



Feed the Future Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Innovation Lab

Feed the Future SANREM Innovation Lab
Office of International Research, Education and Development
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (0378)
526 Prices Fork Road, Room 211
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Phone: (540) 231-1230
Fax: (540) 231-1402
sanrem@vt.edu
www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp

Trip Report: Nepal

11 March - 4 April 2013

Jacqueline Halbrendt, *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Purpose: The purpose of this trip was to conduct quantitative agricultural risk tolerance surveys, as well as semi-structured interviews to develop greater understanding of agricultural decision-making and labor distribution at the household level. The interviews also aimed to understand household gender dynamics and provide greater cultural context to interpret the survey results. Additional objectives were to: meet with project partners in Nepal to discuss recent and future project activities, and visit on-farm project sites.

Sites Visited:

- LI-BIRD headquarters, Pokhara
- LI-BIRD site office, Majimtar, Gorkha Province
- Project implementation villages:
 - Thumka, Gorkha Province
 - Hyakrang, Dhading Province
 - Kholga Gaun, Tanahun Province

Description of Activities:

A training was held to instruct students and researchers from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science on the purpose and implementation of conducting a quantitative risk tolerance survey with project farmers. The survey was designed to identify the relevant characteristics of farmers that are likely to take more or less risks in terms of adopting introduced agricultural practices, such as CAPS. Specific factors assessed included: age, gender, education level, income, farm size, household labor availability, food security, access to information, level of experience, trust in sources of information, environmental concern, and land tenure. The survey would also help to determine the major constraints for farmers who would be less likely to adopt new practices, in order to gain greater understanding of the farmer's perspective and concerns.

Additionally, more in-depth interviews were conducted to gain a better understanding of household decision-making and cultural contexts, particularly with respect to agricultural decisions, labor distribution, and gender dynamics. One researcher was trained in the design and implementation of these semi-structured interviews. The qualitative approach of these interviews

allowed for more detailed understanding of family structures/hierarchies; perceptions of past, current, and future farming practices; perceptions on the need for CAPS, and cultural norms and expectations.

Overall, the activities for this trip went well. During the months of March and April, the farmers are somewhat less busy in the fields so it was easier to find the time to have more in-depth conversations with them. Much insight was gained from the interviews, which will provide areas of reflection and context to complement the data from the quantitative studies.

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US University, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			M	F		
Training	March 13, 2014	NGO staff (LI- BIRD)	0	1	University of Hawaii, USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To teach methods of qualitative household interviews to assess agricultural decision-making, distribution of labor and perceptions of CAPS - To train student on semi-structured survey design, pilot testing, and implementation
Training	March 20-21, 2014	Researchers, students (IAAS)	3	9	University of Hawaii, USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To train students on assessing agricultural risk tolerance at the household level - To teach methods for quantitative data collection and use of survey instruments regarding risk tolerance

Suggestions/Recommendations:

- None at this time

List of Contacts Made: (N/A)