

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee Annual Meeting - August 5, 2015

Attendees:

- **Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff**, Professor and Department Head (Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University)
- **Dr. Buyung Hadi**, Scientist (Entomology, Crop and Environmental Sciences Division, International Rice Research Institute)
- **Dr. R. Muniappan**, Director (Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management, Virginia Tech)
- **Dr. Amer Fayad**, Associate Director (Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management, Virginia Tech)
- **Ms. Zara Shortt**, Financial Coordinator (Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management, Virginia Tech)

Meeting Location: Santa Rosa Room, Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, CA. This meeting was scheduled in Pasadena to coincide with the American Phytopathological Society annual meeting.

Time: 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Muni Muniappan, meeting chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting participants to introduce themselves. He gave an overview and background information on the IPM CRSP/IPM Innovation Lab, which has been managed by Virginia Tech since 1993:

- Background on four previous phases (1993-2014).
- Background information on the RFA for IPM Innovation Lab, different countries included, timeline for awards, and RFA concept notes.
- Discussion: Burma was originally part of the RFA for Rice but was later dropped because Burma's USAID mission did not support this project.
- Discussion: Current phase (2014-19) with information on projects and sub-grants awarded.
- Discussion: Approval process for subawards (management entity must organize a review process with TAC and AOR for all RFAs concept notes and full proposals, making sure these documents reflect the respective USAID mission priorities and reviews. This has delayed the process of selecting the subawardees and thus, executing the subawards.
- Discussion: Importance of AOR facilitating/attending meeting with the USAID missions, since they are more responsive if AOR is involved.
- Emphasis on the importance of holding the face-to-face annual TAC meeting in addition to conference calls.
- Muni mentioned the name and professional background of TAC members not in attendance.

Participants discussed specific RFAs/subawards:

- *Parthenium* subaward – Background information on work led by Virginia State University during the previous phase, the release of biocontrol agents for control of this weed, and the current status of IPM program.
- Modeling for biodiversity climate change subaward – Discussion of location in RFA and implementation in Nepal, since there is a large geographical range; background of PI at City College New York and his previous work with Livestock Innovation Lab, as it relates to this current project.
- Vietnam Fruit Crops IPM subaward – Discussion of the two institutions selected to collaborate together on the project. SOFRI proposal is being considered since the other institution decided to drop out. The USAID mission in Vietnam and the AOR were heavily involved in reviewing and recommending changes to the full proposal. This was very helpful but did significantly delay the timeline for awarding this subgrant.
- Modeling invasive species subaward – Background information on why this theme is still in the concept note stage. This area is highly technical, and TAC members have no expertise in modeling. The management entity sought additional reviewers on ad hoc basis.
- Vegetable crops and mango subaward – Based on TAC reviews and AOR recommendations, Virginia Tech has been selected to lead this project. The AOR requested that the full proposal be reviewed by the respective missions before the project is officially awarded.
- Cambodia Rice subaward – Two institutions including IRRI have been asked to submit full proposals (following reviews and recommendations by the TAC and AOR). A discussion followed, regarding Buyung Hadi's plans to excuse himself from reviewing these concept notes/full proposal. He is leading the IRRI proposal.
- Group discussion – Positive and negative aspects of combining public and private industry in these current concept notes.

Additional discussions related to RFAs/subawards

- Because IRRI is a partner in one of the submissions, Buyung Hadi will not review the Africa Grains concept notes/full proposals.
- Discussion of background information on BIFAD board and the IPM Innovation Lab's interest in inviting one board member to attend the *Parthenium* kickoff meeting in Ethiopia (December 2015).
- Discussion on IPM Innovation Lab's interest in inviting one member from the Virginia Tech board of visitors to attend the *Parthenium* meeting and the importance of maintaining Virginia Tech leadership and community involvement.

Amer Fayad reviewed the emphasis on developing, testing, adapting, and adopting IPM components and packages:

- The focus on crops, IPM components, and IPM packages and their evolution over the various phases of IPM CRSP/IPM IL.

- IPM approach in the previous phase of the program, the regional projects, the cross-cutting global theme projects, and the technology dissemination regionally and globally.
 - In the current phase, there will not be regional projects; however, there is a regional manager for Africa projects and a regional manager for Asia projects.
- The focus on short-term and long-term training, a major requirement for HICD.
 - IPM IL has maintained an excellent record in this respect. Almost 50% of long-term trainees have been women, and a large proportion of short-term trainees are also women.
 - Lawrence Datnoff inquired about the nature of training that the IPM IL conducted/will conduct, and Fayad listed/discussed the different types.
 - Reviewed requirements for long-term training.
- Fayad reviewed the FTFMS indicators required for submission each year and emphasized the importance of segregated data.
- Muniappan talked about the recent workshops conducted in Tanzania.
 - Open discussion of *Trichoderma*, including its use, benefits, and adoption as an IPM component.
 - Buyung Hadi brought up the topic of legislation hindering the production and sale of *Trichoderma*.
- Muniappan led a discussion on IPM package for tomato and the status of IPM packages for other high value vegetable crops.
- Fayad led a discussion on the upcoming IPM portal for subaward management and open access data and reporting requirements.
- Zara Shortt discussed the TraiNet system as it relates to foreign nationals sponsored for training by the IPM Innovation Lab and its subawardees. Zara highlighted some points on the budget.
- Muni discussed the role of the Technical Advisory Committee. Once the projects are awarded, the TAC members will review semiannual reports and annual workplans and present recommendations. The management entity will arrange TAC member visits to field sites to review the progress of the projects. Different TAC members will visit different sites. Field site visits could be planned for the 3rd year of the project, as the reviews will be valuable in assessing the progress of the project and recommending changes and improvements.
- Muniappan discussed the key personnel of the current phase, identifying the Africa and Asia regional managers and explaining their professional backgrounds.
- Fayad explained the role of the Program Coordinating Committee for this current phase. He also explained the new data management requirement from USAID. Following these points, was an in-depth open discussion about the upcoming data management plan that is due at the end of August 2015.

- Muniappan discussed the need to have a conference call to elect a chair. This will be the next course of action.
- Meeting was adjourned.