

CENTER FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY, NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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This report documents the findings of the ethnographic field school organized by the Center for Applied Anthropology (CfAA) at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in Orange Walk District, Belize, during June 2015. The Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) facilitated ethnographic research in the communities of San Antonio, San Estevan, San Lazaro, and Yo Creek. The aim of the ethnographic field school was to train students in basic ethnographic methods as well as collect data in collaboration with SIRDI and the farming associations (i.e., Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association [BSCFA], Corozal Sugar Cane Producers Association [CSCPA], and Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association [PSCPA]) to use in their agricultural and economic development programs. This field season's research focused on the following broad topics: attribute analyses of sugar cane farming knowledge (i.e., types of sugar cane, soils, pests, insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers as well as methods of controlling the froghopper pest) and community perspectives on issues related to sugar cane farming (i.e., impacts of a decrease in sugar cane prices, why protective gear is not worn when spraying agrichemicals, and what questions the

Guatemala that includes a literature review of recent research on the effects of agrichemicals on human health among socially and economically marginalized farming communities.

Upon arrival in the villages of San Antonio, San Estevan, San Lazaro, and Yo Creek, Antonio Novelo (Jungle River Tours) introduced the field school members to village council representatives and explained our collaborative research project to gain local approval for our presence in the community. Each village council gave their permission and was supportive of our efforts to learn about their communities. We presented the councils of San Antonio, San Estevan, San Lazaro, and Yo Creek with printed copies of last year's report (Hume et al. 2015).

Participants of the field school (Clara Maxine Bone, Hannah Grace Howard, Charlee Hutchinson, Stefan Kienzle, Marguerite Kinne, Samantha Louise Krieger, Katie Nicole Ragland, Cassidy Ann Reeves, Linette Sabido, and Rachel Lee Tidwell) conducted house-to-house interviews in a census sampling methodology. The Cooperative Center for Study Abroad hired Antonio Novelo (Jungle River Tours) as the field school's land agent. He served as both as cultural liaison and research assistant during field research in the aforementioned communities. Mr. Novelo would explain our 19.84nmm-71(m)-7(m)--e] 0.01 -2 Tm [rrt-

Spradely 2016,173-184). Students digitally recorded interviews and took field notes during and directly after each interview.

During field research, draft attribute tables were developed from the collected data (interviews and pile sorts). Upon return from the field, Stefan Kienzle analyzed data from each interview (field notes and digital audio recording) and consolidated the data into the attribute tables and propositional statement frequencies. Douglas Hume then revised the attribute tables by removing attributes with only one response as well as calculating the counts and responses for attributes and types. Hume also consolidated similar propositional statements and calculating both total and meTuttl3(im)-8(e)-1(n)-3()3(g)-1(p)-2(t)3(t)4(r)1(e)-1ionse pr

## Pest Types

The pest attribute table (see Appendix C) shows the pest types and attributes mentioned by at least two informants. Informants offered the most attributes for the following three pest types: (1) rats (7 attributes) and (2 and 3) froghopper and grasshoppers (both had 5 attributes). The three highest responses for pest types were: (1) froghoppers (19 responses), (2) rats (9 responses), and (3) lupa worms (7 responses). The two most common attributes of pest types were: (1) eats leaves (6 types) and (2) prefer BBZ (5 types). The three highest responses for pest types were: (1) eats leaves (14 resp2(s)6( (p)-4(o)-3(n)-4(s)-1(0.8 02 0 0 45g73 45g73 45g73 45g73 45g)2(fr)-1Q q 12

as well as urea/salt. Therefore, the number of responses for the attributes of fertilizer types is low.

Informants offered the most attributes and responses for the following two fertilizers: (1) urea/salt (7 attributes, 10 responses) and (2) nitrogen (5 attributes, 7 responses). The two most common attributes for fertilizers were: (1) makes the cane bigger and (2) makes the plant greener (bot

decreased by 21% from 2014 to 2015 (Naturalight Productions Ltd. 2015), informants will be asked how they have responded to the price decrease during the June 2016 field season.

## Protective Gear

At the request of the PSCPA, informants were asked, "why don't some people wear protective gear (i.e., safety glasses, respirators, and gloves) when spraying pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides?" Of the 134 informants that were asked, the majority of informants responded that people do not know how dangerous the chemicals are (19.40%), the protective gear is uncomfortable (19.40%), the protective gear is too expensive (17.16%), or that they did not know (11.94%), see Appendix G. Since this question was only asked during the last third of interviews, informants will be asked this question again during the June 2016 field season to collect additional data.

What should we be askin

## Sugar Cane Type

Answer Count

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Bernard, H. Russell. 2011. Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Fifth Edition. New York: Altamira Press.

Center for Applied Anthropology at Northern Kentucky University. 2016. "Ethnographic Field School." Accessed March 9. http://cfaa.nku.edu/ethnographic-