



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Haiti

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Purpose of Trip: Visit CAPS and maize field trial sites established with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas-Hinche for the 2011 season. Plan research goals and objectives for field trials in the remainder of 2011, and strengthen ties with in-country partners.

Sites Visited: Port Au Prince and Hinche; Maïssade Research Site near Maïssade; Corporant Research Site in Mirebalais; Lachateau Research Site in Boucan Carré; and farms near Bas Cange

Description of Activities

On arrival, the team met with Robert Badio (Haitian Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural) and traveled with him to Hinche, then to the Corporant and Lachateau sites later in the week. Discussions with Agronomists from both Caritas-Hinche and Zanmi Agrikol were fruitful with both groups demonstrating continued interest and involvement in the project. Our talks revolved around specific details for this year's experimental protocols as well as planning crop rotations for next season and next year. We also developed plans for signage for the experimental fields and for inviting neighborhood farmers to a field day at the appropriate time. Since our previous visits last fall, four on-farm black bean experiments have been conducted by Zanmi Agrikol agronomists in participating farmer fields and final results from those studies are expected shortly.

Our short stay and tight travel schedule prevented us from traveling to these sites, but we did obtain soil samples from fields near Bas Cange to be used to expand our database of information of cropland soils/sites in the Plateau Central.



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Experimental Sites and Field Progress:

The team visited experimental field sites at all three NGO research/demonstration farms. Seed for 2011 maize trials were delivered to Caritas-Hinche. We went over experimental protocols and procedures with Herby Etienne at the Caritas office. The seedbed at the experimental location was not yet prepared, but conditions were very dry. In fact, we observed that very little of the maize crop was planted in the Plateau Central due to a delayed start to the rainy season. We were able to obtain soil samples on which to conduct further chemical and physical analysis as well as soil for pot studies to be conducted on the VT campus. Seed for the maize cultivar trials had reached the Zanmi Agrikol (ZA) sites the week prior to the team's arrival. At the Lachateau site, one of the maize trials was planted prior to our arrival, but dry conditions since planting prevented germination. Field preparation and installation of the cultivar trials was excellent and we are hopeful of high quality results. We used this site to expand our discussion of protocols on in-season plot management as well as provide detailed harvest instructions to all four lead ZA agronomists. Field preparation for maize planting was in progress during our visit to the Corporant farm. Again, protocols were being accurately followed.

Household Survey:

The formal household survey is set to begin this summer with training of enumerators. On this trip the team further discussed the logistics and upcoming plans for our survey teams with our partners.

Suggestions, Recommendations

1. Follow up with both ZA and Caritas about cover crop evaluations
2. Finalize plans for survey enumerator training and logistics
3. Provide guidance/materials and signage for planned field day events
4. Obtain a copy of the Creole language edition of *Jaden Agwoforestye*
5. Schedule return trip in August or September.

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Seminar	5/15	ZA Agronomists	6		Virginia Tech team	Research plot management and harvest protocols

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
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