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I. REASONS FOR COMING

Gain better understanding of plant breeding – biotechnology and its application to variety development targeted for compromised environments. Networking opportunity with other young professionals, students working on issue of improving rural livelihoods, crop and farming system projects.

II. HIGHLIGHTS

Tour of wild rice nursery; cross-breeding rice; PCR exercise; field day; independent hiking in Banawe.

III. CHARTING THE NEXT STEP

Incorporate understanding of breeding process into ongoing work/research of IPR and seed related for public sector breeding and resource poor farmers. Examination of current PVS project in Honduras and opportunities to inform that project with what I've learned from IRRI and national programs.

IV. EVALUATION OF THE COURSE

The rice research to production course offered a diverse group of invested individuals on biotechnology's capacity to improve rural livelihood, a supportive forum to learn and exchange skills around crop improvement and community change. As a social science, I benefited from exposure to the genetic and agronomic science of variety improvement. I also feel my background and expertise was given place on the course to provide a holistic approach to the topic of seeds and grain improvement. I would highly recommend the course to anyone working in this field as an excellent opportunity to reflect again with excellent peers and teachers.

