



## SANREM CRSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 18, 2012 2:30-3:30 EDT

Participants:

**Mike Bertelsen**, Director, Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRED);

**Adrian Ares**, SANREM CRSP Program Director;

**Keith Moore**, SANREM CRSP Associate Program Director;

**Anne Alexander**, Chair Director of International Programs, University of Wyoming;

**John Stier**, Assistant Dean College of Agricultural Sciences And Natural Resources, University of Tennessee;

**Harry Rea**, USAID SANREM-AOR;

**Sylvia Yuen**, Interim Dean and Director, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii;

**Amy Loeffler**, Editor/Communications Coordinator, SANREM CRSP

1. BOD meeting was called to order by Adrian Ares, SANREM CRSP Program Director, at 2:39 p.m.
2. Mike Bertelsen welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the members of the BOD for their service, and emphasized the need to continue to demonstrate scholarly impact of sustainable agriculture issues in spite of challenges for SANREM, and CRSPs in general, due to the election year and prevailing economic uncertainty. Bertelsen then turned the meeting over to Anne Alexander, Chair of the BOD.
3. Alexander asked everyone to introduce themselves, and Adrian Ares introduced new members Bill Randle and Guru Ghosh (neither Randle nor Ghosh were present). John Stier was the new member who participated in the call. Ares also mentioned that Gary Pierzynski was also a member of the Board but was absent.
4. Discussion of revisions to the Policy and Operating Procedures Manual was led by Keith Moore. Moore went through several line items to be revised. Changes included the following:
  - One change protecting PI data confidentiality occurs on pages 2, 29, and 32. This change in policy reduces the time of data protection after the end of a project to one year from two. Moore said that should be plenty of time for PIs to publish while still ensuring timely release of government-funded data into the public sphere.
  - Page 29: The SANREM Management Entity will hold data up to one year before release at the request of the PI.
  - Page 4: There was a typo that needed to be fixed. John Dooley has moved on and Guru Ghosh is now the representative on the BOD at VirginiaTech.
  - Page 5: Update of the listing of the Technical Committee (TC). Shirley Tarawali is the IARC representative and Jesse Naab represents the host-country organizations.
  - Page 10: Number of host country representatives on the TC went from three to one.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*SANREM CRSP is made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American people under terms of Cooperative Agreement No. EPP-A-00-04-00013-00.*

- Page 5: The External Assessment Panel (EAP) has not yet been identified. (The ME is contacting four fellows to serve).
  - Page 20: The EAP review has been moved to 2013.
  - Page 29: After considerable discussion, it was decided that LTRA PI co-authorship in cross-cutting research activities publications should be included, but must demonstrate an intellectual investment in the project.
  - Page. 29: The frequency of SANREM's newsletter has been reduced from four to twice a year.
  - Page 32: Sub awardee assurances that "PIs are to provide copies of materials (publications, reports, posters, and others) to the ME and enter the metadata into SANREM Knowledge Base (SKB) to as they are developed and published. Moore stressed that entering of entries and metadata needs to occur.
  - Page 34: A section on export control was included in the revised version of the Policies and Operating Procedures Manual to emphasize the need to be more serious about this topic.
  - Page. 37: List of the BOD has been updated to include current members.
    - Harry Rea commented that one change, reducing the number of three host country PIs to one may not demonstrate a strong partnership, but understood the budgetary rationale.
    - Alexander summarized the main proposed changed and opened the floor for discussion. After a brief deliberation, the changes were unanimously approved.
5. Ares led the discussion of SANREM highlights and accomplishments for this year as well as the annual meeting.
- All seven Long-Term Research Awards (LRTAs) and the four Cross-Cutting Research Awards (CCRAs) have made good progress. The project in Haiti has improved considerably. The PI for this project was replaced by mutual agreement. The new PI is Tom Thompson, chair of the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech.
  - The agronomic on-farm and on-station field trials are providing more solid trends about the potential benefits of conservation agriculture (CA). In West Africa, increased yields of maize intercropped with soybean, and millet using CA practice systems and water-harvesting technologies were reported. In Lesotho, maize yields reached 7 tons/ha, a much greater production than the standard yields for the country.
  - The Economic Analysis and Impact CCRA reported that CA entered a net revenue maximizing model for two watersheds in Ecuador, suggesting that CA can be economically feasible.
  - There has been impressive work in terms of socio-economic and gender-related surveys.. More than 600 household surveys have been completed in Haiti, and about 400 surveys

have been completed in Mozambique. Master's theses were completed on social networks in Uganda and Kenya, and an economic impact analysis in Ecuador.

- Innovations: SANREM researchers at the University of Wyoming developed a multi-function implement that can be used as a ripper, as a subsoiler, and in other ways by exchanging some implement's parts. Horizontal and vertical distances can also be varied. Two more prototypes are being built. In August, Ares and Jay Norton will promote the tool in Kenya and northern Tanzania, and discuss the manufacturing of the implement with potential local vendors.
- Due to the coup in Mali, research has been suspended at the SANREM sites because USAID does not allow the transfer of funds to government organizations. SANREM presented an alternative plan to switch the sub award to the NGO AMEED, and USAID's Mission and Africa Bureau are discussing this possibility.
- Visibility: SANREM was invited to all three USAID inception workshops for the Africa RISING program in Ghana, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Ares said that SANREM received a small amount of funding for research in Ghana within this new program and passed them to the Savannah Agriculture Research Institute (SARI). Africa RISING is expected to expand next year, and the SANREM would likely play an important role. The leading organizations are CGIAR centers such as the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).
- Contacts with USAID missions have improved.
- The SANREM ME participated in the Board of International Food and Agriculture Development (BIFAD) review of the whole CRSP model.
- Education: Last year, 56 grad students were supported by SANREM funds (30 women and 26 men). Ares noted that this number has decreased a little because of graduating students, but new candidates are being recruited.
- SANREM's budget for the ongoing fiscal year was cut from \$3M to \$2.8 M. The ME absorbed some of the cuts, and the rest were allocated to awards or subawards for countries not included in the Feed the Future Initiative (FtF), as directed by USAID. The initiative includes 20 core countries and SANREM is working in eight of them (an in India, who is a strategic partner within FtF).

#### 6. Annual Meeting

- SANREM annual meeting will take place on October 20 and 21 in Cincinnati, Ohio, just before the ASA/CSA/SSSA conference.
- On Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a special session on CA sponsored by SANREM. In addition to SANREM PIs, world-renowned scientists in CA will speak. If the BOD wanted to send a representative, Ares stated that SANREM ME can cover the expenses. Anne said she will be unable to attend, but John Stier stated that he is already scheduled to give a presentation at that meeting and he can go up early.

7. USAID updates from Harry Rea
  - The BIFAD review of the CRSP is ongoing. The BIFAD chair and the administrator will be meeting next week. The report should be submitted on July 8. The board can make changes to the report as well. Generally, the team has been impressed by the CRSPs as a whole, although Rea stated that does not rule out the possibility of the board recommending changes.
  - Bertelsen asked if there will be a recommendation about the five-year limit on funding. Rea said that the procurement is still changing and he is still hearing about tweaks. Rea mentioned that as far as FY 12 funding, USAID is planning to put 3 million in funding for SANREM, although it could be less or could be more.
  - Issues have been reported with using the Trainet system, USAID's system of reporting on visas and monitoring for graduate students. Linda Walker has been concerned that the Trainet system is not being properly used as a reporting tool (ADS has been updated in this regard).
8. Sylvia Yuen left the meeting at 3:21 p.m.
9. Bertelsen asked about potential associate awards
  - Ares mentioned that SANREM is getting some additional funds mostly as leverage resources (e.g., from CGIAR centers, the Ecuador government, the Dutch government, universities as tuition waivers).
  - SANREM ME is working on increased collaboration with IPM CRSP.
  - Alexander brought the conversation back to Mali's congressional hearings that will begin on 6/21 regarding the coup. Harry Rea said Earl Ghasst is testifying on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The biggest issue is that work has to be done with non-governmental organizations. Rea mentioned that SANREM proposed an alternative plan, whereas other CRSPs will have to terminate their activities in Mali.
10. Bertelsen thanked the BOD members for participating and reminded the BOD that their primary contact is Ares for SANREM-related business, but he should be contacted for contractual issues and high-level ME issues.
11. Alexander adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.