

Minutes of SANREM CRSP Technical Committee Meeting
1:00-4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Blacksburg Holiday Inn
Blacksburg, Virginia

TC Members Present: Devona Bell, Winrock International; Maria Elisa Christie, SANREM Gender Spec., Virginia Tech; Andrew Manu, Iowa State; Saied Mostaghimi, Virginia Tech; Paul Mueller, NCSU; Oumarou Badini (representing Chris Pannkuk), Washington State; Barry Shapiro, ICRISAT; Gerald Shively, Purdue (Chairperson); Mike Bertelsen (Ex-Officio), SANREM Policy/Economics Coordinator, Virginia Tech; S.K. De Datta (Ex-Officio), Administrative PI SANREM, Virginia Tech; Theo Dillaha (Ex-Officio), Program Director SANREM, Virginia Tech; Chris Kosnik (Ex-Officio), USAID CTO; Keith Moore (Ex-Officio), Associate Program Director SANREM, Virginia Tech

Agenda (TC Chairperson, presiding)

1. Election of TC Chairperson
Jerry Shively unanimously re-elected as TC Chair and will remain chair to March 31, 2007.
2. Additional agenda items (*Items 9 and 10 added*)
3. General discussion/questions/suggestions after meeting presentations
4. USAID funding outlook and discussion
Chris Kosnik predicted minor cuts, if any for activities carried out in FY 2007. Major cuts, of \approx 20% in FY 2008 and 2009 possible. Note: On 5/2/06 the ME was informed of a likely 5% cut in the funding for FY 2007 activities (approximately \$118K).
5. TC member transition discussion
After considerable discussion the TC agreed to recommend:
 - o *Expanding the TC to include the five new LTR PIs*
 - o *Extending the existing Landscape Systems Coordinator TC positions to March 31, 2007, while providing those existing members the option of resigning, if they so desire.*
6. TC host country institution representative suggestions *TC recommended that host country representative to TC be eliminated to reduce expenses.*
7. West African initiative (Theo Dillaha) *Theo reported that SANREM had submitted a concept paper to USAID on sustainable cotton systems in West Africa. No substantive response to date.*
8. TC recommendations for ME *The idea was put forward and discussed that the roles and responsibilities of the TC should be more clearly defined. Some recommendations are listed below under agenda item 10.*
9. Appointment of New TC Members
Proposed TC Composition (18 members, will need BOD approval for expansion):
NGO Representative: Devona Bell, Winrock International
SANREM Gender/Equity Coordinator, Maria Elisa Christie, Virginia Tech
Systems Coordinators:
 - Field Systems - Paul Mueller, NCSU*
 - Farm/Enterprise Systems – Chris Pannkuk, Washington State*
 - Watershed Systems - Saied Mostaghimi, Virginia Tech*

Ecosystems - Andrew Manu, Iowa State
Governance/Policy Systems - Gerald Shively, Purdue (Chairperson)
CGIAR Representative - Barry Shapiro, ICRISAT

Long-Term Research PIs

Jeff Alwang, Virginia Tech
Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University
Manuel Reyes, North Carolina A&T
Alex Travis, Cornell University
Corinne Valdivia, University of Missouri

Ex-Officio:

USAID CTO, Chris Kosnik (voting)
Policy/Economics Coordinator, Mike Bertelsen, Virginia Tech
Administrative PI, S.K. De Datta, Virginia Tech
Program Director, Theo Dillaha, Virginia Tech
Associate Program Director, Keith Moore, Virginia Tech

The TC agreed to re-evaluate the TC expansion to include both System Coordinators/Initial Partners and lead PIs in two years.

The ME will provide funding for two of the System Coordinator TC representatives to attend the annual meeting. Activity leader TCs attend at their own activity's expense.

10. *TC program/Activity Monitoring Mechanisms*

Following a lengthy discussion, Jerry Shively proposed and it was agreed that the TC should serve an active role in reviewing SANREM activities and providing feedback to the ME and research teams regarding SANREM research. The role of the TC should be one of generating constructive feedback so as to strengthen the overall portfolio of SANREM research. To carry out this function it was agreed that the TC will undertake reviews of:

- o Activity quarterly reports. Quarterly reports will be distributed to the TC via email. TC members will provide comments to the TC Chair and the TC Chair will forward comments to the ME within 30 days of receipt of the quarterly reports. Response will contain TC concerns and suggestions for the ME to act upon.*
- o Draft annual activity work plans. In August of each year, before work plans are finalized, the TC will review the proposed plans and provide feedback and input to the ME.*
- o Annual Meeting activity presentations. The TC will participate in annual meetings and provide feedback on annual progress report presentations for each activity. To facilitate this process it is expected that activity leaders will send annual meeting presentations to the ME for distribution to TC in advance of Annual Meetings.*
- o Activity baseline surveys. To the extent possible given time constraints, the TC will endeavor to review and provide feedback on proposed activity baseline survey questionnaires.*

It should be made clear to activity leaders that quarterly reports, work plans, etc. will be reviewed by the TC.

The ME will send copies of LTR proposals to TC members for reference.

Annual meeting presentations and follow up questions by TC members will be a primary review mechanism.

The ME will revise the TC section of the POP Manual to reflect suggested changes in items 9 and 10 above.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. Minutes prepared by Nevada Davis, Theo Dillaha, and Keith Moore (Virginia Tech), and Gerald Shively (Purdue University).