



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
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SANREM Technical Committee Meeting

October 21, 2012 (7:30 AM EDT), Cincinnati OH

Participants:

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| Jeff Alwang, TC Chair | Michael Mulvaney |
| Michael Bertelsen | Jay Norton |
| Catherine Chan-Halbrendt | Harry Rea |
| Maria Elisa Christie | Manuel Reyes |
| Neal Eash | Tom Thompson |
| Keith Moore | Shirley Tarawali |

Meeting agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of prior TC Meeting
2. Opening remarks—Michael Bertelsen.
3. Discussion of next annual meeting site—Jeff Alwang
4. Administrative issues:
 - a. SKB issues—Keith Moore
 - b. Budget issues—Adrian Ares
 - c. Reporting—Keith Moore
5. Discussion of interactions between CCRAs and LTRAs.
6. Other issues.
7. Update from USAID—Harry Rea
8. Closing remarks—Harry Rea, Adrian Ares and Jeff Alwang

Meeting development:

1. The SANREM Technical Committee (TC) chair (Alwang) opened the meeting and presented the agenda. The minutes for the previous TC meeting (teleconference on September 19, 2012) were unanimously approved.
2. Opening remarks were provided by Bertelsen.

3. The site of the next SANREM annual meeting was discussed. Bertelsen suggested having the meeting in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia in conjunction with the conference on Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management that is co-sponsored by SANREM. This meeting will be attended by BIFAD members and would help to increase SANREM's visibility. Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world and flying there is not too expensive Bertelsen said. Alwang indicated that the annual meeting should take place in Washington, D.C., so that SANREM can present its work to USAID. Harry said that this was a good idea and that Rob Bertram and Sahara Moon may attend. Moore agreed on having the meeting in Washington D.C. and said that it would be very important to define the objectives of the meeting. Ares mentioned that he was not sure about having the meeting in Indonesia because this is not a Feed the Future country, SANREM does not work there and biodiversity is not a core topic within SANREM's portfolio. He suggested having the meeting in Africa; e.g., Kitale so participants can see first-hand SANREM field work and involvement with farmers. Tarawali mentioned that the annual meeting could be organized during one of the Africa RISING meetings. That could be discussed with Jerry Glover who will attend the special session on conservation agriculture the next day. Tarawali indicated that other synergisms may result: e.g., future work on crop-livestock relationships. Reyes supported having the meeting in Battambang, Cambodia in December 2013.

Alwang suggested holding the meeting in Washington, DC at a time (likely early 2014) when USAID will be deciding to re-bid SANREM. The advantages of holding the meeting in DC are many: lower cost for attendance, ease of organization, the ability to invite large numbers of USAID stakeholders. Discussion led to consensus that Washington is the best option and a decision was made to plan for a January 2014 meeting in DC.

- 4a. Moore stated that work on improving the SANREM knowledge base (SKB) has continued and that SKB entries will be downloadable into Endnote. Mulvaney commented that SKB may be seen as a bureaucratic hurdle and not a repository of peer-reviewed literature, but it should be considered as an excellent mechanism to document SANREM products and a repository of grey literature that cannot be found elsewhere. Idol indicated that there are Phase III materials in the SKB.
- 4b. In regards to the budget, Ares mentioned that he has already presented the details the previous day during the SANREM annual meeting. SANREM received \$2.8M in funds for the FY 2013. The funding level was the same than that during the previous fiscal year and, in both cases, reflected a decrease of \$200,000 from the annual baseline budget. Ares said that SANREM Management Entity absorbed part of the cut, and the budget of some individual projects slightly decreased. He believes that a potential sequestration mechanism (i.e., across-the-board cuts in federal funds) implemented in January 2013 would not have an impact on SANREM FY13 funding although it may impact the funding for the subsequent year. Rea concurred with this view.

- 4c. Moore indicated that the annual reports were collected and thanked the PIs for their collaboration. Requests for reviews will be sent soon with the expectation of receiving revisions by November 15.
5. Ares mentioned that the interactions between CCRA's and LTRA's have improved. A good example was the collaboration between CCRA-8 Social Networks and LTRA-10 (East Africa) which resulted in a joint paper. Ares indicated that the initial problems were probably due to lack of guidelines.
6. Some SANREM PIs and co-PIs present in the meeting provided additional comments. Eash praised the work that is being done in SANREM and mentioned that would be important to work more on the common themes of the program. Idol said that a discussion on themes for the new phase of SANREM (e.g., resilience to climate change) should be initiated.
7. Rea provided a quick update of the situation at USAID.
8. After brief closing remarks by Rea and Bertelsen, Alwang adjourned the meeting at 8:30 AM. EDT.