



## Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Innovation Lab

Feed the Future SANREM Innovation Lab  
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### Trip Report: Haiti

August 25-29 2014

Adrian Ares, SANREM Director

#### **Purpose of the Visit:**

To visit SANREM field sites and partners in the Central Plateau of Haiti

#### **Sites Visited:**

Cange, Corporant, Lachetaeu, Hinche and Maissade in the Central Plateau of Haiti

#### **Description of Activities:**

##### *Monday August 25*

Ares arrived in Port-au-Prince and traveled by car to Cange. He met Zanmi Agrikol (ZA) agronomist Reginald Cean, a graduate from Earth University in Costa Rica.

##### *Tuesday August 26*

Ares and Cean visited the ZA Centre de Formation Franz Lafontant, which offers programs in construction, wood work and agriculture to a total of 60 students. The Centre has several classrooms, a computer lab and a soil lab with an organic carbon analyzer, spectrophotometer and other instruments (some provided by SANREM).

SANREM field trials with short-cycle maize, pigeon pea and sunn hemp are being carried out in the 14-ha property. The Centre also includes a drip irrigation system with a 30 m<sup>3</sup> tank and a pump powered by six solar panels, as well as a biodigester that uses human and animal waste. Soils on the farm are classified as Andisols and Inceptisols and mean annual rainfall is around 1200 mm. Waterlogging in areas of low elevation and drought can occur.

Ares and Cean met ZA agronomists Dorzin and Jeuabe as well as two farmers (a woman and a man) participating in the SANREM project. Their farms are less than 1 ha, and the farmers do not have land titles. Both farmers appreciated the benefits of conservation agriculture. The female farmer indicated that she liked sunn hemp because maize grows better following this cover crop.

The group, including ZA agronomist Deus and five SANREM-collaborating farmers, then visited the 18-ha ZA farm at Lacheteau. Farm size and the number of people living on the farms ranged

from 0.25-1.25 ha and 5-11 people, respectively. Farmers like the bean variety “Zorro” introduced by Tom Thompson from Central America, but seeds have become unavailable. They also appreciate the value of sun hemp and the labor savings that accompany conservation agriculture practices. The soils contain more clay than in the previous farm (they are probably Vertisols or soils with vertic properties).

Finally, the group toured a third farm (13 ha) that ZA also leases in Lacheteau. There, 6 ha of peanut and 3 ha of plantain are grown.

*Wednesday August 27*

Ares and Dilou Prosper, SANREM’s Assistant Coordinator in Haiti, travelled to Hinche and met Guedry Augustin and Pierre Aimé at the Caritas Office. They then visited the 30-ha Caritas farm at Maissade and participated in a meeting with seven SANREM-collaborating farmers who own farms ranging in size from 1 to 2 ½- ha. The Maissade zone is drier than Corporant and, this year, has been struck by a severe drought, with no rain since April.

*Thursday August 28*

Ares travelled to Port au Prince with Dillou and met Robert Badio, SANREM’s Haiti Coordinator, to discuss different aspects of the project and a possible national conference on conservation agriculture in Haiti.

### **Comments and Suggestions:**

Overall, after a slow start caused by natural, public health and political events, SANREM’s Haiti project has made good progress in the last two years. Farmers have been exposed to CAPS, novel cover crops and improved varieties of beans and maize. They are in general interested in continuing to practice CAPS, but the availability of seeds and farming implements needed for CAPS are limited. The Hinche area was experiencing a severe drought without rains from April to the time of this visit. Soil water conservation techniques like tied ridges or basins could be an alternative for improving crop yields. Farmers also insisted on the need for irrigation.



**Photo 1.** Sunn hemp: a successful cover crop introduced by SANREM in the Central Plateau of Haiti



**Photo 2.** SANREM-collaborating farmers (third and fourth from the left) and Zanmi Agrikol agronomists



**Photo 3.** Planting of mangoes at a Zamni Agrikol farm



**Photo 4.** Peanut crop at a Zanmi Agrikol farm



**Photo 5.** SANREM-collaborating farmers and other partners at Caritas farm in Maissade

**List of Contacts Made:**

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