

Trip Report

Country Visited: Malaysia

Dates of Travel: September 24 -28th, 2018

Traveler Name: Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa, Southern Horticultural Research Institute (SOFRI), Vietnam.

Purpose of Trip (TROPED 2018 / C-143-1): Oral presenter on “Abundance of mesofauna on mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) ecosystem in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India” at the International conference on Tropical Fruit Pests and Diseases (TROPED) 2018.

Sites Visited: Le Méridien Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia and field trip to Kundasang Vegetable and fruit market; Ranau Fruit Farms; Desa Dairy Farm

Description of Activities/Observations:

September 24th: Traveled from Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) then to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (Malaysia) by Malaysia Airlines and checked into the hotel

September 25th:

In the morning:

-Registration

- Session 1: New and Emerging Tropical Fruits Pests and Diseases

This session focused on insect pests affecting production and trade. For example, seed weevil of avocado (*Conotrachelus perseae*) and mango (*Sternochetus* spp.) and fruit flies (*Anastrepha* spp. and *Bactrocera* spp.). Important threats on banana include tropical race 4 of fusarium wilt. Seca and sudden wilt, caused by *Ceratocystis* spp. bacterial black spot, caused by *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae* and malformation caused by *Fusarium* spp.; Plant nematode interaction in the quest of finding natural resistance sources in local banana cultivars; To show the influence of rainfall, temperature and relative humidity on the incidence of papaya dieback between two region i.e Keningau and Tenom.

Presented a paper of “Abundance of mesofauna on mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) ecosystem in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.”

In the afternoon:

- Session 2: Advances in Biotechnology Research on Tropical Fruit Pests and Diseases

This session focused on molecular biology methods including PCR and ELISA are applied to detect pathogen and diagnose diseases caused by plant pathogenic fungi, bacteria and viruses infected banana, papaya, pineapple and mango

- Session 3: Challenges and Opportunities in Biosecurity and Quarantine

This session focused on major tropical fruit producing countries in Southeast Asia. Malaysia strengthened and improved some crucial aspects along the production chains. Emphasis is given at the farm, where planting, pest and disease management and harvesting are involved. In addition, Department of Agricultural Malaysia, through its extension and advisory services, is highlighting the importance of certifications such as myGAP, GMP, GHP to farmers and exporters.

- Opening ceremony

September 26th:

In the morning:

- Session 4: Plant Health, Soil Nutrition and Disease-free Planting Materials

This session focused on the impact of tri-trophic interactions with elevated CO₂ are expected to be negative and consequently will threaten food and nutritional security in tropical agricultural regions; Pruning on dragon fruit crop to increase number of flower formation and stimulating the number of effective cladodes; Chemicals with the main active ingredient of difenoconazole showed obvious effect in control of citrus black spot disease; The population fluctuation of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* associated with mango was low during the rainy season with a sudden increase in early dry season during flush stage.

- Session 5: Advances in Biological Control Methods

This session focused on the predatory mite *A. swirskii* as a biological control agent for banana thrips in different geographies i.e Vietnam and Ecuador; Potential use of Entomopathogenic nematodes in the control fruit flies.

- Session 6: Developments in Plant Protection: Emerging Trends and Capacity Requirements

This session focused on the lemongrass oil has the potential to reduce anthracnose disease severity on banana; Application of silicon in controlling fungal disease can help to reduce the side effect of chemical fungicide on farmer's health, ecosystem and environment while improve the quality and food safety of dragon fruit.

In the afternoon:

- Panel discussion: Recommendations for Sustainable Solutions in Management of Tropical Fruit Pest and Diseases
- Side event: Presentation on the Plantwise approach: Strengthening the National Plant Health Systems
- Closing Ceremony:
 - + Presentation of Best poster Award
 - + Closing Message – International Tropical Fruit Network

September 27th: Field trip

In the morning:

- Departed from Le Meridien Hotel
- Mount Kinabalu Lookout
- Kundasang Vegetable and Fruit Market
 - Found some national fruit such as: Jack fruit, pulasan, custard apple, durian...
- Ranau Fruit Farms

In the afternoon:

- Visited Desa Dairy Farm
- Returned to Hotel

September 28th: Traveled back to HCMC, Vietnam

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