

## IPM CRSP Trip Report

**Country Visited:** Ethiopia

**Dates of Travel:** December 15-22, 2015

**Traveler's Name and Affiliation:** Maria Elisa Christie, Virginia Tech  
Co-PI Parthenium Project

**Purpose of Trip:** Participate in regional workshop to launch current phase of Parthenium project. Make gender presentation to team at workshop. Lead discussion (and provide handouts) on participation of women in parthenium management, challenges and opportunities, and way forward. Meet gender counterpart. Visit Haramaya University and present at Ambo University. Determine potential programs at Haramaya from which to recruit graduate students.

**Sites Visited:** (*locations within countries: institutions, cities, villages, or regions*)

Haramaya University

Samrat hotel in Dire Dawa for workshop

### **Description of activities and observations:**

Kickoff workshop: Gender presentation was well received. There were several follow-up questions regarding 1) the need to have women interview women; 2) in relation to this, the possible bias introduced if different person interviews the man and the woman in a household; 3) is qualitative research a science or an art?

Visit to Haramaya University to see rearing of *Zygogramma*, parthenium plants and experiments.

Discussion with Emebet and Dr. Lisanework Nigatu (country coordinator for project) about supporting and advising graduate student to do gender research regarding parthenium.

Also discuss with Emebet the gender office at Makerere in Uganda. She says it is much bigger and more resourced. I suggest she find funds (RUFORUM?) to visit and learn what she can apply at Haramaya. This

kind of scaling up and institutional capacity building should be fundable. I also follow up sending her information from Virginia Tech's InclusiveVT and write Dean of Graduate School Karen DePauw to request information to send her on how Virginia Tech addresses disabilities and also for her syllabus on the class she teaches on the topic.

Presentation at Ambo University (cancelled due to student unrest and resistance to central government actions)

Observations:

Both Wondi and Lorraine report women are more sensitive to health impacts from Parthenium than men (greater allergic reaction)—making health an even more gendered research area---not just because women are more exposed due to their role in weeding parthenium and in caring for the sick. They are also responsible for caring for sick animals. Allergies take 20-30 years to build up so impacts will not be immediately obvious in some cases.

Great to have a local gender presentation after mine to show local data and local expertise and support for gender research (addresses head on the assumption that gender is a Western notion imposed on developing country and being a sort of cultural imperialism). Emebet reports that women are not allowed to milk the cattle. Can sell chicken and eggs only if small amounts. They care for the sick animals. Mentions importance of household garden to women. Says women in Ethiopia work 13-17 hours a day, often twice as much as men, including work inside the house (study by Women's Affairs Office, Ministry of Agriculture). Also says women cannot go far from home and thus have less access to information where there is not cell phone or Internet access. Now Ethiopia has many women extension agents. See her excellent presentation. Also, that women are involved in preparing/clearing the land but while men use ox women use hand tools and do the leveling and picking of unwanted materials. We discuss possible programs from which to draw grad students for gender research: Rural Development, and Gender and Development. Asks if I want student in social science---YES. Says G and D is in the College of Social Science and Humanities. Rural Development is in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science: students there do an exercise in ethnographic research—one day in the field at a village and one paper reporting on that. Her chief concern is what will we contribute to communities? This is an obstacle to doing the social science research if we have no way of benefitting the community. (MEC: if the project is engaging communities who voluntarily are participating in project and are clear on potential benefits of managing and eradicating parthenium, this should open doors (or a relationship to build on) to working in these sites---which are where we should do the gender research anyway.). MEC spoke with Wondi and proposes next step be MEC travel and spend time (1-2 weeks) in the field with local potential student recruits and faculty to do initial gender research and train on qualitative research methods and gender. He suggests doing this in October. (MEC—remember to get IRB approval before this.) There was no time for MEC to visit those departments during visit to Haramaya but Lisanework promises to send curriculum and other types of information. (MEC: try to get theses to see quality of writing, methods used and analysis too.)

Dr. Baruch Rubin, weed and agronomy scientist from Hebrew University tells me and shows me slides about how the poorest and most marginalized groups all over the world are the ones in charge of weeding, from Palestinian women and children in Israel to immigrants in Canada and US. Says chemicals can be used and should be used to reduce their labor. Also stresses need to consider the impact and participation of children—who do not go to school but are weeding instead.

Arne proposes doing simple experiments to test different taste of milk and honey from affected regions to scientifically support the statement farmers make that an impact of parthenium is that it gives it poor taste and lessens its value. He suggests for instance collecting samples from different regions and doing blind testing. (MEC: follow up). Muni says we can test components and find chemical differences (LAB); that is a good area to study. Other African researcher says hard to do—no control group—how many cattle will we need; people don't eat cattle that eat parthenium? Other African researcher says this should be a separate (and good) study, with experimental design.

Arne says cattle and sheep love to eat it and have no visible consequences. Says pastoralists/farmers in Arusha say before parthenium animals had nothing to eat and now they have food to graze. (MEC: looks like discriminated group in this project could be pastoralists.)

Muni stresses the need for impact assessment. No discussion (or budget) for this. Later, Wondi says plan to use existing government data for this.

Emebet asks about how gender is in this project and not only in Ethiopia but other countries involved.

Arne suggests similar survey about gender be applied in three countries. (No survey planned.)

Note: several presenters (from Israel and Tanzania) say parthenium seeds came in on food aid (wheat) provided by USAID. In the case of NW Tanzania, farmers say seeds came in sacks of grain from USAID destined for refugees, coming across the Uganda border.

Note: very bad quality of projector make all presentations hard to see.

Note: semi-annual reports due at end of April and annual reports due end of October.

We were all given a small publication with facts and figures (2013/2014) for Haramaya University. Very useful. All data is sex-disaggregated. Shows big gender gap in most fields. For ex: the undergraduate class in Ag and Env't Sciences had 1116 men and 331 women. In Gender and Development the numbers were almost equal, with 97 men to 91 women. Also noteworthy is that in most departments the majority of the faculty are lecturers and not Assistant, Associate or full Professors. However, the book also shows that the university has access to many databases (including JSTOR, SAGE, Taylor and Francis, and Springer e-Journals) that allow students to obtain relevant literature.

Muo Kasina from KALRO (below) says he has Hort IL funding for \$2000 for 2-3 months fieldwork in Kenya that can be used by US student. Also says women do all the work in Kenya and have left men with nothing to do so they are drinking, doing drugs, and being beaten by women, who often cut off their private parts !!) Arne disagrees.

## Training Activities Conducted

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Presentation at kickoff workshop	12/16	Parthenium regional team and honorary guest	20 men scientists and dignitaries ; 3 women researche rs  + 2 women (financial and communic ations) from ME	23	ME Christie, US University	Raise awareness of gender in agriculture and IPM; present gender analysis framework and methodology (Gender Dimensions Framework and qualitative methods) ; propose gender research areas for Parthenium.

### Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

Birru Yitaferu from Ahmara research institute says socio-economic, Gender, and extension is an area of his institute.

Find gender research and three gender theses Wondi referred to. Have not found these in my reading of annual reports from last ten years.

Get Arne's survey results.

Is there a survey in the workplan and budget? If so, for what countries and when? If so, include same gender questions in three countries.

Get IRB information from Haramaya; in future, have students and advisors do training on VT website for certification before undertaking research with human subjects

### List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)

Emebet Belete Negatu	Director for Gender, HIV/AIDS, and Special Needs Issues  Haramaya University	<a href="mailto:Enegatu2010@gmail.com">Enegatu2010@gmail.com</a>  0911961899
Arne Witt	Regional Coordinator, IAS  CABI	+254- (0)20 2271000/20  <a href="mailto:a.witt@cabi.org">a.witt@cabi.org</a>  see card
Lorraine Strathie	Biological Control of Weeds  ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute	<a href="mailto:StrathieL@arc.agric.za">StrathieL@arc.agric.za</a>  Hilton, South Africa  Tel: +27 (0) 33 355 9421  <a href="http://www.arc-ppri.agric.za">http://www.arc-ppri.agric.za</a>
Dr. Baruch Rubin	Professor Emeritus, Weed Science and Agronomy  Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel	<a href="mailto:rubin@mail.huij.ac.il">rubin@mail.huij.ac.il</a>  See card
Dennis Treacy	Virginia Tech Board of Visitors  Chair of Research Committee  Executive Vice President and Chief Sustainability Office, Smithfield Foods, Inc.	<a href="mailto:dennistreacy@smithfieldfoods.com">dennistreacy@smithfieldfoods.com</a>  see card
Muo Kasina	KALRO (Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization, includes KARI now transformed and including two commodity orgs)	<a href="mailto:Muo.Kasina@kalro.org">Muo.Kasina@kalro.org</a>
Emebet Belete Negatu	Director for Gender, HIV/AIDS and Special Needs Issues  Haramaya University	<a href="mailto:Enegatu2010@gmail.com">Enegatu2010@gmail.com</a>  Tel: 0911961899
Samora Macrice, PhD	Sokoine Univ of Agriculture	PO Box 3010 Morogoro

<p>Plant ecologist</p> <p>Invasive Biology and Management</p>		<p>Tanzania</p> <p><a href="mailto:smacrice@yahoo.com">smacrice@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:smacrice@suanet(?) .ac.tz">smacrice@suanet(?) .ac.tz</a></p>
<p>Lisanework Nigatu (Dr) PhD</p>	<p>Assoc. Prof. of Production Ecology School of Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Haramaya University,</p> <p>ALSO Coordinator of Graduate Program for School of NRM and ES</p>	<p>P.O.Box 138, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia</p> <p>Tel: +251-25-5530026, Fax: +251-25-5530325/31, Mobile: +251-910-105100</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:lisaneworkn@yahoo.com">lisaneworkn@yahoo.com</a> Skype: <i>lisaneworkn1</i></p>
<p>Nexus Hotel</p>	<p>Addis Ababa</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nexusaddis.com">http://www.nexusaddis.com</a></p> <p>(251) 116-670067</p>
<p>Samrat Hotel</p>	<p>Dire Dawa</p>	<p><a href="http://www.samrathoteldire.com">www.samrathoteldire.com</a></p> <p>(251) 25-113-0600</p>