

Trip Report – IPM CRSP Organizational Trip to Albania, Moldova, and Ukraine
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21 July – 3 August 2006

July 21-22 (Friday - Saturday) – Doug Pfeiffer (VT Department of Entomology) traveled from Roanoke to Tirana. Delta flight 3513 traveled to Atlanta, followed by Delta 76 to Rome, and Delta 8525 to Tirana, arriving at 3:55 PM. I was met by Josef Tedeschini, Director of the Plant Protection Institute of Durrës.

July 23 (Sunday) – Tirana. Tedeschini and I discussed the reorganization of the agricultural research in Albania, the regional project, spending some time on work plan development.

July 24 (Monday) – Tirana, Durrës. Josef Tedeschini and I met with Bujar Huqi, the new director of the RAC (Regional Advisory Center), the semi-private extension organization. Following this, we met with the participating faculty at the Plant Protection Institute (Tedeschini, Skender Varaku, Harallamb Paçe, Vangjel Jovani, Ejup Çota, Jordan Merkurri, and a new team member, pesticide chemist, Magdalena Cara). Following, we met with participating faculty at Agricultural University of Tirana: Shpend Shahini (formerly of PPI), Fadil Thomaj, Myzejen Hasani, and a new team member Natasha Duraj, an acarologist. We also met with Brunhilda Stamo, formerly of PPI, now in the (renamed) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, as Director of Production Policy.

July 25 (Tuesday) – Tirana, In the morning I met with Kristaq Jorgji of the USAID mission, now back in its former location at the US Embassy, after a relocation to the new Sheraton Hotel. In the afternoon I left for Chisinau, Moldova, taking Malev 431 to Budapest, and Malev 6134 to Chisinau, arriving at 11:00 PM, where I was met by Vladimir Todirash of the (renamed) Institute for Plant Protection and Ecological Agriculture.

July 26 (Wednesday) – Chisinau. Todirash picked me up and we began the day with a meeting with the director of the institute, Leonid Volosciuc. After a discussion on the project, Todirash, Tatiana Tretiakov and I met to discuss the work plan, and various organizational aspects. I obtained a list of the 38 insect species for which pheromone lures are produced in the institute.

July 27 (Thursday) – Chisinau. Discussions continued on project organization and work plan development with Todirash and Tretiakov, joined by Lydia Gavrilitsa and Vasili Voeniak.

July 28-29 (Friday - Saturday) – The train to L'viv, Ukraine departed at 11:50 AM, reaching L'viv at 6:50 the following morning. I was met at the train by Myroslava Ishchuk, L'viv Polytechnic University, and the driver from the L'viv Oblast Plant Protection Station. In the afternoon, I met with Olena Cholovska, the director of the

Plant Protection Station and Ishchuk, discussing the baseline survey and logistics of the project.

July 30 (Sunday) – L’viv Oblast Plant Protection Station. Cholovska, Ishchuk and I, joined by Gala Shestopal, L’viv Commercial Academy, continued discussions on the baseline survey, the work plan, the organization of the work in the oblast, and two fruit manuals planned as part of the technology transfer activity.

July 31 - August 1 (Monday - Tuesday) – L’viv Oblast Plant Protection Station, and Kyiv. At Cholovska’s office we discussed further aspects of the baseline survey, this time joined with two women who would be responsible for data entry. The train to Kyiv departed at 10:55 PM, arriving 7:32 the following morning. After checking into the Hotel Lybid, I met with Oleksandr Muliar, the Agricultural Project Office at the USAID mission, followed by a meeting with Nicolai Gordiyshuk, the new Ukraine Country Director at CNFA (Citizens’ Network for Foreign Affairs). At each meeting I gave an update on the project, and we discussed prospects for interactions..

August 2 (Wednesday) – Kyiv. I met with Nicolay Kharytonov and Kateryna Maslikova of Dnipropetrovsk State Agrarian University. We discussed a variety of issues relating to organization of the project in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, as well as the baseline survey.

August 2 (Wednesday) – I departed for the US. Delta 8519 left for Paris, followed by Delta 8504 to Atlanta, and Delta 4515 to Roanoke, arriving at 11:15 PM.