



Feed the Future Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Innovation Lab

SANREM Innovation Lab
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Trip Report: Nepal

March 7 – March 14, 2014

Adrian Ares, Program Director
SANREM, OIRED/Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip: Participate in the Annual Innovation Lab (IL) Partners Workshop

Sites Visited: Kathmandu, Nepal

Description of Activities:

Saturday May 8

Ares arrived to Kathmandu

Sunday May 9

Preparation for workshop

Monday May 10

The theme of the workshop was “Scaling up agricultural research and technologies, and designing research for improved nutrition outcomes” with the main goals of:

- Understanding the principles and processes of scaling agricultural technologies
- Improving connections and collaborations between Innovation Labs, Mission value chain programs and other USAID research programs
- Identifying pathways through which improved nutritional outcomes can be incorporated into Innovation Lab research agendas
- Understanding how agricultural interventions and technology scaling can contribute to household nutrition outcomes (as opposed to simply scaling nutritious foods)

USAID Mission activities were presented by representatives of Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia and India missions as well as from the Regional Development Mission for Asia. Gerry Jahn indicated that a Farmer Protection Act to guarantee minimum crop prices for farmers was passed in Burma. There were also sessions on scaling up principles and processes, animals in production systems as well as sustainable intensification and risk management practices. Ares moderated the latter session and gave a seminar on scaling up SANREM technologies for sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. Navin Hada (USAID Nepal Mission) reported that cattle (7.2 M heads) and buffalo (5.1 M heads) represent 12% of Nepal GDP. Dick Bowen (Livestock and Climate Change IL) mentioned that livestock both affect and are affected by climate change and that Nepal has been severely affected by climate change, with negative effects on buffalo production. In Nepal there is a sector of semi-commercial aquaculture operations (81% private and 19% public). Sara Janzen from the BASIS Innovation Lab spoke about a farming insurance program that uses remote-sensing derived NDVI to estimate vegetation cover and potential droughts in Kenya.

Tuesday 11

There were sessions with presentations on crop improvement, horticulture, and nutrition and health, as well as break-out sessions on scaling up, design of research programs for improved nutrition outcomes and integrating animals into production systems. Julie MacCarthy from Feed the Future spoke about communications within Feed the Future, such as Agrilinks. Dave Hoisington mentioned that the Peanut and Mycotoxin IL include 10 projects on Aflatoxin detection, peanut value chains, malnutrition and peanut genomics. Bahiru Duguma from USAID India reported on initiatives such as the Model Business Development strategy, the Agriculture Innovation Partnership and the Pigeon Pea improvement program at ICRISAT, and the triangular training program including African countries, India and the U.S. Information was shared about improved crop varieties, e.g., high iron and zinc potato, heat-stress tolerant maize and drought-tolerant beans.

Wednesday 12

The Innovation Lab Directors met and decided: 1) to incorporate the directors of the new ILs into the IL council, 2) extend the Council Chair (Jeff Griffith) time of service, and 3) have an IL Directors meeting probably in Washington D.C. in the near future. Finally, during a meeting including USAID BFS and Missions as well as Innovation Lab directors, the interactions between the Innovation Labs and the USAID units were discussed.

Thursday 13

Ares departed to the U.S.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
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