

**IPM CRSP Trip Report – Organizational Trip to Moldova, Ukraine, and Albania**  
**Douglas G. Pfeiffer, Eastern Europe Site Chair**  
**Dept. Entomology, Virginia Tech**  
**1 – 18 June 2008**

**Country(s) Visited:** Albania, Moldova, Ukraine,

**Dates of Travel:** 1-18 June 2008

1-2 June (Sunday - Monday) – Doug Pfeiffer (VT Department of Entomology) traveled from Roanoke to Tirana, Albania. Delta flight 6378 traveled to Cincinnati, followed by Delta 32 to Rome, and Alitalia 510 to Tirana, arriving at 11:20 PM. I was met by Coordinator Josef Tedeschini (Plant Protection Institute).

5 June (Thursday) – Austrian Air from Tirana to Vienna. The flight departed 11:05 AM, arrived at Vienna 6:35. Austrian Air 655 left Vienna 1:45 PM, arriving in Chisinau 4:30 PM. I was met by Vladimir Todirash (Institute for Plant Protection & Ecological Agriculture) and his son Alexi.

8 - 9 June (Sunday - Monday) – Train from Chisinau to L'viv. The train departed 11:50 AM, arrived L'viv 7:00 AM. I was met by Myroslava Ishchuk (L'viv National Polytechnic University) and her husband Yuri.

12 – 13 June (Thursday - Friday) – Train from L'viv to Odesa. Left L'viv 3:00 PM, arrived Odesa at 7:30. Traveled with L'viv Coordinator Olena Cholovska (L'viv Oblast Plant Protection Service), and Ishchuk. We were met by our new Odesa Coordinator Valentyna Kotsur, August Ltd.

15 – 16 June (Sunday - Monday) – Train from Odesa to Kyiv. Train departed 10:20 AM, arrived 9:30 PM. Train departed 11:00 PM, arrived 7:55 AM.

18 June (Wednesday) – Depart for US. Left Kyiv 7:00 AM for Paris on Ukrainian Air 701, followed by Delta 43 to Cincinnati, and Delta 6402 to Roanoke. Arrived in Roanoke at 6:20 PM

**Travelers Names and Affiliations:** Douglas G. Pfeiffer, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech.

**Purpose of Trip:** Work on organizational aspects of Eastern European Regional Project. Visit research sites, observe progress in field research. Discuss required reports. Discuss creation of Adobe Presenter presentations for multilingual information delivery.

**Sites Visited:**

Albania: Tirana, research sites at Mullet, Rada.

Moldova: Institute for Plant Protection and Ecological Agriculture, Chisinau

Ukraine: L'viv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv

**Description of Activities/Observations:**

**Albania:**

3 June (Tuesday) – Tirana, Mullet. I met with specialists Josef Tedeschini, Vangjel Jovani, Harallamb Paçe, and Bashkim Lushaj (director of RAC). We visited research plots at a commercial greenhouse vegetable operation. Plots included soil solarization studies as well as comparisons of varying intensity of pesticide use. After visits to research sites, Tedeschini and I met in Tirana with Brunhilda Stamo and Minister of Agriculture Izfan Tarelli.

4 June (Wednesday) – Tirana, Rada. Tedeschini and I met with representatives of a new USAID-funded project that supports vegetable, olive production in three regions of Albania (Tirana (Lezhe, Shkodra), Lushnje (with Sarandra), and Korçe. There are four main areas of crop emphasis: vegetables in greenhouses, melons, fruit trees (i.e. apple in Korçe), and olives. We discussed potential avenues of collaboration with IPM CRSP. DAI will be organizing grower education, and they find it complicated to cover IPM. Our specialists can offer expertise here. After visiting with DAI, we visited research plots in Rada. We saw studies underway with cultural practices relating to disease management, such as tomato plant density, and varietal comparisons. In these greenhouses there are also comparisons of efficacy of environmentally selective versus conventional pesticides. Following the field visits, I met with Kristaq Jorgji, Activity Manager for Agriculture, USAID/Albania. We discussed overall progress of the project, the recent PERSUAP produced by our group, and the Scholar site I have planned for our Eastern European regional project; I would like to include USAID host country officers. In the evening I met with Tedeschini and Shpend Shahini, entomologist at Agricultural University of Tirana to discuss apparent elimination of submitted posters at the recent TC meeting in Manila (7 submitted, 4 making it into the program). I assured him that neither the site coordinator nor site chair had rejected the presentations.

#### **Moldova:**

5 June (Thursday) – Chisinau. After being picked up at airport by Todirash, we discussed general aspects of our project at the Hotel Cosmos.

6 June (Friday) – south of Chisinau. We visited the farm where Todirash does some field work and discussed disease problems in greenhouse vegetables. Todirash is providing this farmer with a derivative product from Canola oil that he developed during the course of this project. A patent has been submitted. Following the field visits, we met at the institute with doctoral student Victor Focsa and entomologist Tatiana Tretiakov regarding the project, and the increasing role of neonicotinoids in modern agriculture and potential unintended ecological impacts. We also discussed the production of refereed research publications and multilingual Adobe Presenter publications.

7 June (Saturday) – Chisinau. We visited the institute and saw research being conducted in the tunnel we supported. There are replicated studies underway of the Canola derivative, against thrips, whiteflies and aphids. We visited some farms with apparent virus problems in greenhouse grown tomatoes and cucumbers, accompanying aphid or thrips populations.

I was not able to meet with USAID in Moldova; there was no response to my e-mail message before the trip.

#### **Ukraine:**

9 June (Monday) – Lviv. I met in the office of the Plant Protection Service with Olena Cholovska, Myroslava Ishchuk and Gala Shestopal, regarding general aspects of the project, and examined galleys of the apple pest management/production manual we have created. We also discussed the PERSUAP, and I pointed out that while it has been accepted by USAID, annual revisions will be needed to keep pace with proposed research. Zinaida Shestopal, our cooperator in the Pest and Pesticide Management Project (PPMP) was also present for part of the discussion.

10 June (Tuesday) – Lviv. We traveled to a farm in Babino. This farmer is a small holder, with very diverse production on his plot of land. He has another occupation as an engineer, common in this era of privatization. Confidor was applied as to his vegetables as seedlings. All weed control is by hand labor. All plots are planted to rape in the fall, which is turned under as a green mulch to aid in nematode control. We later went to another farm, one of those visited in the PA.

The vegetables are totally unsprayed (although a herbicide was applied preplant, control from which is now breaking down). They use varieties that have been tested by Cholovska during the project with pest resistance (Hector, Sparta and Ajax) and are now providing field confirmation. 11 June (Wednesday) – Lviv. We visited a very different style of operation, a large new apple planting, in the village of Onchativka. Since this planting is only in its second season, there is an opportunity here to work with IPM principles from the beginning. There is possible enhanced impact of our work since this is a large operation in the area. Last year there were trees lost from root feeding by *Melolontha*. Scab is an important problem; we can make a contribution here through the use of Mills tables.

12 June (Thursday) – L'viv. We visited the Research Center of Agrotechnical Systems Engineering, near L'viv. This is an approved program of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Subdivision of Engineering). The role is mostly agricultural engineering, but has elements that are also carried out in agronomy or animal science departments at some American universities like Virginia Tech. There are four main areas of research: decreasing energy consumption in agriculture, forage and silage production, fencing, and gauges to chemically treat seeds. They hold patents for some of the devices they have created. The building is aging, but there are wonderful resources here in terms of land for field plots. The director, Ludwig Denisovitch, cooperates with Cholovska in provision of field plots for her work. We visited her plots, where she has applied two different bacterial preparations for seeds of tomato, carrot and soybean. The plants are only now germinating; yield data will be collected later.

13 June (Friday) – Odesa. We were met by the new coordinator of the Odesa part of the project, Valentyna Kotsur and her husband Victor. Kotsur also participated in the earlier PPMP project. She is now director of a large fruit production firm, August Ltd, with expanding holdings in three oblasts of Ukraine. With her IPM background, and key position in local production of our target crops, she is in a position to play a key role in integrating with Cholovska. Today we visited their new apple orchard and table grape vineyard, about 240 km east of Odesa (near Mykolaiv). They evaluate cultivars for local adaptation, and are trying to use environmentally selective materials, natural when possible. The main grape pests are oidium (powdery mildew), downy mildew and mites. In the apple planting there were significant losses of trees last year from a boring beetle, locally called zabalony (further identification is needed).

14 June (Saturday) – Today we visited another site managed by Kotsur, in Kiliia, in the Bessarabian part of Ukraine (between Moldova and the Black Sea) along the Danube delta. Fields are normally larger here than in Lviv. Most villages grow tomatoes and cucumbers. This site produced vegetables and strawberries. They use the biological preparation Trichoderma extensively as a preventative.

15 June (Sunday) – I met with Cholovska, Kotsur and Ishchuk. I presented a CD with files from the IPM CRSP Technical Committee meeting in Manila, to provide her with more information on the other sites. We discussed the potential role of August Ltd in the IPM CRSP. Today was a religious holiday throughout Ukraine. My train left for Kyiv in the evening.

16 June (Kyiv) – My hotel in Kyiv, Hotel Lybid, is a short walk from the train station. Today I spent working in my room.

17 June (Kyiv) – Today I was to meet with Dnipropetrovsk coordinator Kateryna Maslikova. She could not come, however, because of medical problems. There was also no word from the USAID mission regarding the possibility of a meeting. I had made contact with the mission while in L'viv, a secretary said our contact was in a meeting but would return my call; no calls were received in the ensuing days. E-mail messages were not acknowledged.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Ilie Mehmeti	Extension Officer, Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness Project (DAI)	Ismail Qemali St. 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Fratari Bldg. Tirana Albania 355-4-2256839 m_ilir@hotmail.com
Paul Sommers	Production Specialist Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness Project (DAI)	Ismail Qemali St. 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Fratari Bldg. Tirana Albania 355-4-2256839 paul_sommers@dai.com
Izfan Tarelli	Minister of Agriculture	Tirana Albania
Ludwig Denisovitch	Center of Agrotechnical Systems Engineering	L'viv Ukraine
Valentyna Kotsur	Director, August Ltd.	Bolshaya Arnautskaya Str. 2B Office 218 Odesa Ukraine 38-048-7386690 kotsur@arkadia.co.ua



Clean tomatoes in IPM CRSP site in Albania



Albanian coordinator Josef Tedeschini checking tomato plants in Albanian experiment





*Liriomyza* leafminer injury in Albanian tomatoes



Vegetable producer Hysni Gjergji, Doug Pfeiffer, coordinator Josef Tedeschini and Bashkim Lushaj, director of RAC, in Rada, Albania



Pollinating cucumbers by hand in plastic tunnels in Moldova



Coordinator Vladimir Todirash instructing grower in mixing biological preparation



Doug Pfeiffer, greenhouse operator, and coordinator Vladimir Todirash in old greenhouse



Thrips infestation in cucumber blossoms, Moldova





Doug Pfeiffer and Director of Research Center of Agrotechnical Systems Engineering, Ludwig Denisovitch, in L'viv Ukraine



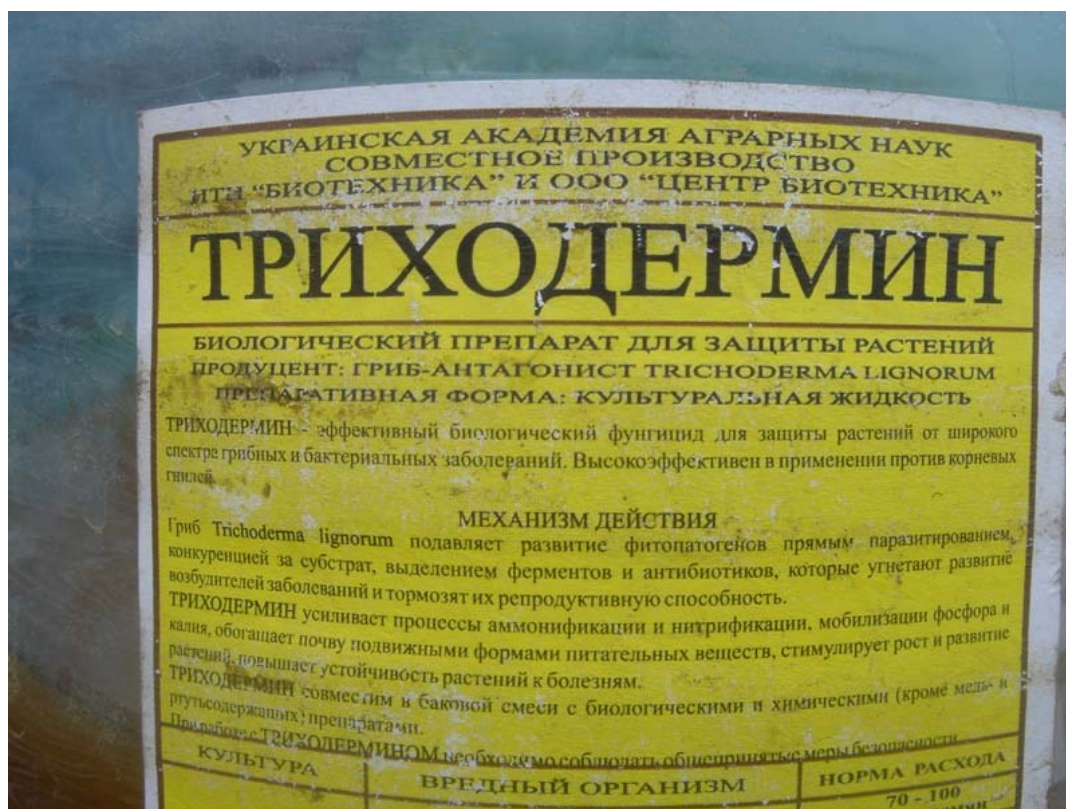
Ludwig Denisovitch, Coordinator Olena Cholovska and Myroslava Ishchuk visiting vegetable seedling plot for IPM CRSP research, at Research Center of Agrotechnical Systems Engineering in L'viv Ukraine



Driver, viticulturist, Doug Pfeiffer, Odesa coordinator Valentyna Kotsur and L'viv coordinator Olena Cholovska in vineyard near Mykolaiv Ukraine



Myroslava Ishchuk, L'viv coordinator Olena Cholovska, horticulturist, Doug Pfeiffer, farm manager, and Odesa Coordinator Valentyna Kotsur in Odesa strawberry field at Kiliia Ukraine



Label of Trichoderma preparation used as disease preventative in Odesa strawberries