

## IPM IL Trip Report

**Country Visited:** Bangladesh, Nepal

**Dates of Travel:** April 5 – 15, 2015

**Travelers' Names and Affiliations:** George Norton, Virginia Tech

**Purpose of Trip:** 1) Meet with and advise PhD students working on IPM IL in Bangladesh and Nepal, 2) meet with IPM IL site coordinators in each country to review progress and transition to new phase, 3) discuss progress on impact assessment work and plan for upcoming impact assessment surveys, 3) meet with CIP to discuss progress on associate award in Bangladesh, 4) meet with mission-supported value chain projects that are complementing the IPM IL with technology transfer.

**Sites Visited:** Dhaka, Kathmandu

### Description of Activities/Observations:

April 5: Left Blacksburg and flew to Dhaka, arriving at noon April 7.

April 7: Met with Yousuf Mian. We discussed payment to PhD student Sadique Rahman. He says there is no money left in account and needs an advance to pay Sadique. He also has a problem that his accountant is only hired until June. He says it is getting harder in general to get scientists to work on the IPM IL because they have many projects that pay them one month of salary as an incentive and only IPM IL project does not. The Government now is giving more projects and each one gives an incentive so if they work on IPM IL their salary actually goes down compared to what they would be paid by the government. Allowances have all gone up and we should consider that in the new phase of the project. We talked about the survey this summer to be conducted by Sadique Rahman and Farhanaz Sharmin.

I then met with Bangladesh graduate student Sadique for a couple of hours. We discussed where he is at with his dissertation and the need to come to Virginia Tech for a semester starting in January for 4 months to take two courses and receive instruction on methods for his dissertation. I am hopeful there will be a no-cost extension on the CIP award to pay for it, but if not it will have to come out of the new sub-award, regardless of who gets it.

April 8: I met with DAI Acting COP Chuck May and Deputy COP Bani Amin. They were extremely supportive of working together on the next phase (I told them it might be our group or it might be another group that wins it). They said that IPM is very important for the Agricultural Value Chain project and hope we can help them even on other crops that are important to their project, implying they might try to

find a way to support it. They had prepared for the meeting by reading up on the crops and technologies of the IPM IL on our web site. I discussed the past and current IPM IL work, including the impact assessment part. They said they have an officer in Barisal and another in Jessore that might be able to help. I will also send them some articles. Chuck May sent a follow-up letter stating the interest in working with the IPM IL.

I then met with Ms S. Begum, Shahadat Hossain and several others at CIP. I discussed where are at with the RCT impact assessment on the associate award and the new RFP for an Asian Vegetable sub-award. Dr. Begum says that CIP has applied for a new project and also hopes to have a no-cost extension as USAID did not release the current year funds until just recently. Without one, it ends in September.

I met all afternoon with Sadique Rahman to discuss methods for his dissertation and logistics for the survey he will lead this summer. He has taken a 3 year leave from his University position and has really jumped into his dissertation.

April 9: I met all day with Sadique Rahman, going into details on his methods for each objective. We discussed the topic he is adding to the survey to satisfy his co-adviser at Bangladesh Agricultural University. We discussed his thesis proposal, his thesis outline, his use of electronic tablets for data collection, and the timeline for his dissertation.

I had dinner with Ahsanuzzaman, former PhD student on the IPM IL who is now back in Bangladesh and teaching a heavy load at North-South University. He says he would like to work with us on the next phase even if we cannot pay him. He is very appreciative of getting his PhD on the IPM IL. He also said he would be happy to assist with Sadique Rahman.

April 10: I flew from Dhaka to Kathmandu, Nepal and was met at the airport by IDE.

April 11: I met all day with graduate student Arjun Khanel about his dissertation on the IPM IL. We discussed in detail the 3 objectives for the dissertation, the surveys needed, and the plan to have him come to Virginia Tech for 4 months in January to take 2 courses and study his research methods. We discussed the methods but Arjun is not as far along as Sadique in understanding the methods. Arjun needs to give an invoice to IDE so he can get paid. There was ambiguity on his stipend amount that I need to discuss with Zara. We laid out an outline and timeline for his dissertation.

April 12 (Sunday): I worked in my hotel room

April 13: I met with Luke Colavito, Director of IDE Nepal and coordinator of IPM IL in Nepal. He gave me details about all the activities that IDE is involved in that uses

the IPM IL results. He has a new \$14 million Food for Peace project that is aimed at 175,000 households in the Feed the Future districts and IPM is a major focus. IDE has several smaller but still sizable projects that make use of IPM results. IDE Nepal has a proposal in under the India Partnership program to develop the Horticulture subsector and IPM is prominent (50,000 households in FtF zone). The focus is to improve the input supply chain to farmers in Nepal. We discussed the mission associate award, which runs through Feb 2016. We discussed the work with KISAN on the associate award. We discussed the methods being used for the impact assessment work, including the work of Arjun. We discussed the new sub-award RFP under the IPM IL. He discussed strategies for working with NARC as they now have a policy to work with projects that bring them \$200,000 or more in funding.

After lunch, I met with Arjun and again and with Sulav Paudel whose is providing leadership to the IPM work in Nepal for IDE. Sulav received a master's degree on the IPM IL and would like to obtain his PhD on the next phase at Penn State. He said the IPM is collaborating with the Hort IL in some districts.

April 14: Left Nepal to travel back to the States

April 15: Arrived back in Blacksburg.

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

Items for follow-up:

- 1) Need money in BARI account to pay Sadique
- 2) Discuss with Muni the need for accountant fir Yousuf after June
- 3) Discuss with Zara the need to clarify the payment to Arjun

### **List of Contacts Made:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Info (address, phone, email)</b>
Chuck May	DAI Bangladesh	
Bani Amin	DAI Nepal	
S. Begun	CIP-Bangadesh	
Luke Colavito	iDE, Nepal	
Yousuf Mian	IPM IL Bangladesh	