



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
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Trip Report: Haiti 28 January – 7 February 2013

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Purpose of Trip:

- 1) observe CAPS field trial sites established with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas-Hinche for the 2012-13 season and evaluate status of research plots;
- 2) conduct train-the-trainer conservation agriculture workshops for agronomists and agricultural technicians at Corporant and Maïssade;
- 3) conduct workshops for technical school students at Corporant and college students (State University of Haiti-Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine) in Port-au-Prince,
- 4) visit other organizations interested in conservation agriculture in Haiti, and
- 5) establish contact with USAID-WINNER to explore potential areas of collaboration.

Sites Visited:

Port Au Prince, Mirebalais, Cange, Hinche, Cap Haitien, Peguy-ville, and research sites at Corporant, Boucan Carré and Maïssade

Description of Activities

The status of research plots at Corporant, Lachateau, and Maïssade were evaluated and plans were discussed for maize planting in April. We also conducted conservation agriculture train-the-trainer workshops at the three locations for approximately 71 agronomists and technicians. The workshops included a tour of cover crop plots, demonstrations of weed control and planting methods, and two hours of presentations and Q&A. Attendees represented Zanmi Agrikol, Concern Worldwide, Worldvision, Caritas-Hinche, Caritas-Maïssade, the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, VA, and Universite Jean Price Mars. We met with Gabriella Salazar of MFK (Meds



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and Foods for Kids) in Cap Haitien on February 4 and toured their peanut processing plant and discussed their research and collaboration in peanut agronomy. Later we met with Ivonig Caillard of Agrisud, a French NGO conducting conservation agricultural research. They have conducted research on conservation agriculture in Africa, and are interested in starting a project in 2-3 months with hoped-for financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture. We also met with Vincent Potier and others from Concern Worldwide, an Irish NGO that will soon initiate conservation agriculture projects near Sodo and Isla de Gonave. We discussed SANREM activities and opportunities for collaboration. The research will be located near Limbe (Plane du Nord). On February 5, we met with Jean Robert Estime (Chief of Party) and Mario Kerby (Deputy Chief of Party) of USAID-WINNER in Peguy-ville. We discussed the scope, objectives, and activities of WINNER, and possibilities for collaboration. Our SANREM team will tour WINNER research facilities during an upcoming visit. Finally, we presented an interactive seminar on conservation agriculture to 15 students at the State University of Haiti-Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Port-au-Prince.

Our SANREM team (Thompson, Thomason, Loeffler) arrived in Port-au-Prince on the afternoon of Jan. 28. After one night in Port-au-Prince, we joined in-country Assistant Coordinator Dilou Prospere and traveled to the Central Plateau. We arrived at Cange on Jan. 29 and met with Gillaine Warne, Zanmi Agrikol (ZA) director, and agronomist Reginald Cean to discuss plans for the next day's conservation agriculture workshop. The workshop was held at ZA facilities in Corporant from 9-12 on Jan. 30, and was preceded by a light breakfast and followed by a full lunch—paid by SANREM funds. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with ZA agronomists Reginald Cean, Jean-Philippe Dorzin, Ferrest Sonneus, Louis Jeune Stenio, and Larose Deus. About 25 individuals attended, agronomists and agricultural technicians employed by Zanmi Agrikol, Concern Worldwide, and Worldvision. The workshop included a welcome from a ZA agronomist, an overview of SANREM, a summary of SANREM-Haiti research and results, a discussion of the principles of conservation agriculture (CAPS), possible pitfalls of CAPS, and how to begin CAPS practices. We spent one hour in the field with the attendees, discussing cover crops (which are now in the field plots), and weed control, tillage, and planting methods for CAPS. We also discussed nutrient cycling and management with CAPS. We ended with about 45 minutes of questions and answers, followed by lunch. We visited the ZA and SANREM research site near Boucan Carre (Lachateau) on the afternoon of Jan. 30.

On Jan. 31, we presented the same workshop to 22 agriculture students at CFFL—Centre Formacion Fritz Lafontant—a technical school in Corporant. In addition to the workshop topics and field visit, we discussed principles of integrated pest management in CAPS. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Reginald Cean, Director of the agricultural department at CFFL. We traveled to Hinche on the afternoon of Jan. 31.

On Feb. 1, we presented the CAPS workshop again at the Caritas-Hinche experimental farm at Maissade. The workshop was preceded by a light breakfast and followed by a full lunch—again paid for by SANREM funds. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Caritas agronomists Augustin Guedry and Evans Bien-Aime, and was attended by about 30 individuals, mostly agronomists and agricultural technicians. Included in this number were individuals from Caritas, Worldvision, and three visitors from the Catholic Diocese of Richmond VA, longtime supporters of Caritas-Hinche. Amy Loeffler, SANREM communication director, returned to Port-au-Prince on Feb. 1 and the USA on Feb. 2.

On Feb. 3, our team (Thompson, Thomason, Prospere) traveled to Cap Haitien. Our objective was to establish contact with MFK—Meds and Foods for Kids, and learn about conservation agriculture projects in the North. On Feb. 4 we met with Gabriela Salazar, Agricultural Development Fellow for MFK. She gave us a tour of their peanut processing plant where they produce ‘medical peanut butter’ and discussed their future plans and their collaborations with Cornell and the University of Georgia. She took us to meet with Ivonig Caillard of Agrisud. Agrisud is a French NGO that has worked extensively with CAPS in Africa, and has started CAPS research in Haiti. They have been working in the areas of home gardens, animal health, and market value chains. They are initiating CA trials in the North of Haiti this year.

We returned to Port-au-Prince on Feb. 5 and during the afternoon met with Estime and Kerby of WINNER at their offices in Peguy-ville. We discussed the scope, objectives, and activities of WINNER and possible areas of collaboration. In particular, we discussed their soil testing laboratory and their Master Farmer program. We will tour their soil testing laboratory on a subsequent trip.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

1. Work with Greg Amacher to ensure that Relex Alexander is paid for the work he performed during the baseline survey.
2. Remind Dilou Prospere that he needs to submit weekly reports of his activities related to the LTRA.
3. Inform Tom Hammett and Mike Bertlesen that they should follow up with James Woolley regarding INNOVATE.
4. If needed, make plans to repeat the CIMMYT open-pollinated trials at Maissade.
5. Plan for a country-wide (Haiti) meeting about conservation agriculture during 2013.
6. Follow up on new contacts with Concern Worldwide, Agrisud, and USAID-WINNER.

Short-Term Training:

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		
Workshop at Corporant, Haiti	01/30/13	25 agronomists and agricultural technicians	24	1	Virginia Tech LTRA team, Zanmi Agrikol agronomists	Conservation Agriculture : Principles, methods, application, demonstration
Workshop at Corporant, Haiti	01/31/13	22 students at CFFL Agri- technical school	18	4	Virginia Tech LTRA team	Conservation Agriculture : Principles, methods, application, demonstration
Workshop at Maissade, Haiti	02/01/13	25 agronomists and agricultural technicians	22	2	Virginia Tech LTRA team, Caritas agronomists	Conservation Agriculture : Principles, methods, application, demonstration
Seminar at Port au Prince, Haiti	02/06/13	15 students at FAMV-State University of Haiti	12	3	Virginia Tech LTRA team	Conservation Agriculture : Principles, methods, application

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Vincent Potier	Agronomist/Concern Worldwide	3752-0378 Vincent.potier@concern.net
Jean Frenel Thom	Agronomist/Concern Worldwide	
Michel Bizorme	Agronomist/Concern Worldwide	3734-5871 Michel.bizorme@concern.net
Gabriela Salazar	Agricultural Development Fellow/Meds and Food for Kids	509-3859-3692 gsalazar@mfkhaiti.org
Jean Robert Estime	Chief of Party/Project Haiti WINNER	509-2813-1850 jestime@winner.ht
Mario Kerby	Directeur Adjoint/Project Haiti WINNER	509-2813-1850 mkerby@winner.ht
Ivonig Caillard	Agrisud	
Audalbert Bien Aime	Vice-dean for Academic Affairs/FAMV	

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