

IPM Innovation Lab Trip Report

Name of the traveler: R. Muniappan, Director, IPM IL, Virginia Tech

Country Visited: Egypt

Duration of travel: October 17-23, 2015

Sites Visited: Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt

Description

October 17: Left Blacksburg on 17th afternoon and reached Cairo on 18th afternoon. In the evening, I met with Dr. Shoki Al-Dobai, FAO Regional Plant Protection Officer for North Africa and Near East.

October 19: At 8.00 am, Dr. Al-Dobai picked me at the Safir hotel and we traveled to Pyramisa hotel, venue of the 4th International Conference of Eco-friendly Applied Biological Control of Agricultural Pests and Phtopathogens. At 12.30 pm, I presented my keynote speech entitled, “IPM Packages for Tropical Vegetable Crops”. Later I attended various presentations in the conference.

October 20: At 7.30 am, Dr. Al-Dobai picked me at the Safir hotel and we traveled to FAO Regional Office. At 9.00 am, I gave a presentation entitled, “IPM Innovation Lab Programs in the Tropical World” to the administrators and scientists. Later I had discussions with Dr. Pasquale Steduto, Deputy Regional Representative, Dr. Alfredo Impiglia, and Dr. Shoki Al-Dobai, Regional Plant Protection Officer and discussed possible future collaborative activities with IPM Innovation Lab.

In the afternoon, I attended presentations in the conference.

October 21: Participated in the field trip to Alexandria arranged by the organizers of the conference.

October 22: At 11.30 am, I conducted the *Tuta absoluta* workshop with Drs. Shoki al-dobai and Ahmed el-Heneidy. There were over sixty participants in the workshop. The workshop came up with following recommendations.

- Establish a national network involving Scientists, Extension agents, NGOs, Private industries, and farmers.
- Establish a regional network for the Near East, North Africa, and Mediterranean.
- Regularly communicate with the *Tuta absoluta* Global Working Group established under IAPPS.
- Publish a *Tuta absoluta* News Letter (for Global program).
- Develop a database of *Tuta absoluta* natural enemies in Egypt and the region.
- Get all specimens (natural enemies collected) identified/confirmed by a specialist.
- Consider organizing an International Workshop on *Tuta absoluta* in Egypt in association with the Arab Society for Plant Protection meeting in November, 2017.

At 3.30 pm, I met with Dr. Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director General & Regional Representative and explained various activities of the IPM Innovation Lab. Later we discussed about possible future collaboration between FAO Regional Office and IPM Innovation Lab.

August 29: Left Cairo at 3.30 am on October 23rd and reached Blacksburg at mid-night.