

## **SANREM Technical Committee Teleconference**

September 19, 2012 (2:00 PM EDT)

### Participants:

Jeff Alwang, TC Chair	Mike Mulvaney
Mike Bertelsen	George Norton
Catherine Chan-Halbrendt	Jay Norton
Maria Elisa Christie	Harry Rhea, AOR
Dayton Lambert	Tom Thompson
Keith Moore	Shirley Tarawali

1. Initial remarks by SANREM Technical Committee chair (Jeff Alwang)
  - Cathy asked to be moved up in the agenda as she had a meeting that was starting at 9 a.m. Hawaii time.
2. Jeff called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the work plans and agree on them. Keith Moore would be providing an overview of the budget and other financial and administrative developments.
3. Remarks by OIRED's Interim Director and SANREM Administrative PI Mike Bertelsen
  - Mike echoed Jeff's statement that this would serve as a peer review of the work plans and would save a detailed discussion for later.
4. Remarks by Harry Rea:
  - Harry stated that he would also make more remarks later. He mentioned some issues with TraiNet and students that had taken place earlier, but they were handled well and were resolved in recent months.
  - As participants called into the meeting, Harry Rea announced that approval was granted for proposed SANREM activities in Mali.
5. Discussion of budget and annual meeting update from Keith Moore:
  - Moore announced that the revised budget had been received from USAID and rather than the anticipated \$3M, SANREM got \$200,000 less. This will have to be adapted to include activities related to Feed the Future (FtF) programming and Mali that will have to be worked in. Harry had received an email announcement about this and had not been present during the discussion, which revealed that USAID leadership had issues with equal levels of funding allocations among all CRSPs. In previous weeks, a BIFAD review had come out in favor of individualized funding; Rob Bertram made the final decision of not funding all CRSPs all at the same level. It was felt that some CRSPs do more research and have more relevance than others. Although SANREM is participating in the Africa RISING program as well as performing research, education and extension in CAPS, it still was targeted for less funding. Harry stated his support of SANREM should this decision be disputed. Adrian Ares will be back in the office September 20 and this will be discussed with him.
  - Moore updated everyone on events regarding the annual meeting taking place in Cincinnati. Forty-one people have registered to date. He reminded everyone that co-PIs are eligible to attend as well. He will send a list of participants out so everyone can see who has already registered. Everyone is looking forward to the presentations and posters. Shirley Tarawali mentioned the interest in the Africa RISING work that will be

featured and mentioned that Jerry Glover was in Ethiopia. Keith stated that they are scheduled to present on this program on Monday morning; he will verify with Adrian. He also mentioned that he needs to receive everyone's reports, and leveraged funding and short-term training tables (forms #21 and #17).

## 6. Reports from the LTRAs

### **LTRA 6 (Haiti)**

PI: Tom Thompson

Country: Haiti

LTRA 6 is in its third year, the first having coincided with the 2010 earthquake and cholera outbreak. They completed their first year of CAPS trials, with ongoing black bean and maize trials. Three varieties of maize are being tested in the Central Plateau region. A survey regarding CAPS and socio-economic data was being conducted in 600 households. Greg Amacher and graduate student Nathan Kennedy were involved in survey design and data collection. They will identify possibilities and constraints for CAPS adoption as well as for improvement tillage techniques. Herbicides are not easily obtained in Haiti. Aspects of the project are managed by two NGOs and an agronomist has been hired to help increase capacity to adapt CAPs. Workshops trained more than 200 individuals, and additional train-the-trainer workshops will be held with agronomists and trainers. Harry Rea asked if any Haitian students were working with the project. Tom replied that they have tried; a very qualified student was identified but has not followed through with an application. The project is now running out of time to work with students. In response to a question from Mike Bertelsen about FAMV, Tom stated that the relationship was non-existent. Greg Amacher has a collaborator there, but they have no effect. Jim McKenna and Steve Hodges also had no luck. They will keep trying.

### **LTRA 7 (Andes)**

PI: Jeff Alwang

Countries: Bolivia and Ecuador

This project works in Ecuador and Bolivia, both non-FtF countries. They will continue the potato-pasture system as well as a bean-quinoa mix and a quinoa drought simulation mix to determine vulnerabilities in the field. They are also working with biological inputs and a *Trichoderma* project with IPM CRSP in an inter-CRSP collaboration. Also, they are conducting a micro-liming evaluation in Ecuador. There are many analysis to be done including the biophysical and economic data. The annual report will not be so complete as this is only the second year in these countries. They will conduct a socio-economic impact on direct seeding of quinoa, using hand-held direct seeding and oxen-drawn seeding.

Keith Moore asked how a drought could be simulated; Jeff replied that the trial areas are irrigated so they simply do not irrigate to simulate drought conditions.

**LTRA 8 (West Africa)**

PI: Vara Prasad (not present)

Harry Rea noted there was no mention of Mali in the work plans; this could be due to the late timing of the announcement and the possibility that they had written off the funding. There is a restriction on working with the government and the project can work only with NGOs.

**LTRA 9 (Southern Africa)**

PI: Dayton Lambert for Neal Eash

Country: Lesotho

The SANREM research in Lesotho has managed to reduce weeds by 90%. Mozambique is experiencing problems with termites. Lesotho is experimenting with using different cover crops; they are also evaluating the use of legumes to improve maize yield. Publications are being distributed and a series of step trials will take place in Mozambique. They also plan to upscale demonstrations. For objective #2, they will conduct an agronomic and economic assessment of fertilizer rates (low to very high) and how it is mixed with input use. For objective #3, they will determine the nitrogen content from legumes as a cover crop using data from managed trials. For objective #4, they are doing a household level assessment of CAPs and gender equity, conducting 427 interviews in Lesotho and 530 in Mozambique. For objective #5, they will evaluate adoption rates among small holder farmers; they will look at 30 farms from among the test sites. They will also look at value chains this year. They have two students from Mozambique and five from Lesotho.

Keith Moore noted that the information in the table regarding students differed from that in the report and there was also a Kenyan student working with them. Mike Bertelsen asked if there was any interest from the missions or the embassies regarding supplemental funding; Dayton will follow up with Neal. Harry Rea remarked that there was interest in South Africa about CRSP work.

**LTRA 10 (East Africa)**

PI: Jay Norton

The project is getting ready to conduct field trials and harvesting in preparation for its third year. There is increasing demand among farmers to scale up as the benefits of not plowing and using cover crops is proving beneficial. Additional demo plots are needed. A team led by Eric Arnold studied upstream and downstream constraints on CAPs adoption. The project has a large availability of data. They are holding post-harvest reflection workshops to set the stage for another good year.

George Norton asked if they are still conducting economic research and working with Danielle Peck. Jay replied that they are looking at additional and more realistic economic data and interviewing farmers about their time constraints. They are working with a Borlaug scholarship recipient student from Makerere University. Shirley mentioned a student working with vetch in Ethiopia who is a source for providing seeds as well as a

website ([www.tropicalforages.info](http://www.tropicalforages.info)) sponsored by CIAT which is a valuable resource. *Mucuna pruriensis* could be planted late, so it does not overtop maize. Different varieties have a huge range in maturity and can fit into the cropping cycle.

**LTRA 11** (South Asia)

PI: Catherine Chan-Halbrendt

Countries: Nepal and India

This is the third year of the project. Political and religious turmoil delayed collection of data. This is the second year working with the NGO and the third with the university. They will continue to monitor and collect portable soil and water aggregate to sample in India and Nepal as well as identify the impact of stakeholders and training of farmers not directly involved in the project. They have three PhD students and two masters students. They will continue in-depth gender analysis for balanced decision making.

George Norton will contact Cathy shortly to get advice for running models. Shirley mentioned the CFP project. Cathy replied that they had met with them and they had shared info that will be incorporated into the results. They were also aware of the project led by CIMMYT in Nepal but had not discussed this.

**LTRA 12** (Southeast Asia)

PI: Manuel Reyes (not present)

7. Report from the CCRAs

**CCRA 6** (Economic and impact analysis)

PI: George Norton

Various activities and projections of economic impacts are being carried out. They will be pulling all the budget information into a consistent format. Greg Amacher was concerned about the Haiti project and the preliminary potential look at renewal. A more in-depth analysis is required. Economists are sensitive about data and publications. They will continue to work at sites in Latin America and with Tim in Ghana, and Cathy's student. There are policy changes that will bring CAPS into each cropping system and impact carbon sequestration. Social benefits will be weighed against benefits to individuals.

(Cathy signed off from the call.)

**CCRA 7** (Gendered knowledge)

PI: Maria Elisa Christie

The picture of gender is coming together; the first year the project focused on differing knowledge of soil quality, the second on crops and livestock, and the third on tillage. Students have been working in three countries; Kari Agresti in Bolivia, Mary Harman in the Philippines, and Daniel Sumner in Cambodia. There is a geospatial component to the work and students visit households and fields as well as engage locals in mapping exercises. The Bolivia work was focused on gendered landscapes, the Philippines work

on maps and GIS, and the Cambodian work will be on masculinity and tillage. The countries will be synchronized for comparisons and the work will be published.

Shirley offered to share information on similar work her colleagues had done in Australia. Jay asked for information on analysis; the results focus more on CCRA rather than gender integration for projects. Jeff stated that gender is important to USAID and everyone should be made aware of gendered impacts of research.

#### **CCRA 8 (Technology networks)**

PI: Keith Moore

Keith summarized the work which parallels the other projects; working with agriculture stakeholders and non-farmer service providers. Some work has been completed and others possibilities for research will be explored, such as collection of farm-level data in Haiti and snowball surveys of the agricultural service sector. They are working on key relationships to support innovations; Keith met a colleague at the VBI who also does social network analysis. They will share a student to study this more fully, and will also collaborate with Maria Elisa on data sets on gender issues.

Keith stated that collaboration between CCRA 8 and LTRA 10 were particularly fruitful and a paper was submitted for publication that afternoon. The paper discusses the mixed methodology and it should be picked up for publication quickly.

#### **CCRA 9 (Soil quality and carbon sequestration)**

PI: Mike Mulvaney

Next year, they will continue carbon fractionation and speciation on samples received. They will also examine indigenous soil knowledge, working in Bolivia and the Philippines and with Maria Elisa of the Gender CCRA. They are making the last tests before deploying soil CO<sub>2</sub> flux monitors in Kenya with Jay Norton. Soil organic carbon studies in Cambodia are being planned. Specific objectives will be determined later. The project's GRA has left and Mike is looking for a new student; a masters' student seems a likely choice due to the time frame but as an adjunct faculty with CSES, the department is willing to contribute to financing a PhD student. The project would also like to run analysis on additional Time X soil samples using the same strategy. This can be discussed in Cincinnati.

Shirley mentioned Keith Shepherd with ICTAS in Nairobi, who is a pioneer in NIR work. Mike Bertelsen commended the importance of this work in regards to the topic of climate change and advocated for the continued work of the time X samples; Jeff concurred this is a high priority.

### 8. Management Entity

Keith reminded everyone that the ME is there to serve them, via liaising with missions, the board of directors, and among themselves. They want to keep everyone informed and bring together reports and work plans. Annually they seek more outputs and entries into the SANREM knowledge base. They hope to create the capacity to

download those entries into Endnote and will continue to upgrade and improve access as well as produce newsletters and videos. Keith reminded everyone to send photos and keep Editor and Communications Coordinator Amy Loeffler updated in order to promote to a wider audience.

#### 9. Closing remarks

Jeff Alwang stated he had few comments; he thanked everyone for sending their reports in a timely fashion and appreciates their work and communication. He reminded everyone that Keith would be sending a list of PIs attending the conference in Cincinnati where they would meet again and asked if anyone had additional remarks.

- Harry has some administrative matters that can be discussed in Cincinnati. He thanked everyone for the TRAINET facilitation and noted that some travel required prior approval.
- Mike Bertelsen announced that next year's SANREM annual meeting could be held possibly in Indonesia. There will be an important biodiversity conference taking place there in early July which the chair of BIFAD will be attending. With such early notice, he thought it may be feasible. Jay replied that he does not have the budget for that and it's more realistic to hold the event in the U.S.
- Jeff asked if the Knowledge Base entries could be reviewed prior to final submission to USAID just to ensure they are accurate. Keith said they are trying to lighten the load, but would be willing to circulate a final draft for verification.
- Mike Mulvaney reminded everyone of the ASA special session and recommended everyone attend it as it would be very enjoyable.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. EDT