



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Innovation Lab

SANREM Innovation Lab
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Trip Report: Haiti 30 Sep. – 5 Oct. 2013

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Purpose of Trip: 1) Visit CAPS field trial sites established with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas-Hinche and evaluate status of CAPS research plots; 2) conduct discussions with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas personnel regarding activities for the final year of SANREM and 3) conduct training sessions for farmers who will be participating in on-farm CAPS trials during 2013-2014.

Sites Visited: Port Au Prince, Mirebalais, Cange, Hinche, and research sites at Corporant, Boucan Carré and Maïssade

Key accomplishments:

1. Met with representatives of key research and outreach partners (Zanmi Agrikol, Caritas-Hinche).
2. Visited all three experimental locations for this project (Corporant, Lachateau, Maïssade), assessed progress of the field experiments and met with agronomists affiliated with the project.
3. Conducted three training sessions (at Corporant, Lachateau, Maïssade) for farmers who will be participating in on-farm CAPS trials during 2013-2014.
4. Confirmed plans to assist Zanmi Agrikol (ZA) with certified black bean seed production during 2014.
5. Discussed the possibility of helping Caritas establish irrigation infrastructure to benefit smallholder clientele.
6. Delivered cover crop seeds for the 2013-2014 CAPS experiments to ZA and Caritas agronomists.

Description of Activities:

The SANREM team arrived in Port-au-Prince on 30 September. After arriving, we traveled to Cange, where we stayed at the Zanmi Lasante complex for the next three nights. On 1 October, we traveled to the experimental site at Corporant, evaluated the progress of the CAPS field experiments (maize had been recently harvested) and met with ZA agronomists Ferrest Sonneus, Jean Louis Stenio, and Reginald Cean. Zanmi Agrikol director Gillaine Warne also attended. Our discussions focused on the training workshops beginning the next day, the protocol for the final year of CAPS experiments and the on-farm CAPS trials during 2013-2014. On 2 October, the SANREM team, along with ZA agronomists, presented a three-hour training session to 12 smallholder families from the Corporant area. A total of 24 individuals attended, 14 male and 10 female. During the training, we reviewed the principles and practices of CAPS, fielded questions from the audience and distributed and explained the protocol for the on-farm CAPS trials. Each participating family received cover crop seeds (sunn hemp) and a new hoe, and will receive maize seeds from ZA. Upon successful completion of the CAPS trial, we will distribute bean or peanut seed to each family. The training session was followed by lunch, paid by SANREM.

On Oct. 3, we traveled to Lachateau and discussed with agronomist Larose Deus and Gillaine Warne the success of the improved black bean variety ('Zorro') provided to ZA by SANREM. According to Larose Deus, the per hectare yield of 'Zorro' was at least twice that of the best local variety, under the same production conditions. We will facilitate a visit later in the year by an official from the Virginia Crop Improvement Association, who will help ZA develop strategy for certified seed production at Lachateau. We again presented a training session for 10 smallholder families in the Lachateau area who will conduct the on-farm CAPS trials. A total of 26 individuals attended, including 15 males and 11 females. The training session was followed by lunch, paid by SANREM. Late on Oct. 3 we traveled to Hinche and visited with Caritas agronomists Guedry Augustin and Evans Bienaime about the training for the next day, and about possible SANREM aid with irrigation infrastructure at Maïssade. Augustin will send a brief proposal to Thompson soon. We then traveled to Papaye and stayed at Centre Emmaus for the night.

On Oct. 4, we traveled to Maïssade and observed the CAPS experimental plots. For the second consecutive year, there was a maize crop failure, probably because of very poor soil fertility. We stressed the necessity of applying fertilizer or manure. Unfortunately, the Caritas agronomists are resistant to applying fertilizers. We will follow up with specific recommendations for the coming season. We again presented a training session for 10 smallholder families in the Maïssade area who will conduct the on-farm CAPS trials. A total of 20 individuals attended, including 13 males and 7 females. The training session was followed by lunch, paid by SANREM. On Oct. 4, the SANREM team left Papaye and returned to Port Au Prince. We returned to the USA on Oct. 5.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

1. Obtain new 'Zorro' seed for planting at Lachateau.
2. Depending on the 'Zorro' planting date, arrange for a visit by Bruce Beahm to train personnel at Lachateau.
3. Send 2013-14 CAPS experiment protocols to agronomists.

4. Plan for follow-up visits and training with participating smallholder farmers.
5. Obtain maize yield data from Corporant and Lachateau.

Short-Term Training:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Seminar/training at Corporant	Oct. 2	Smallholder farmers	14	10	Virginia Tech, Zanmi Agrikol	Training on methods for on-farm CAPS trials
Seminar/training at Lachateau	Oct. 3	Smallholder farmers	15	11	Virginia Tech, Zanmi Agrikol	Training on methods for on-farm CAPS trials
Seminar/training at Maïssade	Oct. 4	Smallholder farmers	13	7	Virginia Tech, Caritas	Training on methods for on-farm CAPS trials