

Technical Committee Conference Call

16 October 2006, 1-3.30pm Eastern Time

Chair: George Norton. Virginia Tech. Global theme on impact assessment

Program Leaders:

Mike Hammig, Clemson. Southeast Asia program

Naidu Rayapati, Washington State. Insect-transmitted viruses (tospoviruses)

Yulu Xia, North Carolina State. Information Technology global theme

Ed Rajotte, Penn State. S. Asia program

Sally Miller, Ohio State. Diagnostics global theme

Jeff Alwang, Virginia Tech. Latin American and Caribbean program

Don Mullins, Virginia Tech. West Africa program

Wondi Mersie, Virginia State. Invasive Species

Sue Tolin, Virginia Tech. Insect-transmitted viruses global theme

Mark Erbaugh, Ohio State. Eastern African program

Karim Maredia, Michigan State. Central Asia program

Bob Hedlund, USAID CTO

Non-voting TC members:

R. Muniappan, Program Director

Larry Vaughan, Associate Program Director

S.K. De Datta, Administrative PI

Unable to dial in to domestic conference call: Samy Kyamanywa, Makerere University, Uganda. Doug Pfeiffer was teaching a class during the meeting.

Norton: Reminder of previously circulated e-mail by Muni. Susan Thompson at USAID requests submit any best practices of CRSPs to the World Bank's World Development Report www.worldbank.org/wdr2008 Deadline is October 31 to sthompson@usaid.org.
Norton: This would be a good opportunity for IPM CRSP visibility.

Norton: Primary topics of today's agenda: 1) workplan review; 2) external TC member nominations.

Any comments on "Accomplishments report"? (none)

Draft workplan is 80 pages. It is more succinct than versions in the old IPM CRSP (200pp). Asks Larry to explain the hierarchy of the workplans.

Vaughan: Explains nature of objectives (long-term expectations) activities (medium term efforts), tasks (annual efforts that change in each annual workplan)

Tolin: Because of late start will we be forgiven if we don't have all performance indicators completed?

Vaughan: Some programs got a late start, others did not.

Hedlund: "Yes" or "no" is too vague for reporting on performance indicators.

Vaughan: Clarification. The “yes” or “no” is only to report whether a performance indicator is accomplished for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The full reporting of accomplishments takes place at the activity level each year.

Norton: Most workplans are fine, but recommended further formatting to make workplans more consistent.

Miller: I have a Mac. Had to switch to a different browser. The system needs to be friendly to Macs.

Larry: The programmer at NC State has taken Macs into account, but there obviously have been problems. Will contact the programmer to discuss.

Don: I use a Mac and that may have contributed to the order of the activities.

Did Naidu or Mike (other users whose workplan activities were out of order) use a Mac?
No.

ACTION. Larry Vaughn will contact NC State to fix problems and will advise all when they have been worked out.

Start reviewing workplans

SE Asia:

Norton: Need consistency with regards to dates. Please use 2007 for this workplan (indicated by year activities will end).

Vaughan: All program leaders, please review your collection of workplans. Tell me which ones need to be deleted.

Norton: Importance of taking budgets data on field experiments.

Central Asia

Hedlund: Facilitating participation of IPM specialists of a short-course at MSU may be a problem. ME be sure to include in TrainNet.

Vaughan: I will ensure Karim works with Debbie.

Erbaugh: Biodiversity earmark qualification for this activity?

Hedlund: Must look at the details to see if it qualifies.

Erbaugh: How hard should we struggle to try to meet the earmark?

Hedlund: Put it in as you wish if you think it fits. Biodiversity earmark qualification will be decided separately.

Erbaugh: Lots of training in C. Asia. We are all doing some training and looking at curriculum issues. Is there an “our approach” that can be coordinated that we can have in hand in 2008 – a standardized approach. Would be good idea for review to show impact of IPM CRSP.

Vaughan: Is there an “our approach”

Norton: Three levels: graduate training, short-term training, training of farmers or trainers. In the old IPM CRSP there was a training plan. The disciplines for graduate students varied quite a bit by site

Erbaugh: farmer-based training tends to resonate with Missions. Example pesticide safety in E. Africa and W. Africa

Mullins: W. Africa website for training materials available.

Maredia: joined in during meeting discussion. Return to Central Asia for his comment.

Deciding Next TC face-to-face meeting:

Norton: Traditionally held in May, before next Board meeting and includes collaborators.

Erbaugh: Late April or May is good

Hedlund: Meeting out of country can avoid TraiNet hassles

Erbaugh: Attending a meeting is a low priority with the budget cuts.

Tolin: Agree, have already cut from budget.

Miller: Meetings are good for interactions and are worth the effort.

???: Large need for international meeting, otherwise we do not have an organization here.

Hedlund: Is the IPM CRSP a cohesive program or a collection of activities?

Norton: Like to see the communication that comes from bringing people face-to-face

Rayapati: Could use the international travel budget for an annual meeting.

Hedlund: In reading the activities of the global theme programs in the “Accomplishments” document distributed before the meeting, there is already a lot of interaction that is taking place between groups within the IPM CRSP. Perhaps this suffices if necessary.

Miller: Doesn't like the idea of IPM CRSP being a lot of separate projects. It will be difficult, but perhaps we should try a meeting. Yet, I didn't budget for international travel for a meeting. Could perhaps rotate in different regions each year.

Erbaugh: Suggest we do it at Virginia Tech and have enough notice to get our counterparts through TraiNet. Thinks there is a large need to have an annual meeting or we don't otherwise have an organization.

Hammig: Bringing people from Asia. Example. Had a meeting with Kansas State, Oregon State and did it at IRRI on the PolyCom. Can link in with some other sites who gather in their own regions.

George: Propose that Muni and Larry come up with a plan for a meeting. Consider the possibility of virtual link-ups as suggested by others.

Naidu: Would it fit the travel matrix?

Norton: If need be we can ask for permission to amend the travel matrix.

Vaughan: There are probably enough trips in the travel matrix to cover.

Rajotte: Maybe a few people from US could go to IRRI and then another node at other sites then linking them together.

Group preference: mid-May, but some conflicts may still persist. Possibly week of May 21.

ACTION. ME will send email with tentative dates for May meeting.

East Africa

No comments.

Discussion on workplan and reporting formats

Vaughan: Please enter the tasks in the “tasks” area

Erbaugh: There is not 1:1 consistency between workplans and reporting format. Would like to have consistency in format. Don't want to spend too much time on this.

Miller: When printing the report out, the formatting is goofy. Would like the format to look better.

ACTION: Vaughan: Will talk to John.

W. Africa

Erbaugh: How did potatoes get in there? How did it end up a priority?

Mullins: There is a fair amount of potatoes grown in the region. Original idea was to look at local replacements for seed potato. Also looking at potato pests.

Hedlund: Are you linking with CropLife International? Collaboration would be nice. They are part of public-private partnership with US government support.

Mullins: No, should we? [Revision. In fact. Yes, Pat Hipkins, who is running the pesticide safety training component has contacted Crop Life about collaboration.]

Hedlund: When we ask you to do it next year, it will be nice if you have already started.

Tolin: Had students of theirs inquiring about participation in the IPM CRSP

Hedlund: Opportunity to influence its training.

Tolin: Global theme on insect mentioned in one place not in others. Can we link on other areas too?

Mullins: Yes, that was our intention.

George: Does the Objective 2.1 cover all impact surveys being done?

Mullins: Yes.

Eastern Europe (Pfeiffer couldn't attend. Is teaching a class)

Hedlund: This activity and LAC activity are proposing use of pesticides. Also SE Asia. Need Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) before carrying out activities. This is an ME responsibility.

Alwang: Information for IEE is being collected.

LAC:

Tolin: Still anything in Dominican Republic for training?

Alwang: There is still money from last year, so they will use that. Do we need to have it in the new workplan?

Hedlund: If you are doing an activity, even on carry-over funds, put it in the new workplan.

Invasive Species (Parthenium)

No Comments

Diagnostics

Hedlund: Reported in "Accomplishments" document that all three workshops had been held.

Miller: Only two. It was a mistake. Will correct.

Norton: Format is different in each workplan. People have used different headings. Some workplans have sections that others don't have.

Vaughan: This is probably an issue with the text that the system prints after a workplan is “locked for editing”. I will look into it. [Correct answer: The “Expected Impact” subheading was in our first year workplans (hardcopy format) This subheading was not carried over into the online format but it has been entered under the “Description” subheading by some program leaders and by a student who entered the 2005/2006 workplans at the ME. Some of this text was carried over into the 2006/2007 workplans.]
Muni: Will the diagnostics theme’s E. Africa focus change from Tanzania to Kenya?
Miller: Probably will change to Kenya

Tospoviruses:

Erbaugh: What countries are you working in?

Rayapati: Focusing in India. Slowly plan to expand to other countries in S. Asia and SE Asia.

Erbaugh: Does it feature here or in later years?

Rayapati: Later years.

Rajotte: Naidu and I got a grant from the US-India Agriculture Knowledge Initiative (AKI). It will support a meeting on the virus problem Naidu is working on. We will invite Nepal and Bangladesh to the meeting.

Erbaugh: will be interesting to know when such a meeting is so we could plan to perhaps attend

Rayapati: The meeting is planned for 30 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, and India. Could accommodate ten more if other IMP CRSP programs wanted to send them.

Tolin: Theme?

Rayapati: Disease diagnostics in vegetables

Insect-transmitted Viruses

Hedlund: Activity 4.3. Exploring transgenic resistance to viruses – sounds like introduction of GMO. Need clearance from the USAID Biosafety Committee.

Collaboration with Bob Gilbertson and ABSPII is mentioned. Is the activity through IPM CRSP or ABSPII?

Tolin: Not an activity for which we will be accountable this year. Exploring for external funding to advance those efforts. Will go through the committee before initiating field trials. It is just a placeholder more than an activity.

Erbaugh. Activity 2.1 Regarding Africa. E. Africa, James Legg is mentioned. Counterpart Judy Brown is mentioned. Is there a strategy to work with other than IITA?

Tolin: No, but we will be having a meeting in Dar Salaam on October 24th.

Miller: Possibility of linking insect-virus meeting with diagnostics meeting. At least exchange representatives. Would like to get representative to meeting.

Naidu: Tospoviruses identified as a problem among your contacts?

Tolin: No definitive confirmation.

Tolin. Would like to make contact with your project in East Africa.

SK: Question for Bob. If Bob Gilbertson is working on both ABSPII and IPM CRSP. How does the biosafety protocol work?

Hedlund: Suggested make sure that the protocol acknowledges the IPM CRSP as a co-sponsor of the activity to make sure we are covered.

Information Technology:

Hedlund: Accomplishments report comment. Go to W Africa page. On links to whiteflies, diseases, and other, it always goes to whiteflies. Others linked to blank pages.

Xia: It is just a template. It is not filled out yet with respect to content. Up to W. Africa to upload data. Same thing for SE Asia and Global IPM technology database. We are designing the framework.

Rajotte: APHIS-produced a LUCID software key for identification of whiteflies.

Xia: We are looking into adding it

Rajotte: It is already public access.

Mullins: Carlyle Brewster and Yulu have been working together on setting up a number of links for pests and crop losses on different crops.

Norton: CABI site also available.

Impact

Norton: Minimum need for impact assessment is crop budgets. Baseline surveys need to be modified for each individual site, but I have templates.

Erbaugh: I would like copies.

Tolin: I would too.

Norton: Jamaicans have it as you requested. I will send it out again to everybody again.

Miller: If we have some impact data, shall I send it to you?

Norton: The more you send me the more I can comment on. Would also like copies of everything.

ACTION. Norton to send copies to all.

S. Asia

Norton: Workplan not yet submitted.

Rajotte: Karim (Bangladesh coordinator) had open heart surgery a few weeks ago. He is doing better. Sally and I are going to Nepal and Bangladesh next week and will talk to Karim.

SK: With Karim's ill health, you should consider naming an interim coordinator to keep the program going.

Ed: We will have this solved in a week

SK. Do we have submission from India?

Rajotte: Yes

SK: Nepal?

Rajotte: No. Next week, when we go there. We are going to do the PA

Norton: Saying you will be doing the PA is sufficient. The new format for workplans is not as extensive as what we used to compile from our host country partners' contributions. Could you get something less comprehensive that is comparable to the workplans presented here and wait for a more comprehensive version if you want one for working within your own sight?

Vaughan: The earliest you could get a workplan submitted would be at least three weeks from now –November. That is too late. The 2005/2006 workpan describes most of what you will be doing. Can't you modify that?

SK. Submit by end of week whatever you can so that we can get it to Bob. We don't want to go on record that one major site has not been submitted to USAID. Get something from Dr. XXX within 24h so that we can get finished.

Coordinator

ACTION. Rajotte to send workplan to ME by Friday, October 20th.

Annual Reports

Muni: Reports are due at the end of October.

Erbaugh: Unclear as to format. Needs structure. Pictures? Tables? How long?

Vaughn: Use pictures and tables as appropriate. Describe each activity with 100-1000 words.

Norton: Send further questions to Larry.

Miller: Can we print and send to collaborators?

SK: Yes, create Word file and send to collaborators.

Mid-term Review

SK: Bob, give us your perspective on the upcoming review

Hedlund: USAID mid-term review first three months of 2008. The activities of the currently proposed workplan will be reported by then.

Biggest strength is that we show we need an integrated program rather than a series of independent crop strategies.

Annual EEP, but we don't have an EEP yet. The management review could be combined with the performance review. May be a modification of the agreement so that the mid-term review is combined with the EEP.

Norton: Would be a good idea to have a paper review by the EEP

SK: We are close to having a full panel

Erbaugh: The need to make an integrated project instead of disparate pest management topics should be the focus of an annual meeting.

Hedlund: Thinks we can make a good case.

External member of the TC

George: Need someone with no connection with our institutions and probably from US to save money. Someone with a broad view of IPM.

SK: Former interim program directors.

Hedlund: Not up to me, but need someone with a broad perspective and maybe someone who doesn't have a day job.

SK. Mike Irwin, Mike Fitzner? Don Plucknett? Short Heinrichs?

Hedlund: Someone who will make the program better, not someone who has particular

Tolin: Eldon Ortmann (from Purdue)

Norton: Aziz Lagnoui (at the World Bank)

External Evaluation Panel (EEP)

SK: One slot is open for nematologist, plant pathologist, an IPM systems person.

Already have: Barry Jacobson, Dely Gapasin, David Schimmelpfennig.

Norton: Send suggestions to Muni.

Reporting Requirement of No-cost Extension

Erbaugh: Request for reporting on no-cost extension by the end of the week.

ACTION: Vaughan: We will send something out by the end of the week.