Clemson Caribbean Initiative – 9 Month Report

Project Title: Training Trainers for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Haiti

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University of Léogâne, FAO-Haiti

Our initial timeline included a first trip to Haiti in Spring 2018 to carry out the activities proposed in the project: educational workshops at farmer field schools, establishment of on-farm tests for some of the practices discussed with farmers and technicians, and meeting with faculty and students for the establishment of research projects and future research collaborations.

We postponed our trip to Haiti to the end of October due to the time constraints and the high price of the tickets for the dates we were available in Spring. During these past months we have contacted the FAO representatives, and administrators at the University of Léogâne and FAMV State University, and planned the visit. We have had several conversations through videoconference and emails, and discussed some grant opportunities for future collaborative research efforts. Also, we shared the Clemson University MOU template with FAO-Haiti for future collaborations.

PI Melgar, and graduate students Ricardo St. Aime and Brian Lawrence plan to travel at the end of October. Our trip will last seven days and our itinerary for this trip is the following:

We will depart on Sunday October 28. Upon our arrival we will have a briefing with a FAO national operations officer. On Monday, we have planned several meetings: with FAO-Haiti staff, and with FAMV (state university) administrators and with CEP board in the Ministry of Agriculture. In the afternoon we will head to Hinche (Plateau Central) for visit fields, farmer field schools and discussion with local FAO team on Tuesday. On Wednesday we will visit another farmer field school and discuss with farmers and technicians on climate resilience, and visit some women-lead plant nurseries. In the afternoon we will head to the Léogâne area. On Thursday we will visit a research facility for municipality waste management and an environmental education center and, in the afternoon, we will meet with faculty and administrator of the University of Léogâne and visit their student research fields among other activities. On Friday, we have planned a meeting and discussion with farmers in the Léogâne area and a meeting with university students. On Saturday November 3 we will leave Haiti and come back to the U.S.

We plan to follow up on the adoption of practices once per trimester upon our return as we initially described in our proposal, as well as we will plan a return visit in Spring 2019. Thus, we do not expect this delay in our first trip will affect our products by the end of the project period (other than missing the follow up for the trimester between July and October 2018).