

IPM CRSP Trip Report

Country(s) Visited: Ecuador

Dates of Travel: January 1st - 16th, 2012

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Vanessa Carrion, Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip: Beginning of research fieldwork related to adoption of IPM practices in potato production in Carchi, Ecuador.

Sites Visited:

Institutions: National Autonomous Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIAP stands for it in Spanish), Santa Catalina experimental station.

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Ministry (MAGAP stands for it in Spanish), San Gabriel and Tulcan Offices.

Villages: Santa Marta de Cuba

Cumbal Alto

San Pedro de Piartal

Minas

San Francisco Alto

San Isidro de la Libertad

January 2: Personal time (Ecuadorian National Holiday).

January 3: Personal time.

January 4: I visited INIAP in Santa Catalina experimental station and discussed the project with Dr. Victor Barrera, Site Project Coordinator.

January 5: I worked in re-calculation of sample size for the master survey, and tested sample size formulas at INIAP in Santa Catalina experimental station.

January 6: I worked in the master survey questionnaire, and adjust it to be ready for pilot run at INIAP in Santa Catalina experimental station.

January 7 and 8: Weekend (Personal time).

January 9: I traveled to Carchi with Luis Escudero. We visited Cumbal Alto, Minas and San Pedro de Piartal, and talked to farmers about their use of the IPM practices that were taught several years ago by INIAP technicians. I realized farmers in the area were growing potatoes in smaller quantities compared to past year due to the volatile potato prices.

January 10: In the morning, we met with Dr. Victor Barrera and Mr. Geovanny Suquillo at INIAP, Carchi office. Mr. Geovanny Suquillo is in charge of running the survey in Carchi. He will be hiring a team of enumerators to visit farmers in the area. In the afternoon, we visited San Isidro de la Libertad, and talked to farmer's leaders about the status of the adoption of IPM practices in the area. At this point, it was evident that farmers have switched of productive activity: from potato growing to dairy cattle. They argued they have lost a lot of money with potato due to price fluctuation, and they had to migrate to a more stable market, such as milk.

January 11: We visited Santa Marta de Cuba and San Francisco Alto in order to test the questionnaire. Two farmers were surveyed: Mr. Sergio España and Mr. Bolivar Taramuel. I realized that several changes in the questionnaire were needed.

January 12: We visited Santa Marta de Cuba again and talked to Mr. Alfonso Mafla, the president of the village government. He could help INIAP enumerators to reach the farmers in that area. He agreed to give a list of farmers who can collaborate on the study. Furthermore, we visited Mr. Fernando Chulde in San Gabriel. Mr. Chulde is a MAGAP technician that also agreed to collaborate with us on the survey. His help is greatly appreciated because he knows most of the farmers in the area, and he could be the link between farmers and enumerators. In addition, we surveyed another farmer, Mr. Carlos Velasco.

January 13: We visited Minas Village, and then we traveled to Tulcan in order to talk to other MAGAP technicians that could provide us official statistical data for the study. Mr. Diego Ruales agreed to provide me by email the most current data of

potato prices and potato production areas in Carchi (He has already done it). We returned to Quito.

January 14 and 15: Weekend (Personal time).

Note: January 1 and 16: Travel to and from Ecuador.

Observations/follow up:

1) Dr. Alwang, Dr. Norton, Dr. Barrera and I agreed that the sample size needed for the study should be of at least 400 surveys.

2) Mr. Geovanny Suquillo will put together a team of enumerators for the study.