Trip Report: Haiti
2-8 December 2012

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Purpose of Trip:
1) Visit CAPS field trial sites established with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas-Hinche for the 2012-13 season and evaluate status of research plots;

2) visit with relevant faculty at the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine at the State University of Haiti (FAMV) and update them about LTRA progress;

3) visit with the USAID mission in Port au Prince and update them about upcoming LTRA events.

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

Description of Activities
CAPS field trial sites at Corporant, Lachateau, and Maïssade were visited, the status of research plots evaluated, and planting of the cover crops has been verified. The 2012-13 field plot protocol and management practices were reviewed with agronomists from Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas. The dates for train-the-trainer workshops focusing on agronomists and agricultural technicians from our partners and other entities were set. They will involve half-day sessions at Corporant on 30 January and at Maïssade on 1 February.

Two faculty members at FAMV (Relex Alexander and Tescar Robespierre) were updated on progress of the LTRA. They agreed to allow us to hold a CAPS seminar for FAMV students on 6 February 2013, pending approval of the Dean of FAMV. These faculty members were also invited to attend the CAPS workshop on 30 January at Corporant. With project coordinator Robert Badio, Tom Thompson met with James Woolley, Senior USAID agronomist at the US
Embassy in Port au Prince. We updated him on the results of our July 2012 workshops and invited him to attend the 30 January CAPS workshop in Corporant. We also informed him that we have tentatively scheduled a CAPS seminar on 6 February at FAMV. He asked if we would be interested in presenting a CAPS seminar to WINNER and other personnel on 5 February. The tentative answer is ‘yes’. He was also informed about ‘Innovate’, the new Virginia Tech USAID-funded project. He is interested in a follow-up phone conference.

While in Port au Prince on 3 December Tom Thompson (LTRA06 PI) and in-country assistant coordinator Dilou Prospere visited with two FAMV professors—Relax Alexander (economics) and Tescar Robespierre (agronomy) to update them on the LTRA and encourage their interest in the project. They are invited to attend the 30 January CAPS workshop in Corporant. They agreed to allow our team to present a CAPS seminar to FAMV students on 6 February. This is the first time our LTRA will be able to directly reach students at the premier agricultural college in Haiti. On 4 December, Thompson and Coordinator Robert Badio visited James Woolley at the USAID mission at the U.S. Embassy. During the hour-long meeting we updated him on the July 2012 workshops and invited him to attend the 30 January CAPS workshop in Corporant. He was pleased to hear that we will be presenting a CAPS seminar to FAMV students, and asked if we would give a CAPS seminar to WINNER and USAID personnel on 5 February 2013. During 3 to 7 December, Thompson and Prospere traveled to each of the three field sites in the Central Plateau where CAPS experiments are located. The cover crops for the 2012-13 CAPS field experiments were planted on 28 November at Corporant, 3 December at Lachateau (near Boucan Carré), and 6 December at Maïssade. The VT team was able to visit each field site, observe the condition of the CAPS field plots, and visit with the agronomists about progress and needs. Cover crops emergence was excellent at Corporant; it was too soon for emergence at the other two sites. Due to poor crops during the past two seasons at Maïssade, we asked the Caritas agronomists to agree to apply at least several tons of manure or compost per hectare to the plots before maize planting in the spring. They have already started preparing compost from leaves and animal manure.

We also discussed 2012-13 plans and protocols with agronomists at each location. These plans include 1) ensuring that irrigation is provided as necessary to establish cover crops, 2) weeding the plots, 3) tillage or no-tillage of CAPS plots as appropriate before maize planting, and 3) planting of a local maize variety during the spring. We also discussed the black bean (cv. ‘Zorro’) seed increases for this winter. Recently, the LTRA delivered 80 kg of black bean seed to the agronomists for seed increases. This cultivar had previously been identified as superior by partner agronomists in variety trials conducted during the LTRA.

Separate discussions with the agronomists from Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas (along with Father Jacques Volcius at Caritas) resulted in agreement on half-day ‘train-the-trainer’ workshops at Corporant on 30 January and at Maïssade on 1 February. These workshops will focus on agronomists and agricultural technicians and will be more ‘technical’ in nature than the July 2012 workshops. We expect to limit attendance at the workshops to 25-30 persons each.

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

1. Confirm that our LTRA team is able to present a CAPS seminar to FAMV students on 6 February 2013. If so, send a formal request to Dean Jacques Blaise through Alexander and Robespierre.
2. Work with Greg Amacher to ensure that Relex Alexander is paid for the work he performed during the baseline survey.
3. Strongly encourage Alexander and Robespierre to attend the 30 January workshop.
4. Remind Dilou Prospere that he needs to submit weekly reports of his activities related to the LTRA.
5. Complete the Year 4 budgets for our partners and have these signed and returned.
6. Follow up with PIH to ensure that they will bill us if Dilou Prospere stays overnight at Cange, rather than billing him.
7. Confirm that our LTRA team is able to present a CAPS seminar to WINNER and other personnel on 5 Feb. 2013. If so, inform James Woolley as soon as possible.
8. Inform Tom Hammett and Mike Bertlesen that they should follow up with James Woolley regarding InnovATE.
9. Revise list of protocols and responsibilities and distribute as suggested by ZA agronomists.
10. Prepare a timeline for 2012-2013 CAPS experiments and distribute to agronomists.
11. Find ‘technical information’ on Zorro and send to agronomists as requested.
12. If needed, make plans to repeat the CIMMYT open-pollinated trials at Maïssade.

**List of Contacts Made:**

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