

IPM CRSP Trip Report

Country Visited: Ecuador

Dates of Travel: July 8-12, 2012

Travelers Names and Affiliations: J. Alwang (Virginia Tech)

Purpose of Trip: To supervise ongoing research in Ecuador (Ec), further promote interactions between the IPM and SANREM CRSPs; and plan for 2012-2013 activities.

Sites Visited: Quito, Guaranda and Chillanes.

Description of Activities/Observations:

Day 1 (July 9): V. Barrera (LAC coordinator) and Alwang met with Dr. Hugo Ramos at USAID. Dr. Ramos is interested in CRSP activities and was particularly optimistic about the planned LAC meeting, scheduled in Guaranda for May-June, 2013. Given the difficult political situation in Ecuador, it is important that the CRSPs show practical results with impacts on local residents. Barrera and Alwang met with Dr. Carlos Nieto, executive director, CORPOINIAP. CORPOINIAP is the entity in Ecuador that administers CRSP funds on behalf of INIAP, our research partner. INIAP is undergoing restructuring and is likely to be absorbed into the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries over the next year. Dr. Nieto explained that this change is unlikely to affect CRSP financing and all existing agreements would be kept. We also discussed billing procedures and timeliness of requests for reimbursements with Dr. Nieto and his staff

Met with Dr. Ivan Reinoso, newly appointed director of Santa Catalina Experiment Station. Reinoso expressed his appreciation for the ongoing work in both the IPM and SANREM CRSPs and we discussed administrative issues with the projects. Reinoso stated that the subsequent field day in Chillanes was very important for INIAP, especially as a means of demonstrating its commitment to conducting applied research in relatively isolated, poor areas.

Meeting was held with IPM CRSP team, including Patricio Gallegos and Jose Ochoa. This meeting followed-up on the recent LAC planning meeting in Guatemala and ensure that the workplan for next year addressed all the opportunities and concerns identified in Guatemala.

Day 2 (July 10): Day was spent at Santa Catalina and focused on three priorities: (i) planning for next day's field day in Chillanes; (ii) data processing and data quality for IPM CRSP study of

impacts of potato research and outreach in Carchi; and (iii) planning for 2012-2013 research. Barrera and Alwang spent time reviewing the “station presentations” for the field day and ensuring that the presentations were accurate and appropriate. The field day had two stations—one focusing on IPM activities in blackberry and the other focusing on conservation agriculture and pest management in a CA system. Alwang met with Vanessa Carrion, a student of Dr. Norton’s, who is conducting the study of impacts in Carchi. We discussed protocols for identifying data outliers and what to do in the case of discrepancies. Barrera indicated that once Carrion had a complete list of questions, he would bring the survey enumerators from Carchi to Quito to respond. Carrion will continue to work on data consistency through July.

The Ecuador IPM team noted several modifications to their research plan presented in Guatemala. First, Gallegos would present a research activity jointly with Dr. Munniappan on viral control of the naranjilla fruit borer. Second, Ochoa would better describe the linkages between Penn State and his own activities in Andean fruits and potatoes. Several of these linkages had been discussed with Dr. Gugino in the Guatemala meeting, and Dr. Backman has expressed a strong interest in closer coordination. Ochoa will travel to State College in July-August of this year to further solidify these linkages and plan for next year’s research activities. Third, Dr. Ochoa and Barrera will present a work plan that outlines joint activities with the Virus Global theme. These activities were discussed with Dr. Tolin in Guatemala.

Day 3 (July 11): Field day (a joint activity with the SANREM CRSP) was held in Chillanes, Bolivar Province. Approximately 300 people attended with an approximately equal number of men and women (details will follow—tabulation of attendants had not been completed). Presentations were held on: management of blackberry, soil amendments for blackberry and naranjilla, and integrated control of insect pests in a conservation agriculture system. Approximately 15 representatives from INIAP were present, as was the rector of the State University of Bolivar, Ing. Diomedes Nunez, and several representatives from local government.

Day 4 (July 12): Alwang and Barrera met with IPM field staff and Ochoa and Gallegos to discuss work plans for upcoming year. Ochoa will soon travel to Penn State, and in preparation for that trip will prepare a number of draft documents. The plan is for Backman and Ochoa to move these along toward final publication. Team discussed three important issues: (i) best means of engaging US scientists in ongoing research; (ii) incorporation of virus global theme work into subsequent year workplan; and (iii) joint work between Gallegos and Muniappan on the naranjilla fruit borer. It is hoped that the workplan will better stress integration with US researchers.

Alwang and Barrera also worked on finalizing a submission to an international journal.

Recommendations:

- (i) Ecuador will continue to work toward refining its IPM packages. Alwang and Norton will focus on ensuring that the work continues as planned. It is hoped that Penn State will use its resources to support IPM CRSP activities in Ecuador. Following discussion with Penn State after the Guatemala meeting (June 2012), they have agreed to support research on potatoes and Andean fruits.
- (ii) Research on viral diseases on tree tomato is being pursued in collaboration with the Virus Global Theme.
- (iii) Next year's meeting will be held in Ecuador.
- (iv) Ochoa will interact with Dr. Backman to finalize several potential journal submissions during his trip to Penn State in August.