

Philippines

Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab country profile



Map courtesy CIA World Factbook

Population: 107 M
GDP per capita: \$4,700
Feed the Future country? No
Involvement in this country since: 1994

Challenges:

- Pesticide overuse
- Loss of biodiversity
- Invasive pests
- Lack of communication between agencies
- Inadequate extension service
- Weather constraints due to typhoons

Related project name: Ecologically-Based Participatory IPM for Southeast Asia

Project overview: The IPM Innovation Lab research project in the Philippines is working to improve food security and safety. The focus is on participatory and collaborative IPM research and education programs with farmers who grow vegetables and other high value crops.

Accomplishments:

1. **Training farmers in IPM practices:** Since the project's inception, thousands of farmers have been trained in IPM practices for local vegetable crops, including eggplant, onion, garlic, tomatoes, and peppers.
2. **Research conducted on identifying local beneficial organisms:** Research has focused on identifying local beneficial organisms in vegetables, applying *Trichoderma* and VAM in onions, and identifying eggplant lines resistant to fruit and shoot borer.
3. **IPM integration into Philippine government programs:** A program to provide low-income households with homes and land receives input from the IPM Innovation Lab to incorporate IPM practices into home gardening efforts.



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A farmer demonstrating the benefits of using the microbial agent *Trichoderma* in tomato (left), and women farmers harvesting crops in a mixed rice-vegetable culture on terraced hillsides (right).

Developing a suite of techniques to make the farmer's job easier

IPM researchers in the Philippines have been working to implement a suite of practices that can be easily implemented in the fields to reduce the amount of pesticides used, and improve the quality of life for poor farmers. In the Philippines, IPM researchers and collaborators focus heavily on the pests and diseases of onion, which is a high-value crop in the region. The use of rice straw in combination with stale seedbeds is an example of the pest management options in onion production. This tactic offers a number of advantages including weed control, soil moistening, the prevention of soil erosion, and increasing onion yield. Using rice straw also creates a habitat for some natural enemies (such as predators and parasitoids) of onion pests, which is an additional pest management strategy.

Another effective pest management technique in the Philippines has been the use of a beneficial fungus called *Trichoderma*. Researchers have found that the application of the fungus to growing onions has a positive effect on the shelf life of onions. Also, the incidence of onion diseases was less in *Trichoderma*-treated plots.

Relevant websites

<http://www.oired.vt.edu/ipmcrsp/our-work/projects/southeast-asia/>

Local Implementers

Philippine Rice Research Institute and University of the Philippines, Los Baños

Regions/provinces

Laguna, Batangas, Nueva Ecija

Principal Investigator

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Contact Info

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