IPM IL Trip Report

Country(s) Visited: Ecuador

Dates of Travel: June 4-June 18, 2014

Travelers Names and Affiliations: J. Alwang, C. Clements, A. Larrowe, Z. Barlow (Virginia Tech)

Purpose of Trip: To supervise ongoing research in Ecuador, review research progress, work on publications, gather data for descriptive study on impacts of IPM IL naranjilla research, and document field work (Mr. Barlow is a communications manager for Virginia Tech’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences).

Sites Visited: Santa Catalina Experiment Station (INIAP); Tandapi (naranjilla experiments), Mindo (naranjilla interventions); Ambato (naranjilla markets); Guaranda; Sardinas (naranjilla interventions); Baños (naranjilla interventions); Chillanes (naranjilla interventions); Chimborazo (Conservation Agriculture experiments). Note: trip was joint with SANREM IL and some activities are split between the two projects.

Description of Activities/Observations:

Day 1 (June 5): Visited Santa Catalina Experiment Station. Met with experiment station director Mr. Ivan Reinoso and director of the livestock program, Mr. Luis Rodriguez. These meetings were formalities. Meeting with Dr. Victor Barrera, IPM IL coordinator, Mr. Jose Ochoa and Mr. Patricio Gallegos to discuss field work for naranjilla studies. Ms. Clements and Mr. Larrowe were in Ecuador to conduct a study on the impacts of IPM IL research on farmers and their families. Specific farmers who had interacted intensively with the project and with INIAP counterparts were identified to be interviewed. Ms. Clements is also conducting a surplus examination of IPM IL naranjilla research and identified data needed to complete the study. The group was joined by Mr. Luis Escudero (IPM Project leader in Guaranda) and subsequent discussion focused on naranjilla prices and markets. Plans were made to gather more data to facilitate the impact study. Escudero has done a good job completing cost estimates for the different IPM IL field experiments.

Day 2 (June 6): Visited Spanish school to inquire about a translator accompanying the two students for their field interviews. Visited Ekorural, the administrative partner for the IL to discuss administrative issues. Steps needed for project close-out were discussed. Alwang met with the Director General of INIAP, Dr. Juan Manuel Dominguez. Discussion topics included the future of the IPM IL, INIAP funding for IPM IL activities, and two publications. Afternoon was spent with Barrera outlining presentations. Plans were made for three IPM IL publications: two on naranjilla and one on the joint IPM-SANREM demonstration plots in Illangama.
Day 3 (June 7): Clements and Larrowe traveled with Gallegos to Mindo to conduct interviews. Alwang met with Mr. Pedro Pablo Pena, FAO resident representative to Ecuador. Alwang left for Bolivia in afternoon.

Day 4 (June 8): Free day.

Day 5 (June 9): Clements and Larrowe travel to Sardinas with Cesar and Mireya to conduct interviews with naranjilla farmers.

Day 6 (June 10): Clements and Larrowe work with translator to transcribe interviews.

Day 7 (June 11): Clements, Larrowe, and translator travel to Tandapi with Gallegos to interview a naranjilla farmer. Clements, Larrowe and Gallegos continue to Ambato.

Day 8 (June 12): Clements and Larrowe visit the naranjilla wholesale market in Ambato. Barlow arrives in Ambato. Everyone travels to Baños. Clements and Larrowe conduct interviews with naranjilla farmers in Baños.

Day 9 (June 13): Clements, Larrowe, Barlow, and Gallegos travel back to Quito from Baños.

Day 10 (June 14): Free day.

Day 11 (June 15): Clements, Larrowe, and Barlow travel to Guaranda.

Day 12 (June 16): Clements and Larrowe conduct interviews in Chillanes with naranjilla farmers.

Day 13 (June 17): Clements and Larrowe conduct interviews with farmers in Chimborazo who have been introduced to conservation agriculture.

Day 14 (June 18): Clements, Larrowe, and Barlow travel back to the U.S.

Recommendations:

(i) Ecuador will continue to work toward refining its IPM packages. The naranjilla package is well-identified and tested, but we are farther behind in the development of the blackberry and tree tomato packages.

(ii) Barrera will facilitate field work for two students and two graduate students (Vanessa Carrion and Elli Travis—to arrive later in June). The latter two students are examining the impact of enhanced cellular messaging as a means of promoting IPM adoption.