**NASA DEVELOP National Program**

****Langley Research Center

**Fall 2015**

**Short Title: Peru Climate**

**Subtitle:** Monitoring and Forecasting Shifting Climate and Land Change Impacts in Peru’s Parque de la Papa for Enhanced Agricultural Management

**VPS Title:** Potatoes in Peril: A Changing Climate and Potato Production in Peru

**Project Team & Partners**

**Project Team:**

Rebekke Muench (Project Lead) rebekke.e.muench@nasa.gov

Kayla McDonald

Ryan Murphy

Michael Sclater

Richard Rose

Dajon Bigin

**Advisors & Mentors:**

Dr. Kenton Ross (NASA DEVELOP National Program Science Advisor)

**Partner Organizations:**

International Potato Center (End-User), POC: Dr. Noelle Barker and Dr. David Ellis

Parque de la Papa (End-User), POC: ANDES

**Project Details**

**Applied Sciences National Applications Addressed:** Climate, Agriculture, Ecological Forecasting, Water Resources

**Study Area:** Peru (Parque de la Papa)

**Study Period:** 1980 – present

**Earth Observations & Parameters:**

TRMM – rainfall measurements

GPM - rainfall measurements

Aqua, MODIS - land surface temperature

Landsat 8, OLI – land cover

SRTM - Elevation

SMOS - soil moisture

**Ancillary Datasets Utilized:**

* CIP Weather Station - precipitation and temperatures
* CIP HOBO - temperature, relative humidity, dew point

**Models Utilized:**

* NASA Land Data Assimilation Systems (LDAS)
* Clemson University Chill Hours Calculation Regression Model

**Software Utilized:**

TerrSet - land classification of Landsat imagery

ArcGIS - raster manipulation/analysis, image enhancement & map creation

Google Earth Engine - downloading and processing MODIS DATA

DIVA GIS - raster manipulation/analysis, image enhancement & map creation

**Project Overview**

**80-100 Word Objectives Overview:**

Shifting climates are causing potato crops in the Parque de la Papa in Peru to relocate to higher elevations. These spatial changes are creating novel problems for the native inhabitants of the park. The objective of the project is to create different climatic factor maps to then develop a potato crop suitability map for the current climatic conditions in the Parque de la Papa.

**Abstract:**

Changing climates are affecting agricultural production around the world.  This impact will be particularly severe in tropical highland regions like the Peruvian Andes, where shifts in climate have caused changes in suitable areas for crops.  In the Parque de la Papa, Peru (Peruvian Potato Park), anecdotal evidence suggests that potato cultivation has shifted to higher altitudes in response to increasing temperatures that augment the potential for pest damage. The primary concern is that all current suitable lands within the Parque will eventually become unsuitable for traditional potato production.  In addition, the impact of shifting climates threaten both agrobiodiversity and community livelihoods within the park and surrounding region.  The objective of this project was to develop an increased understanding of changes in climate and their influence on potato cultivation in the park using NASA Earth Observations.Land surface temperature data from the Aqua and Terra Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) was used to derive growing degree days for the region. Historical and current precipitation were assessed using the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM).  Current and historical potato cultivation areas were estimated using Landsat 4/5, 7, and 8 imagery.  A digital elevation model (DEM) and slope map were created from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM). Several of these factors were put together to create a suitability map for weevils, a present pest in the park.  Finally, current and future potato suitability maps were developed using growing degree days, precipitation, elevation, weevil suitability, and slope.

**Community Concerns:**

* The shifting climate over the past thirty years has caused new problems for native Andean communities such as changing growing seasons, irregular precipitation, and increased pest issues. In response, local farmers have moved their potato crops to higher elevations.
* Indigenous farmers work to maintain traditional farming practices and conserve thousands of native potato varieties; however, inconstant growing conditions have threatened the conservation of potato diversity within the park.

**Current Management Practices & Policies**:

Farmers in Parque de la Papa use traditional practices to control pests and maintain yields.  For example, in response to increased crop damage by weevils, farmers plant a barrier of root and tuber crops that contain an anti-weevil compound. In addition, “improved” potato varieties are available and used in lower lands by CIP; however, CIP’s primary concern is to ensure that communities within the park are able to maintain potato biodiversity and continue to use traditional practices. Additionally, CIP purchased satellite images in 2007 to map locations of potatoes and other crops. The CIP has limited their remote sensing practices to land cover and have not used any climatology data to assess potato suitability.

**Decision Support Tools & Benefits:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **End-Product** | **Earth Observations Used** | **Benefit & Impact** |
| Growing Degrees Day Map | MODIS Aqua | An accurate representation of historical, current and future growing degree days in the region will aid park decision makers in explaining the impact of climate change and planning for potential shifts in potato suitability |
| Precipitation Map | TRMM and GPM | Precipitation maps will improve understanding of both historical trends and current conditions. |
| Elevation Map | SRTM | Accurate elevation maps will be a necessary input in the creation of current potato suitability maps as well as forecasting future changes. |
| Weevil Suitability Map | A Combination of growing degree days (MODIS), Precipitation (TRMM/GPM), and elevation (SRTM) | A map of conditions that are ideal for Andean weevils will inform growers and park managers of risk of weevil damage within the park.   |
| Potato Suitability Map | A Combination of growing degree days (MODIS), Precipitation (TRMM/GPM), and elevation (SRTM) | Potato suitability maps will provide park managers with increased awareness of how climate change will affect the ability of growers to continue potato cultivation within the park.   |

**Project Imagery**

**[Insert image here]**

**Caption:** [Insert Caption Here. Max of 25 words.] Image Credit: [Insert project short title] Team.

**Image:** File Name (Please submit your image as a separate .jpeg as well as inserting it in this document)