Trip Report: Haiti  
28 April – 3 May 2013

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Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences

Purpose of Trip:  
1) Visit Conservation Agriculture Production Systems (CAPS) field trial sites established with Zanmi Agrikol and Caritas-Hinche for the 2012-13 season and evaluate status of CAPS research plots;  
2) accompany team appointed by USAID to review SANREM (Rattan Lal—Ohio State University, Anita Spring—University of Florida, Ross Welch—Cornell University);  
3) install a new experiment at Corporant to evaluate residue decomposition in CAPS systems; and  
4) collect soil samples for controlled environment experiments to be conducted in Blacksburg.

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

Description of Activities:  
Key accomplishments:
1. Met with representatives of key partners (Zanmi Agrikol, Caritas-Hinche).
2. Visited all three experimental locations for this project (Corporant, Lachateau, Maïssade) and met with all agronomists affiliated with the project.
3. Installed a crop and cover crop residue decomposition rate study to measure nutrient cycling and availability in CAPS systems at the ZA farm at Corporant.
4. Introduced the review team to Robert Badio and Dilou Prospere, and to key individuals at the USAID mission in Haiti.
5. Accompanied the USAID review team to visits at all three experimental locations, introduced them to our 7 partner agronomists, and facilitated their meeting with 43 (28 male, 15 female) local farmers across the three sites.
The SANREM team (Thompson, Thomason, Lynch) arrived in Port-au-Prince on April 28 and met with the review team (Lal, Spring, Welch), who arrived the same day. Both teams traveled together to the central plateau on April 29. On April 29, the review team, SANREM team, and ZA agronomists met together and with 12 farmers at Corporant. Those agronomists attending from ZA were Reginald Cean, Jean Louis Stenio, Ferest Soneus, and Jean Phillipe Dorzin. The review team also accompanied the SANREM team on a tour of the CAPS experiments at Corporant. We stayed overnight at Mirebalais.

On April 30, Thompson accompanied the review team to Boucan Carré (Lachateau) to meet with the Zanmi Agrikol agronomist (Larose Deus) and farmers at the ZA research farm. Thompson and the review team inspected the CAPS experimental plots. Through an interpreter, the review team visited with the ZA agronomist and technicians, and 15 local male and female farmers. This discussion lasted about 2 hours, and was followed by a lunch. The team also observed the black beans harvested from the improved variety (Zorro) provided to Zanmi Agrikol 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. In the late afternoon, Thompson, the interpreter, and the review team traveled to Papaye (near Hinche) and stayed overnight at Centre Emmaus.

On May 1, Thompson accompanied the review team to the offices of Caritas in Hinche. A meeting scheduled with Fr. Jacques Volcius, Director of Caritas, did not materialize. The group was taken by two Caritas agronomists (Augustin Guedry and Evans Bien Aime) to the Caritas experimental farm near Maïssade. Through an interpreter, the review team met with the two Caritas agronomists, a technician (Jean Markenol), and 16 local male and female farmers. Questions from the review team for each group of farmers assessed the farmers’ knowledge of conservation agriculture practices, their adoption of CAPS practices, general questions about constraints to agricultural productivity, and questions related to gender roles in agricultural practices. Thompson and the review team inspected the CAPS experimental plots and toured the Caritas farm. This discussion lasted about one hour, and was followed by a lunch. We again stayed overnight at Centre Emmaus in Papaye.

On May 2, Thompson and the review team returned to Port-au-Prince. During the afternoon we were met by in-country SANREM coordinator Robert Badio, who accompanied us to the USAID mission at the U.S. Embassy. There, we met with James Woolley, Senior Agronomist; and Dr. Steve Olive, Directeur Adjoint of USAID-Haiti. The team reported on their findings, asked about other similar activities in Haiti funded by USAID, and about the possibility for closer linkages between SANREM and WINNER-Haiti. The meeting lasted about one hour. That evening, the team met with Dilou Prospere, in-country assistant SANREM coordinator. We stayed overnight in Port-au-Prince and returned to the USA on May 3.

Wade Thomason and Madalyn Lynch, with the help of Zanmi Agrikol personnel, installed an experiment to evaluate residue decomposition and nutrient cycling in CAPS systems at the Corporant site. Residue from maize, black bean, sunn hemp, and sorghum-sudan were inserted in sealed mesh bags and placed both on the soil surface and buried at 15 cm. Residue bags will be removed regularly with the last bags removed after one year. At each collection, 16 bags will be removed from the system. When the litterbags are collected, their contents are dried using
solar driers, weighed and sent back to Virginia Tech for analysis. Carbon to nitrogen ratio will be determined using dry combustion analysis.

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

1. Plan for a country-wide (Haiti) meeting about conservation agriculture during 2013.
2. Follow up on new contact made at Centre Emmaus with Cesar Cruz of Universidad ISA in Santiago, Dominican Republic. He leads a training program aimed at Haitian technicians. The program is conducted in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He expressed interest in including a conservation agriculture component. He invited us to write a chapter on cover crops, which he will have translated into Kreyol for inclusion in their training manual.

**List of Contacts Made:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Organization</th>
<th>Contact Info (address, phone, email)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cesar Edmundo Cruz</td>
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<td>Professor Emeritus of Soil Science, Cornell University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rmw1@cornell.edu">Rmw1@cornell.edu</a></td>
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## Short-Term Training:

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<tr>
<th>Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Training Provider</th>
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