

## Dillaha addresses UN session on water management

Program Director Dillaha was invited to participate in May's Global Tool Box to Manage Water and Nutrients for Agri-Communities Learning Centre, sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy as part of the [16th session](#) of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

Dillaha spoke on the need for improved agricultural water management, particularly in rainfed systems, where intermittent and unpredictable water availability reduces crop productivity. He noted that high infrastructure costs and declining investments in large-scale irrigation projects are shifting resources to small-scale irrigation and improved rainfed systems. In smaller systems, underutilized water management tools such as conservation tillage,

supplemental and deficit irrigation, and water harvesting have great potential to improve soil quality and increase crop yields by enhancing soil organic matter and structure, improving fertility, and ultimately providing more crop per drop.

This year's UN CSD session May 5-16 focused on the thematic issues of [agriculture](#), [rural development](#), [land](#), [drought](#), [desertification](#), and [Africa](#). Dillaha's presentation was based on the 2007 report "Water for Food, Water for Life: The Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture" (<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Assessment/>), which he highly recommended. His presentation is online at <http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/UNDillaha>

## SWAT-SEA conference set for January in Thailand

More than 300 representatives of academia, government, NGOs, and private industry are expected the 2009 SWAT-SEA conference, co-sponsored by SANREM in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The conference Jan. 5-9 will be the first in Southeast Asia on the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), used widely to predict the effects of land management practices on hydrology and water quality in large watersheds.

SWAT technology has been used to study the water quality of river systems, including the movement and concentrations of pollutants and the potential impact of climate change on aquatic ecosystems. SWAT is a public-domain model supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at its Grassland,

Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, Texas. Click here to learn more about SWAT:  
<http://www.brc.tamus.edu/swat/index.html>.

Chiang Mai University and NCA&T are lead organizing institutions for the conference, with SANREM CRSP among more than two dozen co-sponsors. Manuel Reyes, lead PI for LTRA-5 and professor of bioenvironmental engineering at NCA&T, is the lead organizer. Researchers from 13 countries have submitted 49 abstracts for the event, which is expected to draw a large contingent of graduate and undergraduate students. Click here for more information:

<http://www2.mcc.cmu.ac.th/swat/>

## Group campaigns to save India's community forests

A conservation group working to preserve India's sacred community forests, or orans, met this month at the Institute of Development Studies in Jaipur to discuss the legal status and conservation of the areas, which are vital not only for rural livelihoods but also as reservoirs of biodiversity. Krishi Avam Parishitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS), a volunteer organization, has been working for 16 years to revive orans and has succeeded so far in protecting the common forest areas of more than 40 villages from construction and clearing for plantations.

KRAPAVIS Founder Aman Singh convened the Aug. 9 session of the nine-member advisory group to discuss the legal status and conservation of the orans. The organization hopes to use policy research analysis to effect new ecologically and socially beneficial government regulations, to promote a comprehensive national policy for protecting

orans, and to build ties with other environmental networks.

Through local workshops, KRAPAVIS teaches village residents, including women, how to grow and protect trees in orans and other community conservation areas. By circulating quarterly newsletters and inviting government officials to its training programs, the organization hopes to win national classification of orans as protected areas.

Orans, traditionally preserved by a village in the name of deity, evolved to protect the livelihoods of pastoral rural communities by recognizing both their access right to natural resources and their responsibility to safeguard the forests by managing them wisely. KRAPAVIS' "Oran Forum" includes academics, community representatives, and government officials in developing a comprehensive orans conservation strategy.

## **Borlaug LEAP fellowship program seeks applications**

The Borlaug LEAP fellowship program is now accepting applications for awards to graduate students with strong scientific and leadership potential. The deadline for applicants to be considered in the next review is Oct. 31.

Funded by USAID, the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program is intended to enhance the quality of thesis research of graduate students from developing countries who are studying agriculture and related disciplines. LEAP – Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program – is part of the overall Borlaug initiative. LEAP supports engaging a mentor at a Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system center to enhance thesis research. Awards are made on a competitive basis to students who show strong potential; have a well coordinated proposal among their home university, a U.S. university mentor, and the CGIAR mentor; and whose research is related to a strong project within the host country. Emphasis is on work with relevance to the national development of the student's home country.

Applications are accepted through the year, but reviews are conducted only twice annually. There are two LEAP programs. For regular requests for applications (RFA),

applicants must be citizens of USAID-assisted countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For a second, limited release RFA, candidates may be from any USAID-assisted country in the world but must be affiliated with a [Collaborative Research Support Program \(CRSP\)](http://leap.ucdavis.edu/). More information is online at <http://leap.ucdavis.edu/>.

The program is a real opportunity for CRSP-affiliated graduate students. In the last round, all six applications from CRSP-affiliated scholars passed the program's prescreening and were reviewed by the selection committee. Of those, four were chosen as finalists, and three of those were successful.

The Borlaug program was established to honor Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug, who has been credited with saving millions of people from starvation in the Third World through his scientific and humanitarian achievements. Borlaug's collaboration with scientists in Mexico on a high-yielding, disease-resistant dwarf wheat helped to spark the Green Revolution. USAID joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas A&M University, Mexico's International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, and the University of California-Davis to create LEAP.

## **SANREM researchers to lead soil workshop in La Paz**

SANREM CRSP researchers Lorena Gomez, Ari Jumpponen, and Karen Garrett will lead a soil workshop Aug. 19 in La Paz, Bolivia, in collaboration with Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. Titled, "Soil Metagenomics and Pyrosequencing to Characterize Microbial Communities," the workshop will introduce the SANREM CRSP soils cross-cutting initiative and principles of metagenomics.

Among topics to be covered are sequencing methods, types and functions of soil

microorganisms, statistical considerations for soil sampling, and measures of soil microbial diversity. The workshop will also introduce GenBank, the National Institutes of Health's genetic sequence database.

Learn more about the workshop at: <http://www.k-state.edu/pdecology/>

Information about Genbank is available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html>

## Kudos

- **Delia Catacutan**, host country coordinator for SANREM in the Philippines, has been accepted as a post-doctoral research fellow with the Sustainability Science Program of the Centre for International Development at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She begins her studies in September. Succeeding her as SANREM host country coordinator is **Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier**, research fellow at the Social Development Research Center, De La Salle University, Philippines.
- A team led by **Anthony Penaso**, researcher for LTRA-5, won a top award in Central Mindanao University's Annual In-house Review of Ongoing and Completed Research, announced in July. "Adoption of Integrated Vegetable-Agroforestry (VAF) System among Smallholder Upland Farmers in the Philippines" was recognized as the best paper from 64 entries in the category Development, Both Completed and Ongoing Studies. Co-authors were **Judith Intong, Emily Damag, Robin Marsh**, and **Manuel Reyes**. Evaluators for the competition were from outside agencies led by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

## New on the website

SANREM CRSP's global research projects have common themes: watershed modeling, linking knowledge to action, soil metagenomics and quality, and gendered access to markets. With additional funds in 2007, SANREM's Technical Committee endorsed cross-cutting initiatives for shared research on those five topics.

Each cross-cutting program now has its own page on the website, with updates on multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research,

science and technology, innovation, and improvement. Already, researchers have installed weather stations at sites in South America, Africa, and Asia; interviewed farmers, foresters, and vendors; and adopted a soil quality field kit with instructions in English and Spanish.

Click here for details:

[http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu\\_research/CrossCut.php](http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/CrossCut.php)

# Calendar

## 2008

**Oct. 15:** LTRA annual reports due

**Oct. 31:** Date for review of applications, Borlaug LEAP fellowship program

## 2009

**Jan. 5-8:** SWAT-SEA 2009 Conference

**May 27-29:** LTRA-5 TMPEGS-Philippines meeting, Lantapan, Mindanao

**June 3-5:** LTRA-5 TMPEGS-Vietnam meeting, Nong Lam University and Nghia Trung village, Vietnam

**June 10-12:** LTRA-5 TMPEGS-Indonesia meeting, Nanggung, Indonesia

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