

## Understanding farmers' engagement in restoration activities: lessons for improving future silvopastoral projects

Report # 2 of 4  
June 1- June 30, 2017

### 1. Narrative:

Using information gathered in previous interviews, I completed final versions of the survey instruments for both farmers and technical staff, and posted them online. CIPAV and Fedegan coordinators encouraged their teams to take their survey and so far, the response has been better than expected. The farmer survey will be done on paper, so I have sent copies to regional offices for personal delivery to farmers; I am also conducting in person surveys during different training events. At the same time, I have also been coordinating with CIPAV staff to schedule field visits for July and August.

On June 14 to 16, I participated as instructor in the *Taller de Herederos Silvopastoriles: Ganadería Sostenible y Restauración Ecológica* at El Hatice Natural Reserve. The goal of the event was to introduce this new generations of farmers to basic restoration concepts, and motivate them to create a network. I had the opportunity to interact with several farm owners or their children, identify key farms to visit, have some informal conversations, and start conducting the farmer survey. I also attended a *Foro Regional de Ganadería Sostenible* in Medellín on June 22-23. The event gave me good institutional context of where sustainable cattle ranching stands in Colombia today and where it is headed. I got a chance to conduct surveys with some technical staff and farmers, and most importantly to meet and interview a few key informants.

### 2. Challenges and questions:

At this stage my two main challenges are both related to logistics. The first is the distribution of the paper survey to farmers in order to reach a wider sample across the different regions. Unlike technical staff, most farmers may not have access or an incentive to take it online, and limiting the survey to those who can will results in a biased sample. I am conducting it in as many events as I can attend, but this may not be enough to reach a good sample size. To address this, I am mailing survey packages to several regional coordinators who have agreed to have their staff deliver them directly to farmers. It remains to be seen how successful this method will be, but I am currently trying to find other ways to distribute it.

A second related challenge is the logistics of arranging a travel agenda to the different regions. Information about the different local events is not centralized, and event planning is happening on the fly and changes frequently which makes it difficult to arrange travel plans. For example, a trip to Caquetá was rescheduled for August just this morning, which will require me to change my plans. That said, I realize I just have to be flexible and adapt to the changes.

### 3. Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix:

<b>Objective 1:</b> To assess the type and level of farmer engagement in restoration activities during ongoing SPS projects, and the role played by extension staff in this engagement.				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Progress to Date</b>
Finalize and distribute farmer and extension surveys and start data collection	Number of farmer and extension surveys finalized and ready to distribute in the appropriate format.	Reach 20 farmers already implementing SPS, mainly in GCS project.  Reach 60 extension staff providing technical assistance on SPS, mainly in GCS project.	Surveys designed once; responses will be collected through September	Ongoing farmer survey conducted by fellow and field staff. Responses to date: 17  Extension survey active online. Responses to date: 80
Conduct key informant interviews	Number of key informant interviews conducted.	Interview 5 people who can provide context that informs interpretation of research results.	Interviews conducted as informants are available.	Informant interviews conducted and recorded: 3.
Conduct informal farmer and extension interviews	Amount of quality of information obtained in interviews with farmers and extension.	Talk to farmers and extension staff and gather information to aid interpretation of research results.	Conversations held whenever opportunities are available.	Informal conversations with farmers and extension: ~12.
Attend <i>Taller de Herederos Silvopastoriles</i> in Valle del Cauca and <i>IV Foro Regional de Ganadería Sostenible</i> in Medellín	Number of presentations delivered  Amount of relevant information obtained  Number of useful contacts made	Deliver 2 presentations, obtain context information relevant to research, and contact 5 individuals who may facilitate fellow's remaining work	Events are attended as scheduled	Presentations delivered: 2  Important background information obtained  3 key contacts made for upcoming visits
Coordinate travel agenda for July and August	Number of trainings and farm visits planned and scheduled	Schedule fellow's travel to project areas efficiently in order to maximize exposure to farmers and staff.	Travel will be scheduled as opportunities become available.	Three weeks of travel for 6 trainings and farm visits already scheduled; one additional tentative trip in planning.

#### 4. Next steps:

- **July 3-7:** Enter paper survey results and transcribe recorded interviews. Road trip to Bogotá.
- **July 10-14:** Travel to Boyacá and Santander for 3 regional trainings and 2 days field visits. Conduct additional farmer surveys and in depth farmer interviews.
- **July 17-21:** Key informant interview in Bogotá. Travel to Ecorregión Cafetera for farm visits and farmer and extension interviews (tentative).
- **July 24-28:** Attend *Curso de Agroecología, Restauración Ecológica* in Cerrito, Valle, to deliver presentation and conduct interviews. Participants are project technical staff and farmers.

#### 5. Photos and Materials: *Attached to email*

- #4 During the *Taller de Herederos Silvopastoriles*, the youngest participants dig for earthworms and dung beetles in the silvopastoral system. The farmer explains how the trees and management practices are related to the healthy soils that support these organisms.
- #5 Venezuelan folk singer and composer Adolfo Cardozo improvises a song summarizing the ecological concepts the kids have just seen in the field.
- #6 Participants in this workshop included children and young adults from the next generation of silvopastoral farmers from five regions of the country.

The **online surveys** can be found here:

- [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Productor\\_GS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Productor_GS)
- [https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Tecnico\\_GS](https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Tecnico_GS)