



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report: Haiti 24-28 September 2012

Wade Thomason, Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip: Harvest CAPS maize plots, experimental plans for fall and winter

Sites Visited: Port-Au-Prince, Corporant, Lachateau, Hinche, Maïssade

Description of Activities

Maize was harvested from the CAPS experiments at all locations. However, poor growing conditions at the Maïssade location resulted in unusable data. Yields at Lachateau will average around 1 ton/ha while those at Corporant will be around 1.600 ton/ha. Grain subsamples were collected and are being dried in country in preparation for shipment to the US for compositional analysis. Thomason and Assistant Coordinator Prospere discussed management and cover crop seeding of no-till plots at length with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas agronomists. This is preparation for the immediate seeding of these plots after the remainder of the maize is harvested.

Photos and observations of the cover crop demonstration plots at all locations were captured. Mucuna and Crotalaria were in flower to early seed fill; cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) was beginning flowering with significant leaf and pod feeding by insects. Sesbania was completely dry with no leaves and completely mature, dry seed. Very little weed growth was observed in the Crotalaria or Sesbania plots, a result of suppression from cover crop competition. Neither Stylosanthes nor Lablab was evident at any site. Samples of each of the successful cover crops were collected and are being dried in country in preparation for shipment to the US for compositional analysis.

A small shipment of 'Zorro' black bean was delivered to the partner agronomists at both Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas for winter increase. These beans have been demonstrated to perform well when planted under Conservation Agriculture conditions and will be provided to growers interested in adopting CA farming for spring planting. Additionally we are pursuing a shipment of 'Aifi Wuriti' black bean from Honduras.

Maize cultivar screening trials for adapted and CA-compatible improved maize cultivars are ongoing and should be harvested per instructions provided by mid-October at all sites.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items

1. Draft final written version of next steps for the CAPS cover crop seeding.
2. Ensure delivery of cover crop seed from FedEx or resend.
3. Prepare and ship maize seed and cover crop samples
4. Summarize maize yield data and send to all
5. Collect and organize 2012 season weather data from Watchdog stations.

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 | | |
| Field demonstration | 9/26 | Agronomists and farm laborers | 5 | 6 | Virginia Tech | Proper protocols for maize harvest and subsampling |
| Field demonstration | 9/26 | Agronomists and farm laborers | 4 | 3 | Virginia Tech | Proper protocols for maize harvest and subsampling |
| Field demonstration | 9/27 | Agronomists and farm laborers | 2 | 2 | Virginia Tech | Proper protocols for maize harvest and subsampling |