

IPM CRSP TC Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2011, Conference Room A, OIA Building
Virginia Tech
10:00 – 12:00 A.M.

Present: SK De Datta, Muni Muniappan, Amer Fayad, Larry Vaughan, Sue Tolin, Don Mullins, Wondi Mersie, Mike Hammig, Karim Maredia, Harry Rea, Sally Miller, Kitty Cardwell, George Norton, Ed Rajotte, Jeff Alwang, Merle Shepard

Absent: Mark Erbaugh, Stanley Woods, Sam Kyamanywa

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – SK De Datta

Introduction

SK De Datta opened the meeting and teleconference call by welcoming everyone. All present introduced themselves around the circle and over the phone.

Overview

De Datta reminded everyone that we have crossed three phases of the IPM CRSP and are currently in the fourth phase. Will there be a fifth phase? We don't know. We do know there will be some discussion at the end of this cycle.

De Datta noted that he has had a chance to speak with Rob Bertram¹.

Rea as the IPM CRSP Agreement Officer's Technical Representative

De Datta also noted that Harry Rea is managing four CRSPs! De Datta expressed his desire that Rea will stay with the IPM CRSP. Rea, he said, knows the progression of the IPM CRSP over the years. He knows what we've accomplished.

Recap of recent trip to South Asia

De Datta then recapped his recent trip to three South Asian countries. He was in Coimbatore, India for the South Asia planning meeting. He was also at a BioSummit conference. Before leaving the States, on short notice, he was asked to give the keynote address at this conference. He presented a paper on the IPM CRSP and how it contributes to food security. This conference was attended by 300 people. De Datta chaired the entire morning session.

De Datta said they also had a good session in Bangladesh, as well as in Kathmandu. People in Nepal were impressed with what we're doing there on grafting. The leadership is with the men. All the workers working with the lead farmer are women, working with this entrepreneur. We're pleased with that development.

¹ Rob Bertram leads the International Research and Biotechnology Team at USAID. He manages U.S. funding for the CGIAR system, and he is responsible for USAID's agricultural biotechnology initiative, which spans science (technology development) and policy (biosafety and intellectual property).

De Datta met with Bill Patterson at the Nepal mission as well as with Amy Prevatt, a local hire, although she's an expat. Emmy said she is happy to make sure the mission in Nepal is involved. De Datta said he assured them we are going to keep food security at the forefront of our concerns in these countries.

De Datta reminded everyone that as they travel to different countries, they must make a stop at the USAID mission. Tell them what impact you're making, then talk about Feed the Future. This way, they'll keep us in mind. Rea suggested if anyone needs any assistance in working out a meeting with the mission, to tell him and he'll do his best to get you in the door.

De Datta emphasized that we have limited time. We are close to the end of the cycle: 2014. Each site chair needs to ask what package we have developed, what impact we are making. If we are strong with our results, there is a good chance we can convince USAID that the IPM CRSP is a viable CRSP and cannot be merged or eliminated. But we have to be in a strong position with the results.

De Datta thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting Chair George Norton asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. There were none, so the minutes stand accepted.

2. Program Overview – Muni Muniappan

Muni Muniappan reported that the IPM CRSP has been progressing well. We have developed over 20 different components, or technologies. Some countries are adopting about 20 components, while some countries are only adopting 5-6 components. Our regional projects are also moving along well.

In Southeast Asia, a planning meeting is being conducted in rotating countries. This allows for improvement in regionalization. Both global theme projects (IPDN and IPVDN) conducted global/regional meetings. The IPDN conducted the meeting in Guatemala. The IPVDN conducted a meeting in India. The parthenium project also conducted a global workshop.

Muniappan noted that we want to transfer technologies we've developed in Asia to Africa.

De Datta noted that when Muniappan visited the India mission, they wanted the IPM CRSP to work with Cornell. De Datta asked Rea about that; to his [De Datta's] knowledge, Cornell is not doing IPM CRSP work. Rea responded that they can't force you to change what your program is. "If opportunities are there to work with Cornell, fine, but they can't force you. They need to encourage Cornell to work with you all, then."

Muniappan continued, noting that he and Gerry Carner, Merle Shepard, and Eric Benson met with the Indonesian mission. Dr. Sanath Reddy mentioned that there is an RFP that will be issued soon, on horticulture crops. Mike Hammig said it is to focus on agricultural marketing and specialty crops.

Muniappan also noted that the Indonesian mission gave us an associate award for \$500,000, and Clemson is implementing it.

3. Central Asia – Karim Maredia

Karim Maredia noted that the countries he focuses on in Central Asia are Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. They have three Ph.D. students from Central Asia focusing on IPM on wheat, potatoes, and tomatoes. They will have 10 demonstration sites in these countries. Wheat is planted as winter wheat. They have three sites for wheat, one for potato, and 1 for tomato. There are sites in Uzbekistan as well. Altogether, there are 10 sites. Tajikistan is a focus country. His team is in constant touch with the USAID mission there.

They have a plan for a regional plant diagnostic network meeting on June 5-10. Both the virus team and the pest diagnostic team will be participating. They plan to invite participants from three host countries. There is interest from neighboring countries as well, such as Afghanistan. Muniappan has informed Maredia of the workshop on *Trichoderma* in India; they will collaborate with them. They would very much like to also collaborate with Nepal and India.

Maredia said he has had some interaction with the gender team. And, he said, “Our work is closely tied with 10 research sites.” Norton asked him if he has packages for these tomato, potato and wheat crops. Maredia responded yes. “For wheat, we are focusing on sunn pest, and leaf beetle for potato. Yellow rust is a major problem on wheat here. So we will have cultural control integrated into the package.”

4. South Asia – Ed Rajotte

Ed Rajotte reported that his team has concentrated on implementing packages in all three countries: India, Bangladesh and Nepal. They are working on insect diseases, weeds, tomatoes, and onions. All experiments in the field are going well. They held a meeting three weeks ago, and had representatives come to India from Bangladesh and Nepal. Everyone was in the same room. They had a virus workshop last year that became regional, and they are planning another virus workshop on plant diagnostics. As far as grad students go, they have one who is graduating this summer, one who came last year, and one who is coming this August. So they have several students involved.

Rajotte noted that Muniappan has received heaps of praise regarding his papaya mealybug findings. “That was a big deal here.”

Rezaul Karim in Bangladesh put together a 6-7- page short summary of what has been done in Bangladesh. “I’d like to see something like that from all of our countries. Something that is newsy and impactful. This needs to be posted on our IPM CRSP website.”

Rajotte recounted that four farmers in West Bengal, India found out what they were doing in Bangladesh and e-mailed him, saying they wanted info in Bengali. Karim already had this in

Bengali, so he sent Rajotte that material last night. Rajotte will e-mail it to the Indian farmers. “This has been a very interesting offshoot, that we’re getting off-country visibility.”

Rajotte noted that what they’re finding is that when they go to various missions in the country, the missions are finding beltway companies like Chemonics and giving them business. “I’m disappointed that they’re not looking to the CRSPs.” Rajotte asked Rea if there were any plans or strategies to meet that challenge. De Datta said that Rajotte didn’t mention the summary of our impacts in Bangladesh which was developed for a meeting with the minister. “She [the minister] received the whole team, spent time with us, and very patiently listened to us. We know that Bangladesh is very supportive of us.”

Rajotte continued, saying that he thinks the IPM CRSP has [favorably] affected the structure of pest management in Bangladesh. “Because of our pheromone laws, the pesticide laws there are about to be changed, to allow the importation of pheromones. The higher echelons of Bangladesh are aware of us. To see this level of impact is really gratifying.”

5. Gender – Maria Elisa Christie

West Africa

Maria Elisa Christie reported that in West Africa, she has been working with most of the regional programs, and with Ghana. A Virginia Tech grad student, Laura Zselezky, is doing her thesis work there this summer. Christie said she will be going to Mali shortly and will be meeting with the regional gender person in Mali this week.

South Asia

In South Asia, Christie said she has been working with Uma on the big meeting that everyone was at in Coimbatore. We now have two students at Dhaka University.

Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, the ME hosted Dr. Herrien Puspitawati at Virginia Tech. She gave several presentations while she was here. One presentation was with Christie as well.

Latin America

In Latin America, Christie noted that she has one student working with Jeff Alwang’s projects in Ecuador.

Other

Christie has held a gender and participatory workshop here at Virginia Tech. She is currently getting ready to do an evaluation of this workshop.

She also has a one-page summary of the workshop that she will be posting online.

De Datta suggested creating a short summary report of what the IPM CRSP is doing for gender. Christie agreed that this was a good idea. “If we actually get [material for] the case studies, we can do this. One snapshot from each of the regions, we could put those together.”

6. Impact Assessments – George Norton

George Norton began by speaking about baseline surveys. The Bangladesh survey has been completed. The Ecuador one has also been completed. Norton noted that there was a paper by a Dr. Rejesus at NC State on the impact of IPM on pesticide use in onions in the Philippines. He has a student—Leah Harris—whose thesis involves scaling up, and the most cost-effective way to do that. She's also looking at Nepal and Bangladesh. Norton reported that they did complete a thesis with Theo Neuhoheflin in Mali on tomato in West Africa.

He also has a student at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Her thesis deals with the papaya mealybug.

There has been some training going on. Norton noted that they have had a short-term visitor from the Dominican Republic.

Norton said he is preparing training materials that will be useful for all sites. Dan Taylor has been involved in the East Africa site. They split up their work between Jeff Alwang and others.

The IPM CRSP also had a visitor from Nepal.

They currently have a student from Uganda looking at trade bottlenecks between Uganda and Mali. The work of this student is not just in the region, but in the region and other parts of Africa as well.

7. Virus Global Theme – Sue Tolin

Sue Tolin reported that they had a very successful workshop in India. They went on an interesting field trip where they saw a lot of the viruses. Naidu Rayapati is her lead person. He continues to work with viruses there. The economic impact of this work is impressive and needs further study.

In Central Asia, she said they appreciate the ability to participate in the workshops there.

In Southeast Asia, they are working with a couple of women there, and are getting some virus work going in Indonesia.

Tolin and Judy Brown participated in a two-day workshop in Honduras. There were 100 people there. There were even some people there from Guatemala. That workshop is a very good model, Tolin said, and can be adapted. It addresses management approaches as well as other issues. Tolin said they are looking at what they can do in one region and adapt to other regions in order to really make the project a global project.

In West Africa, Bob Gilbertson has been working with people there. In East Africa, they haven't been able to get much going.

Tolin reported that the virus people will be doing a symposium in Hawaii, where she and Rayapati will moderate. Gilbertson will also participate. It will concern the management of virus diseases in tropical countries. They will pull a lot of information together in that meeting. They welcome participation by various coordinators on that.

Tolin said they hope to have some South-South interaction and need help from regional sites to carry this out.

De Datta reported that he just heard on his cell phone from Naidu Rayapati that he has gotten tenure. According to De Datta, Rayapati reported that the IPM CRSP and the work he did under it helped him achieve this.

8. International Plant Diagnostics Network – Sally Miller

Sally Miller reported on the progress of the International Plant Diagnostics Network (IPDN). She said they have worked with Tolin's group. They have also met with most of the other groups as well to establish priorities. Most of the crops they have focused on are, not surprisingly, the focus crops of each of the groups. They are trying to publish some of the work that has been done. A piece on a new disease of onion anthracnose was published, which comes from Benin. They are working on mango malformation in West Africa. And, she said, "We're going to take a little bit of credit for the papaya mealybug!"

As regards regional training, she said there will be more of that at a later date. They are currently organizing training in Ghana. In Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, they trained a diagnostician, one Isabel Arias. She came up to Ohio for a week. The government of Guatemala is now involved.

Regarding India, Miller reported that Tolin already mentioned what they are planning for this year. Bob Gilbertson is putting together a very nice tomato virus disease diagnostic guide. And they have something similar to that, but more simplified, for Nepal.

South Asia, Miller reported, is coming along well. They are now in the web portal. "We have a goal for each region to do 25 samples. We've conducted some disease surveys on tomato and peppers."

Miller reported that they did a big survey of viruses on tomatoes. A student from Uganda is working on this. It is a sandwich master's program.

Regarding bacterial wilt, Miller reported that they are finding in the grafting program that the resistant rootstock does not always hold up in various regions. They also found bacterial wilt in Coimbatore. People there were convinced they don't have it, but they do. Finally, Miller said, they are focusing on passion fruit in Africa. Kitty Cardwell asked about Isabel Arias. Miller explained that she came here to do some training and learn about the diagnostics of *Clavibacter* protocol used for IPDN training. Cardwell asked if Arias had any link to the Caribbean regional diagnostic network, and Miller said she didn't know, that that is the University of Florida's national network, not the IPM CRSP.

Cardwell asked what Miller was doing about getting government authorization. Miller responded that they don't yet have full buy-in from governments. Cardwell asked if they were going to upload diagnostic information on what they feel like, and what kind of guidelines are there. Miller said that most of the diagnostic ones they have done are not regulatory. "They can make it a private sample and have it not be seen by anyone." She said she could tell Cardwell about that [later].

9. Parthenium – Wondi Mersie

Wondi Mersie noted that parthenium control is being implemented in four countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. They are also developing pest management for Ethiopia, and working with Haramaya University. The bulk of their efforts, Mersie reported, are on biocontrol. They have completed testing on *Zygogramma*. They have received a permit from the Ethiopian government to release it, but are waiting for permission from USAID. "We are evaluating the stem-boring weevil. We have done hosting tests on that for several crops," Mersie said.

Another objective has been to evaluate *Zygogramma*. They have published a research paper on that. They are also submitting another paper on rural sociology. They've had a workshop in Kenya, in Nairobi, in November. Fourteen researchers from 14 countries attended. It was a very useful meeting for everyone, Mersie reported. There were lots of papers from that.

They have a graduate student working on *Listronotus setosipennis*. Other research is going on as well. They have tremendous pressure from the Ethiopian government to release *Zygogramma* because of the great problem that parthenium causes there.

Issue of introducing biocontrol agent

Harry Rea spoke about environmental assessment. This has become quite a discussion re USAID funding a non-native species. One of the next steps needs to be a conference call with Joyce Jatko², Mersie, Muniappan, and Vaughan. The main thing that people are concerned about is setting a precedent. There has not been a precedent for USAID introducing biocontrol anywhere. Walter Knausenberger³ has looked at the work and thinks it needs to be reviewed. "We're stuck with our feet in the mud here," Rea said. Vaughan mentioned that Rea said this here, "but it sounds like we need to do a full presentation [on this] to USAID." Rea agreed that this would be a good idea.

Mersie mentioned that parthenium is already present in every country.

Muniappan noted that the USDA has been doing this work for many years, and has introduced many biocontrol agents. He expressed frustration as to why USAID is dragging on this. He surmised that it's due to not wanting to be subject to blame down the road.

Norton noted that the parasitoid with the papaya mealybug has had *great* results.

² Joyce Jatko is acting Bureau Environmental Officer for the Bureau for Food Security.

³ Walter Knausenberger is Senior Regional Environmental Policy Advisor at the USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development.

De Datta wondered why USAID has to get involved. “Let the national government do it.” [Due diligence with the biocontrol.] Rea noted that this would be exactly what Jatko would like to see happen.

10. Southeast Asia – Mike Hammig

Mike Hammig spoke of the work in Southeast Asia and said he had invited Merle Shepard to help him with that. Shepard is just back from Indonesia and Cambodia.

Shepard reminded everyone that this group works in the Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia. They are trying to lay the foundation for an associate award at a vegetable lab in Limbong in West Java and an Indonesian coffee research institute on the eastern part of Java. “We’ve got some things we’re setting up with both of these institutions,” he said. They are also setting up things in Bogor. Jerry Carner has given a lecture there.

In Indonesia, Shepard noted, they met with Sanath Reddy at the USAID mission. He was very supportive. They designed the IPM matrix. “All sizes don’t fit all,” Shepard said. “Just because a thing fits one region doesn’t mean it fits the same way in another.” He gave the example of Cambodia, where they’ve just started up with *Trichoderma*. This was started in the Philippines. There’s a person there who has isolated a version of *Trichoderma*.

They are planning a workshop in the Philippines in August, just before Hawaii.

They have a student here [at Clemson] from Sumatra.

Fintrac [a consulting firm] was awarded the Feed the Future project in Cambodia, Shepard reported. They just got a \$57 million project there and just hired 72 people. “They’re interested in working with us, but we’re just trying to figure out how,” he said.

De Datta noted that the Indonesia mission has been very supportive of the IPM CRSP project. De Datta advised Rea to send a note to Sanath Reddy to say we appreciate the mission support. “Despite our good work in other places in South Asia, we haven’t had any other associate awards.”

Hammig noted that Clemson has been working on various projects in Indonesia for 20-some years. “We’ve been able to watch the mission and see how it feels about agriculture. We went through a long period where the mission didn’t have any concern for agriculture,” Hammig noted. “Within the last year, it’s turned around entirely. Reddy is very active in dealing with agriculture. His view is broader than just IPM, but covers agribusiness, etc. The timing has been good. Reddy attended our workshop last summer; he was there the entire time. He has been key in helping us. We’ve been lucky.”

11. West Africa – Don Mullins

Don Mullins reported on progress in West Africa. This includes the countries of Mali, Senegal, and Ghana. Ghana is the new arrival in this part of the project. Mullins said they are looking at potato, tomato, and cabbages. Tomato is the most mature of the projects. This has come out of work by Bob Gilbertson with the no-host period. “We are expanding that in Mali,” Mullins said. There is a major emphasis in Ghana. The folks in Ghana have a flyer they’ve developed on tomato. Mullins said they are trying to find an economical way to print these. They are working with the Institut d’Economie Rurale in Mali, working on constructing a building. For this reason, Mullins said, his group has been in the wings there. “They’re working on getting the electrical and plumbing working there.” So this has been a bump in the road.

Another thing is that they did have Issa [SIDIBE?] to work regionally to identify diseases, but he has now moved on. “We now need to train someone in West Africa who can help us [as he did].” There are two students that Mullins’ group is training. One is at the University of Bamako. Another is at the University of Dakar.

As far as activities: In Ghana, they are [WHAT?]. Sally Miller, Carlyle Brewster, Bob Gilbertson?[AND WHO ELSE? I MISSED IT] visited several sites in Ghana. They were excited about the diseases they found.

They have also had several associate awards. “We want to use resources effectively and synergistically,” Mullins said. “We have Issa Sidibe here. We are taking known information and planning for its delivery.” They are taking what they have, moving it into practice and seeing the results, he said.

Muniappan noted that the papaya mealybug has shown up in Ghana also.

12. East Africa – Mark Erbaugh

As Mark Erbaugh was not at the meeting, no one was present to speak for East Africa.

13. Latin America and the Caribbean – Jeff Alwang

Jeff Alwang reported on progress in Latin America and the Caribbean. Countries in this project include Ecuador and Honduras (so-called “mature countries”); and Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. The focus here, Alwang said, is on tomatoes, peppers, cucurbits, and some other crops. In Ecuador, they are working with Andean fruit and trying to push packages, but they haven’t been very successful. In Honduras, they are working on an onion package. “Every diagnostic we do,” Alwang said, “we come up with additional problems.” This makes it hard to focus on a package. They will have an annual meeting in the Dominican Republic in early May.

Another thing that Alwang said he has been focusing on is recruiting in U.S. universities for graduate studies. He currently has a student from Penn State, and hopes to have a master’s

degree student here in the fall. A student from Guatemala is studying with Judy Brown in Arizona. And, Alwang reported, they are also supporting undergraduate students.

In conclusion, Alwang said, he would like to make Muniappan an honorable member of the Latin American team so they can get some credit! [For the papaya mealybug discovery!]

De Datta asked for clarification in helping him understand how transportation is relevant. Alwang responded that unless you consider all the cost factors, you can't develop an effective program.

14. PERSUAPs in the Current Phase – Larry Vaughan

Larry Vaughan gave an update on PERSUAPs and our need to do them. Vaughan noted that Bob Hedlund told us about a year or so ago that the new programs require new considerations. The programs are changing. "There may be new products that you may need to consider. We need to know from host country collaborators how they're going to be used."

Vaughan also introduced Amer Fayad, Assistant Program Director of the IPM CRSP. Today is his first day! Vaughan said that one thing on Fayad's list will be working with the co-PIs.

Vaughan noted that the Latin America and Caribbean IEE would be a good one to start with. Vaughan said that when he gets back from his trip at the end of March, he'll try to start on this. For the rest of the PIs, he said, please review your IEEs and try to get started on them.

15. Other Business – Muni Muniappan

TNAU workshop on July 10-16, 2011

Muniappan reviewed workplans and upcoming meetings. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is already planning a workshop on *Trichoderma* on July 10-16, 2011. Regional projects are encouraged to send participants. Muniappan encouraged regional participants to send people, and said he would send out the information.

Cardwell asked if there would there be assistance for others who are not in the IPM CRSP to attend. She knows someone in Nigeria who would be interested in coming. Muniappan responded that as long as the funding is provided from some other agency, that would be fine. They want to limit participants to 15 people.

TC meeting in Honolulu in conjunction with IAPPS conference

The next TC meeting will be on Aug. 6th, 2011 in Honolulu. It will be Saturday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. This meeting is to be held in association with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and International Association for Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) joint meeting. There will be a symposium on IPM for Feed the Future that same evening, from 5:30 – 8:30 P.M. Representatives from CGIAR centers, USAID missions, and etc. have been identified and invited. In addition to this, IPM CRSP will be supporting four more symposia. They are: IPM packages, microbial control of insects, and two more on viral diseases of plants.

Registration is currently open. Early registration is \$455. If you become a member of IAPPS you save \$30.00. Submission of titles and abstracts will be closed on Mar. 15th.

De Datta suggested sending out information to all PIs so that all the PIs can stay at the same place. Muniappan agreed to do so.

The next International Symposium on IPM is in Memphis, Tennessee on Mar. 27-29, 2012.

CRSP council meeting in Uganda

De Datta asked what the purpose of the CRSP council meeting in Uganda was. Vaughan said it is to showcase CRSP work and increase mission interest in using CRSPs to address Feed the Future Initiative objectives. Uganda was chosen because it is a Feed the Future country and has the most CRSPs working in it. De Datta asked about the cost/benefit of this and why we have to bear this cost. Rea said that there is only one CRSP that does not operate in Uganda. This is an opportunity to try to get mission people from East Africa to participate in this meeting. If the meeting is held in Uganda, the number of AOTRs who come from Washington would be limited.

Workplans, Semi-Annual Reports, Travel Matrix

Muniappan spoke about workplans and the USAID requirements on indicators. He said he would like to propose to the PIs to get this indicator information sometime in September so that the ME can get this to USAID in time.

Regarding semi-annual reports—they are due on April 15 from the PIs. The annual workplan and budget are due on Aug. 1st. The travel matrix is due on July 1st. Muniappan said he would send out a memo on all of this. Tolin asked if the travel matrix and annual workplan are due at same time. Muniappan said yes, but that he would change that.

Cardwell noted that the IPM CRSP is a real important portfolio with a lot of activity. “It seems like it’s a good group of activities,” she said. “I look forward to seeing how the symposium is.” Cardwell said she hopes she can go to Hawaii, but noted that they are supposed to have their budgets cut by 20% in the USDA.

Muniappan asked if there were general questions. There were none.

16. Comments from USAID – Harry Rea

The New Bureau for Food Security

Rea gave a brief overview of what is happening at USAID. They now have the new Bureau for Food Security. There are three different offices. One of the offices is the home of all of the CRSPs. It probably does not have much of an impact on all of the IPM CRSP activities. “Hopefully, some of our new staff will take over some of my responsibilities,” Rea said, “but not so much will change. We do have a Feed the Future strategy.” A revision of this document will be circulated. This will be shared more widely. Rea said he expects more public unveiling of the research strategy, possibly in conjunction with the World Food Prize, which is awarded in October.

Budget

Rea addressed a big question for everyone this time of year: the budget. “We don’t know,” he said. “There’s no CRSP earmark this year. But I would hope the Agency would see fit to meet our obligations to each of the CRSPs, and give the \$3 million to each CRSP that they get every year.” Rea said he does know that the budget won’t be as large as what they had thought it would be. But they don’t know what it will look like.

Muniappan asked Rea to confirm that the Feed the Future strategy is only 8% of the funds. Rea said this is correct. Muniappan asked where this 8% will go. Rea said that most of it takes the form of support to CG centers and the CRSPs. There’s been some talk of putting a tax on the missions and having them support research. But he thinks the Administrator backed off from that.

Rea continued, noting that if the missions don’t make an adequate case regarding appropriate research, then we [the CRSPs] need to do that. There’s been a general upsurge in interest in agriculture and nutrition. So that’s a positive thing. “But we were overly optimistic a few months back in thinking how much we would get,” he said.

Issue of Fintrac working with the IPM CRSP in Cambodia

The issue and some of the challenges of working with Fintrac in Cambodia were discussed. Tolin noted that the IPM CRSP has had some experience working with Fintrac in Honduras.

17. Closing Remarks – SK De Datta

De Datta opened his closing remarks by saying that he was very pleased with the presentations of each one of the presenters. For the next time, he advised that each PI send in advance half a dozen bulletized points, which the ME can circulate. That will help him and everyone get the maximum benefit from these Technical Committee meetings. The ME will then put these on the website as well.

For the past 10 years, De Datta said he has been saying that good land is being converted to highrises. For this reason, we are going to have a food crisis. The Economist says it is here. It’s not looming, it’s here. The IPM CRSP has a role to play. We will show that we are playing an important role.

De Datta reported on the progress in finding a replacement for Debbie Francis, noting that the ME is interviewing the first person this afternoon, and another one tomorrow. There should be a replacement for Debbie within a couple of weeks.

De Datta again welcomed Amer Fayad.

Finally, De Datta noted, he doesn’t think we should wait to introduce the natural enemy to Ethiopia. “Let’s not hold up a successful technology,” he said. Muniappan noted that with the papaya mealybug, USAID funds were not even used.

Norton asked that if anyone has issues, to please be sure to e-mail himself, Muniappan, De Datta or Vaughan, and we'll be happy to respond. "Thank you for attending. I appreciate it, and I look forward to seeing you all in Hawaii," he said.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.