



## Natural Resources Conservation Service International Programs Division

December 31, 2013

This is an overview of NRCS staff’s participation in international development activities during the second half of 2013. Partnering institutions included the USDA’s Cochran Program, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, the U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID Central Africa and the “*Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment*” (CARPE), USAID/Haiti, USAID/Pakistan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Water Management Institute (IMWE) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

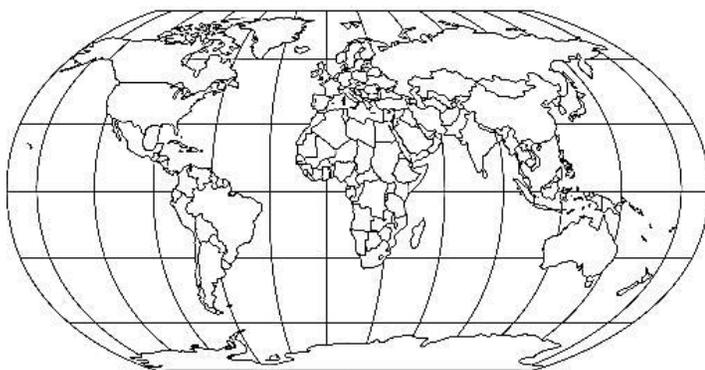
💧 **CARPE – Forest Carbon Inventory Support Mission – USAID Central Africa Regional and U.S. Forest Service International Programs**

💧 **Haiti Soil Survey Pilot Training Project Cochran Study tour – USAID/Haiti and FAS**

💧 **U.S. – Pakistan Strategic Dialog on Water Initiative – USAID/Pakistan and FAS**

💧 **Improving Soil Health and Fertility in Pakistan through Demonstration and Dissemination of Best Management Practices for Farmers – USAID/Pakistan and FAS**

💧 **Related Internet Resources**



For additional information on these and other NRCS international activities, please contact IPD:

Tel: 301-504-2271

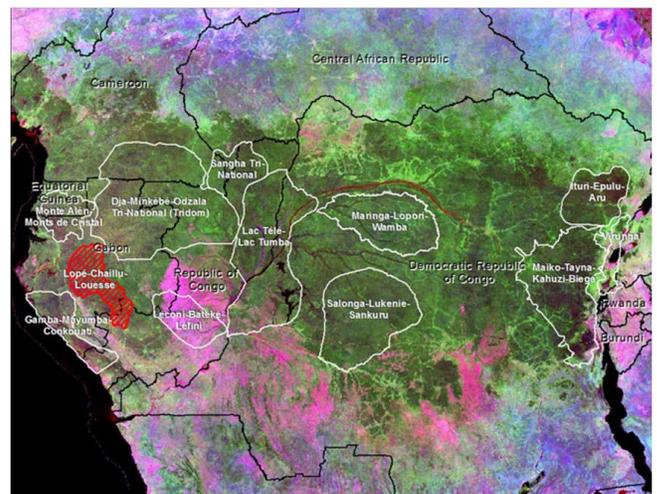
E-mail: [leroy.duvall@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:leroy.duvall@wdc.usda.gov)

URL:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/alphabetical/international/>

**CARPE – Forest Carbon Inventory Support Mission – USAID Central Africa Regional and U.S. Forest Service International Programs**

In June 2013 soil scientist Jonathan Hooper, NRCS-California, traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to join forest ecologist Josh Feinberg, US Forest Service-Oregon, and provide technical support to USAID’s Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). Invited by U.S. Forest Service International Programs, one of USAID’s implementing partners for CARPE, the goal of the mission was to move the DRC National Carbon Assessment Program forward and see if the proposed data collection plan would provide the required data and if a proposed work plan would be feasible.



**CARPE focus countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo**

Jonathan's mission was to assess feasible soil sampling options, work with the DRC Forest Inventory and Zoning Department (DIAF) to develop a soil sampling methodology to assess soil carbon content, and train DIAF field teams on soil carbon sampling and analysis. Josh's mission was to develop a methodology and train DIAF technicians to characterize the carbon dynamics of bamboo and rafia. Fifteen DIAF staff participated in the training.



Jonathan demonstrating the proper use of a Uhland Core Sampler to trainees and several interested local villagers



Jonathan responding to a question during a training session

In addition to developing soils assessment approaches and training materials, Jonathan visited the faculty and facilities at the soils lab at the Agricultural Sciences Institute in Kisangani, DRC, and identified a local soils pedologist who could provide ongoing support to the field teams after his departure, and prepared recommendations on the timely selection of a laboratory, and material support needed to analyze the soil samples being collected

**Haiti Soil Survey Pilot Training Project Cochran Study tour – USAID/Haiti and FAS**

In August 2013 NRCS hosted a 13-person Haitian delegation as part of the Haiti Soil Survey Pilot training project. The visit was facilitated by USDA's Cochran Program. The



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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Rony BIEN-AIME            | 6 - Pierre Karly JEAN JEUNE | 11 - Rose Erda EUGÈNE      |
| 2 - Marie Yvane FLEURY        | 7 - Donald JOSEPH           | 12 - Ernso THOMAS          |
| 3 - Jacques Philémon MONDÉSIR | 8 - Shawn McVey (NRCS)      | 13 - Jean Serge ANTOINE    |
| 4 - Jocelyn LOUISSAINT        | 9 - Elda DERONNETTE CAJUSTE | 14 - Jean Pierre-Louis OGÉ |
| 5 - Charles Kome (NRCS)       | 10 - Louis BUTEAU           | 15 - Barbara JEAN          |

participants' included Ministry of Agriculture Directors and staff and faculty from the Haitian Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.

The first three days were spent in Washington, DC, learning about the role of USDA and NRCS at the national level in natural resources conservation, climate change, environmental stewardship, and an overview of the evolution of soil survey in the U.S. The participants then traveled to the National Soils Survey Center in Lincoln, NE for more technical training. In Lincoln the participants learned about the diverse activities and program areas at the center that interact and support the national soils survey program. It was also an opportunity for the participants to do a number of site visits to several of University of Nebraska research



NRCS specialist training Haitian database managers to use NASIS - the National Soil Information System, a tool they will continue to use in Haiti

facilities, individual land owners, and community agriculture groups to see first-hand how soil survey information is developed as well as its diverse applications. Five of the participants returned to Haiti on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The eight remaining participants (GIS specialists, database managers and laboratory specialists) had an additional four days in Lincoln,

working closely with NRCS specialists on laboratory procedures, database

development, GIS and digital soil mapping, data interpretations and other technical procedures.

## U.S. – Pakistan Strategic Dialog on Water Initiative – USAID/Pakistan and FAS

John Fripp, Civil Engineer with the NRCS National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center, Ft. Worth, TX, and Cheryl Simmons, Natural Resources Specialist with the NRCS Central National Technical Support Center (CNTSC), Ft. Worth, TX, traveled to Pakistan in October 2013 to join Dr. Otto Gonzales and Mathew Stellbauer of the Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Capacity Building and Development (FAS/OCBD).

The latest in a series of TDYs, this mission had two objectives. The first was to begin developing an initial work-plan in support of the USDA- IMWI<sup>1</sup> implementation agreement for the Pakistan Water Dialog Project, signed in September 2013. The second objective was to assess progress of the on-going USDA-ICARDA project “Watershed Rehabilitation and Irrigation Improvement: Demonstrating in Pakistan and Disseminating the Best Practices to Help Rural Farmers”. The team also sought to identify results or finding from the USDA-ICARDA project that should be addressed under the USDA-IMWI Pakistan Water Dialog Project.

<sup>1</sup> IMWI – the International Water Management Institute - <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>

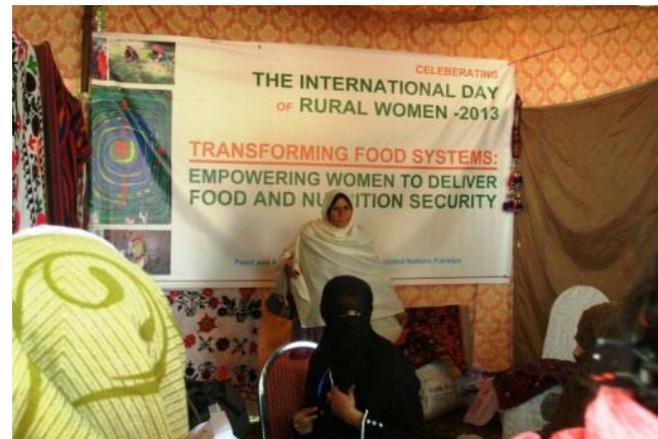


**Presentation at the Watershed Rehabilitation and Irrigation Improvement in Pakistan: Demonstrating and Disseminating the Best Practices and Technologies to Help Rural Farmers meeting**

The timing of this mission allowed the USDA Team to attend the second **Annual Planning Review Meeting of Watershed Rehabilitation and Irrigation Improvement**, held at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) auditorium in Islamabad on November 4-5. Representatives from the institutions involved in the project made presentations on current projects and dissemination efforts.

Cheryl Simmons was invited and attended a portion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Rural Women Day at Lok Virsa (the National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage),

Islamabad. For two days, over 1500 participants representing 82 districts in Pakistan, with the collaboration of over 30 partner organizations, engaged in intensive debates about rural women's leadership in upcoming local government elections and the food security challenges facing Pakistan.



### **Improving Soil Health and Fertility in Pakistan through Demonstration and Dissemination of Best Management Practices for Farmers – USAID/Pakistan and FAS**

In November 2013, Dr. Thomas Reinsch, NRCS National Leader for World Soil Resources, traveled to Pakistan to join Cheryl Simmons, NRCS/CNTSC, Dr. Otto Gonzalez and Mathew Stellbauer of FAS/OCBD, and Clay Hamilton and M. Shafiq ur Rehman of FAS/Islamabad. The USDA Team met with FAO, ICARDA and Pakistani partners to identify technical issues and develop project work plans. The overall goal of the project is to identify, develop and offer improvements of or alternatives to traditional farming practices that have the potential to reduce the use or increase the efficiency of inputs and to maintain or increase crop-field productivity.

FAO and ICARDA will be FAS's two main implementation partners, each with two main activities. FAO will: (1) initially target portions of Punjab and Sindh Provinces and identify current methods and practices used by farmers to maintain or improve soil fertility for selected crops; and (2) facilitate cooperation between the public

and private sectors to disseminate messages and information in Punjab and Sindh on demonstrated methods from the project that can help farmers improve soil health and soil fertility and reduce misapplication or over-application of fertilizer. ICARDA will: (1) use research and extension plots to demonstrate and test methods of maintaining or improving soil health and result in improved soil moisture conservation and soil fertility and potentially reduce farmer dependence on chemical fertilizer; and (2) develop agricultural extension messages, information, materials and methods for use in Punjab and Sindh of selected practices and technologies identified or demonstrated in the project to improve soil fertility.

ICARDA hosted a two-day project inception meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the NARC in Islamabad. Thirty participants from



Project inception workshop participants

USDA, ICARDA, FAO and collaborating Pakistani universities and research institutions developed a list of recommended activities and other recommendations from which to develop future work plans.

The USDA team members will continue to provide technical support and guidance to FAS and the Pakistani partners as needed.

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### Related Internet Resources:

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) - <http://www.fas.usda.gov/>

USDA Forest Service International Programs - <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/welcome.htm>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) -  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

USDA NRCS National Design, Construction, and Soil Mechanics Center -  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/ndcsmc/>

USDA NRCS Central National Technology Support Center -  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cntsc/>

USDA NRCS National Soil Survey Center - <http://soils.usda.gov/contact/nssc/>

USDA NRCS National Soil Information System – NASIS -  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/home/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053552](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/home/?cid=nrcs142p2_053552)

USAID's Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) –

<http://www.usaid.gov/central-africa-regional/our-work>

[http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/CARPE\\_RDCS\\_0.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/CARPE_RDCS_0.pdf)

<http://carpe.umd.edu/index.php>

USAID/Haiti - <http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/latin-american-and-caribbean/haiti>

USAID/Pakistan - <http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/afghanistan-and-pakistan/pakistan>

FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) - <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) - <http://www.icarda.org/>

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) - <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>

Lok Versa - <http://lokvirsa.org.pk/>

The Pakistani National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) - <http://www.parc.gov.pk/index.php/2013-04-11-06-13-50/narc-islamabad>

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