

IPM TC Meeting
September 23, 2008
OIA Building
10:00 – 12:00 am

Present: SK De Datta, Muni Muniappan, **George Norton** (Chair), Debbie Francis, Larry Vaughan, Miriam Rich, Maria Elisa Christie

By Phone: Karim Maredia (from Nairobi), Don Mullins, Wondi Mersie, Bob Hedlund, Yulu Xia, Sally Miller, Kitty Cardwell, Naidu Rayapati, Doug Pfeiffer, Ed Rajotte, Ria Tenorio from IFPRI, Sue Tolin, Jeff Alwang, Mike Hammig

Absent: Mark Erbaugh, Sam Kyamanywa

1. Approval of Minutes

George Norton called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes. Ed Rajotte noticed that missing from the minutes was a comment that the next proposal would fund fewer sites in order to reduce the burden on the CRSP. Norton then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was made by Muniappan and seconded by Rajotte and approved unanimously.

Norton welcomed Kitty Cardwell from USDA and noted that Ria Tenorio was representing Stan Wood, who could not participate.

2. Renewal of IPM CRSP in Phase IV

Bob Hedlund brought up USAID's intention to renew the IPM CRSP for another five years, depending on the availability of funds. He mentioned that a letter of request for a five year workplan should be arriving shortly at the ME (projected for October). Hedlund stated that this will not be a new award, but instead will be a non-competitive extension based on the previous RFA and the existing program. Hedlund elaborated that sub-awards will still be competitive and sub-awardees—both existing and new—will have to submit proposals. It is anticipated that this can all be accomplished in the current year, so that 5-year awards can be given instead of 4-year awards.

Hedlund explained that a significant part of the money will be open for new awards, with anticipated funding for an annual budget of \$3 million, and totaling \$15 M, representing an increase of approximately \$300k/year. Hedlund noted several minor changes in the requirement, such as the stipulation that 25% of the total funds support the effort to end hunger in Africa (which the ME already meets), and that USAID will have approval authority over annual workplans and sub-awards. Hedlund commented that he does not foresee much of a change; he did note that the new 5-year plan will need to consider and implement recommendations from the AMR and EEP, with potential but unspecified earmarks for biodiversity and biotech. Once again, Hedlund reassured the committee that this should not greatly affect the work of the program as many of the goals are already being met now. He also advised the committee that there will be *no* automatic non-

competitive extension at the end of the next 5 years. USAID will have a portfolio review before the next five years are up, and that review will determine whether IPM remains a priority topic. If it does remain a priority topic, there will be a competition for the IPM CRSP award at that time.

De Datta asked for clarification regarding when the notification might arrive; Hedlund had no exact timeframe but believed it would be in the latter part of the month. Norton expressed concern that there were too many regions represented and that preemptive measures be taken so that an external panel would not subsequently recommend cuts and reductions. De Datta also felt that the process may negatively affect existing projects and wondered if it was feasible to ask that it be done within the next five years without that having a strong impact. Hedlund restated that the plan is projected to be for \$15 million; a discussion ensued regarding concerns over the new funding issues.

3. IEEs

Larry Vaughan expressed appreciation to all who assisted with the IEEs. He especially noted the efforts of Annie Steed as well as those of Jeff Alwang and Doug Pfeiffer for their work in drafting the language which will regulate how IEEs will be executed in the future. Hedlund reminded them that any changes would require an amendment.

4. Budget for Year 4

Muni informed the group that Debbie Francis, Administrative and Financial Services Associate for IPM CRSP, has been entering the budget for Year 4, and that funds can only be distributed with proper documentation and paperwork. Debbie reminded all participants to ensure that their respective OSP offices send her the necessary invoices.

De Datta left to attend another meeting.

5. Communications Issues

Ed Rajotte reported that in prior meetings there has been talk about the need to advertise the accomplishments of IPM CRSP in the form of news releases that would have a reach beyond the scientific community. A committee meeting had been held to discuss this matter, and several news releases have since been issued; as these articles have found their way into other distribution channels, they have generated a considerable amount of positive feedback. Rajotte noted two factors that limit the release of more press releases from the ME: one is a Virginia Tech system whereby every press release must go through one person. A second factor is Rich's time—she does many other tasks and simply does not have the time to write more press releases for the IPM CRSP. It is highly recommended that the ME create some time for Rich to continue with these efforts. Whereas everyone present seemed to agree on these issues, no one present had the authority to change the Virginia Tech policy regarding press releases or to free up Rich's time.

Yulu Xia commented that at NC State, there are two channels to disseminate such information. Rajotte noted that Penn State has a boilerplate on their news releases which states that the work is done by the IPM CRSP and funded by USAID.

Vaughan reminded the committee that the POPs manual gives specific language as to what should be used in all types of documents (as far as crediting USAID), and that all participants should be given those guidelines to incorporate into their boilerplate. He also expressed support for having a central point of contact for press releases and commended Rich for providing a program-wide infrastructure. Norton summarized the discussion by advising the group to contact Rich if a press release was going to be issued.

6. Review of the FY 2009 Workplan

A. Karim Maredia – Central Asia

Karim Maredia briefed the group on the ongoing components of this project: biological control, landscape ecology, work in Uzbekistan, and IPM education. A socio-economic team was sent to central Asia and will soon be submitting a report. Local plants were screened for attractiveness and will be tested for biological control. Maredia relayed an observation from Moustafa Bosni of ICARDA that the cereal leaf beetle is becoming a problem. Plans are being made to host a regional forum in Kyrgyzstan in June 2009 to share experience and data, as well as to link the team in central Asia to IPM specialists in India, creating a connection between Central Asia and South Asia. The team also is planning to focus on publications in the coming year.

Muni asked Maredia about Sunn pest and was referred to the specialized work of Dr. Bosni. Hedlund requested clarification as to whether or not that topic was part of the original proposal; Maredia replied that it is being combined with the landscape ecology component of the project.

B. Don Mullins – West Africa

Don Mullins reported that project participants have returned from Manila, where exploratory work has already been conducted. Six objectives have been identified, which in most cases are extensions of previous projects. Due to lack of resources, the team has been forced to cut back on collaboration with Madame Gamby's work. Mullins also mentioned plans to conduct a workshop on collaboration that will facilitate technology exchange, as well as a major revision of the project website.

Maria Elisa Christie called attention to the project's use of participative methodologies in gender. Kitty Cardwell requested clarification of Objective 5 regarding a pathovar; Sally Miller replied that they are in the process of submitting a first report in Benin on that particular subject. Muni asked for an update on the progress of the tech transfer in pesticide safety training, to which Mullins responded that the objective of the whole project is to develop training materials, contingent upon available resources and time to work with training the trainers.

C. Naidu Rayapati – Thrips-Borne Tospoviruses

Naidu Rayapati began his program update by mentioning the goals of strengthening linkages between the SE Asia regional project and other projects in Southeast Asia, Eastern Africa and Central Asia, and working to increase the project's contribution to companion global projects on viruses and diagnostics. Rayapati is currently preparing a session on IPM strategies for the management of insect-transmitted virus diseases to be organized at the 6th International IPM Symposium to be held in Portland in March 2009.

His project has trained several scientists—one each from India, Indonesia, Uganda, and Uzbekistan—on diagnostics in relation to tospoviruses. Rayapati also reported ongoing training of another entomologist in thrips transmission of tospoviruses, as well as the work of three graduate students studying various aspects of thrips and tospoviruses. Through these efforts, four different tospoviruses and five different species of thrips have been identified in India, and two distinct tospoviruses have been identified in Indonesia. Simple diagnostic techniques have been developed for the identification of viruses, and the team is focusing on peanut bud necrosis in India as well. Rayapati related that collaborators from Florida and Georgia are continuing to work as part of the team.

D. Jeff Alwang – Latin America and the Caribbean

Jeff Alwang stated that the project is continuing the same work as before, with slight modifications in Ecuador. He noted some progress with naranjilla in the Andean highlands and added that some modifications will be undertaken. The team from Penn State is also doing similar work in Pichilingue. The project's leadership has decided to focus on things that can come to fruition in one year. Plans for the coming year include a review of the literature, an examination of population trends of a particular pest, the release of a bibliographical review and practical guide, and attendance at / participation in the eleventh annual IPM meetings in Tegucigalpa and Zamorano (Honduras) as well as the IPM meeting in Portland.

Hedlund complimented Alwang on showing impacts, noting that progress made is an important consideration, and shows dedication in accomplishing objectives regardless of whether or not the five-year renewal is awarded. Rajotte observed that his project has expertise in these areas as well and offered the possibility of transfer between the two groups. Other questions and comments on Alwang's update included the use of pheromone traps on papaya fruit, components of eggplant grafting, and plans for training.

E. Mark Erbaugh – East Africa

Mark Erbaugh was not in attendance to present updates on his East Africa project, but the information was reviewed by the participants. Vaughan suggested a discussion of screening tomato rootstock for *Ralstonia* to provide a regionally-relevant publication. Rajotte commented that they have done a lot of work in Asia on similar issues and that there was a great variance between wild rootstocks at different sites. Norton requested that Vaughan directly e-mail the comments generated in the discussion to Erbaugh; Sue Tolin offered a follow-up as well. Cardwell reminded the group that there was formerly a robust banana research team at IITA in Nigeria and wondered if this had been incorporated into the project; Miller replied that they have been working with the IITA on that, particularly banana *desdemona*, but was unaware of any follow-up bio-control work on endophytes taking place as per Cardwell's inquiry.

F. Ed Rajotte – South Asia

Rajotte remarked that work continues on projects in Bangladesh and Nepal, despite a "pitifully small" budget. IPM packages have been developed to combat weeds, diseases, and insects. The collaborators have also done well in establishing relationships with NGOs such as CARE, MCC, and Winrock; a considerable amount of work and cross-training has taken place in the countries where those organizations are present, including

root-grafting technology, pheromone technology, and fruit fly management. Rajotte noted that in Nepal, there is a special emphasis on looking at supply-chain technology; there is also interest among the private sector in these areas, and cross-training between different countries has taken place. Rajotte added that Bob Gilbertson has assisted with diagnostics with the viruses. The project is also seeking to look at the seasonality of the plants/insects. He reiterated that his work is taking place with an extremely slim budget. Rayapati offered to provide contacts with scientists in Hyderabad, India who may be able to assist with the work.

G. Mike Hammig – Southeast Asia

Hammig spoke of the fairly impressive learning curve and how collaborators are building on their experience as they focus on farmer production in local areas. He noted that in particular, papaya in Indonesia will demand attention, as well as bananas. An impact assessment is being prepared in addition to an impact analysis performed by a graduate student. Hammig noted the positive interaction among the different groups. In response to an evaluation sent by Norton, Hammig identified onions in Indonesia as a focus. Christie thanked him for including the role of farm women in the project work plan; Hammig expressed his appreciation for having a gender person as part of the team. He closed his remarks by noting that everyone had managed to stay within budget while retaining a high level of excitement and enthusiasm.

H. Doug Pfeiffer – Eastern Europe

Doug Pfeiffer provided updates on the projects taking place in Albania, Moldova, and the Ukraine, stating that there were some holdovers from when the project was originally written, but that funding was not available for them to be completed; they are currently on hold pending receipt of funding. Pfeiffer reported active work in soil solarization, as well as on soil fungus and root grafting. He is also working on a manuscript for a journal on a particular species of berry moth. The coordinator in Moldova is doing work on *Helicoverpa armigera*, and is testing new materials for controlling arthropods on tomatoes; in the Ukraine, the work is primarily dealing with technology transfer. Pfeiffer noted that there is some use of botanical and microbial agents, and that there are two doctoral students working there on CRSP-related activities. An online scholar site has been introduced to improve communications within the working group. The project is also creating multi-lingual presentations, and has recently published an apple and pest management manual in the Ukraine. Pfeiffer was asked if he has utilized translation tools such as those available on Google; he replied that he had consulted a translator who had discouraged him from using those resources as they do not provide perfect translations. Pfeiffer also added that he would like to see the project results posted.

I. Wondi Mersie – *Parthenium*

Wondi Mersie reviewed the four objectives of this project, and commented that the work is going very well. Data has been collected on the socio-economic impact of *Parthenium* as well as the effect of *Parthenium* on the lives of women in rural areas. Mersie stated that they have also prepared posters in four Ethiopian languages, with literature in South Africa translated into Zulu and one other language.

Muni asked when *Zygomma bicolorata* would be released in the field; Mersie replied that this would not take place until things had been evaluated and permits issued. Muni also inquired as to how many species had been screened and how many more were left to go, but a determination has not yet been made.

J. Sally Miller – IPDN

Sally Miller commented that overall, good progress has been made on the project, although the Africa components have been a little slower. The project now works in four countries in West Africa and four in East Africa. Substantial funding had been received from the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA to support a week-long training in West Africa. It was supposed to have taken place in Mali but the funds did not arrive until the last minute and consequently the training had to be postponed. Miller remarked that personnel from APHIS are quite interested in the project, which, among its accomplishments, continues to work on *xanthomonas* wilt and *ralstonia*, facilitate networking, and created a website that is up and running. She also noted that they are developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for insects as well as collaborating with West Africa and East Africa regional projects. In Year 4, the project will focus on training, continued work with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), further development of SOPs, and diseases deemed particularly important.

In response to Miller's presentation, Sue Tolin remarked that the training in Latin America was well-received. Cardwell mentioned the bogwood site as a topic of interest to be noted; participants agreed that internet functionality can sometimes present challenges to the project collaborators, but was generally acceptable and accessible. Hedlund asked if their project had worked with the plant health clinic in Bangladesh funded by DFID and CABI; Miller explained that the project currently had no funds for programs in Asia and that she had spent a considerable amount of time searching for additional sources of funding.

K. Sue Tolin – Insect-Transmitted Viruses

Sue Tolin reported that good progress has been made using the original objectives; many projects are nearing completion, and new ones are still being planned, such as several in Honduras. She commented that site visits usually must be planned around lifecycles of crops, and that the last objective has never really been able to be completed due to lack of funding. The project continues to work closely with Miller on issues related to diagnostics.

L. Yulu Xia – Information Technology and Database

Yulu Xia informed the group that his project has been developing generic mapping tools which can be used next year in the next phase, especially in the Caribbean and with Penn State. Much of this involves mapping and predicting fruitfly behavior. Identification is a huge problem because of lack of resources. One particular pest presents a huge threat to West Africa too. A meeting scheduled for this year will redesign everything to become more useful to farmers. Xia added that another project focus for the coming year will be the development of a generic tool called a pest map, which will demonstrate pest diffusion; he hopes to have a release available next month to demonstrate how this tool will function, and noted that it will be particularly useful to track the cocoa pod borer in

Southeast Asia. He added that they are now working with North Carolina State to submit a joint proposal to USAID, and noted that he is currently writing various articles for several refereed publications.

In response to Muni's query as to what additional benefit would be gained by setting up a database on the cacao pod borer when only 5% of the project in Southeast Asia is currently focused on this pest, Xia stated that they hope to refine their knowledge. He also reaffirmed his familiarity with the USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) site as a project resource.

M. George Norton – Impact Assessment

George Norton reviewed the highlights of his project and informed the group that the impact analysis has already been completed and is now being summarized. He said that they are using an economic surplus model and projecting some surpluses, and are in the process of doing an impact report. He expects to highlight the work of Phil Pardi and Stan Wood. The results of the project are expected to be ready this year; a Ph.D. student is assisting with the project, and several graduate students are also being trained, including one student from Benin who is looking at the impacts of the West Africa site. Norton added that a workshop took place last week in Latin America and was attended by approximately 20 participants. PowerPoint presentations are being developed, using Adobe Presenter (formerly Breeze).

7. Actionable Items

A. Travel Matrix: approved by USAID; the ME prefers to have the travel request in the office 30 days before the start of travel. Each travel request should have a narrative, and all travelers to the United States must obtain a J1 visa and be entered in TrainNet.

B. Annual Report: due October 15.

C. Trip reports: due two weeks after completion of trip.

8. Closing Remarks

Bob Hedlund spoke about the proposed BIFAD trip to Kenya, during which the effectiveness of the CRSP in Kenya may be discussed. BIFAD will be involved in the discussion on whether or not it is necessary to continue IPM, and asked for recommendations for personnel with whom the project has worked well in Kenya.

Hedlund also reviewed the last minutes of the last meeting, observing that a good deal of the discussion emphasized an interest in having a training matrix, and remarking that this should be part of an annual work plan to be created by the ME. He also recalled that several people had mentioned components of projects which were of interest to them, but that funds were not available, and urged them to make plans for the next five years and carefully consider the budgets so that sufficient funds would be available.

Muni brought up several items to consider deleting from the POPs manual, such as the requirement that a representative from the TC review the budgets, as well as having the TC review annual reports. Norton noted that the objective is to bring all activities into compliance with the POPs manual to ensure consistency, adding that the annual report is coming up soon, and it is important to complete on time. He then thanked everyone for

their participation, especially Kitty, and reminded the group that the next face-to-face meeting will take place March 23 – 26, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.