IPM CRSP Trip Report

**Country Visited:** India, Bangladesh and Nepal

**Dates of Travel:** June 29 – July 15, 2008

**Travelers’ Names and Affiliations:** R. Muniappan, and G. Norton, Virginia Tech; E. Rajotte and M. Barbercheck, Penn State; and S. Miller, Ohio State.

**Purpose of Trip:** Review the IPM IL South Asia program in India, Bangladesh and Nepal

**Sites Visited:**
- India – New Delhi and Harpur
- Bangladesh – Dhaka, Joydebpur, and Jessore
- Nepal – Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, Surkhet and Banke

**Description of Activities/Observations:**

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4 Feb-
- Norton, Barbercheck, Miller, Rajotte arrived in New Delhi, India

5 Feb-
- Field trip to Harpur area to attend IPM IL farmers’ ceremony and information session. Visited field plots. Farmers in the area are moving to tomato seedling production in plastic trays in artificial media, including cocopeat (= coconut dust or coconut coir). During the information session, a puppet show that included IPM was presented to the children and others present.
- Muniappan arrived.

6 Feb-
- Attended IPM IL South Asia regional meeting hosted by TERI (Nutan Kaushik)
- Muniappan opened the meeting with an overview of the IPM IL activities and focus on development and dissemination of IPM packages for vegetable crops in South Asia, and identification and management of invasive insect pests. Opportunities and successes with commercialization of IPM technology, and upcoming workshops were discussed.
- Rajotte presented updates on research on management of insect pests, including plant pathogen vectors, via IPM technologies, including semiochemicals and allelochemicals.
- Barbercheck described research in organic systems, focusing on reduced tillage, cover crops, soil quality and predator conservation.
Miller presented a summary of Year 4 IPDN activities in South Asia and Year 5 goals. Muniappan suggested that IPDN utilize PestNet since adoption of DDIS-CIMS has been weak among IPDN participants.

Norton described the impact assessment activities in South Asia. Swapan Kumar Gosh (BCRL) summarized IPM IL funded work at BCRL on development and promotion of an IPM Package for onion, with thrips as a major priority.

Shahadeth Hussein presented a summary of Year 4 and 5 activities in Bangladesh. BARI has replaced Solanum sissymbriifolium (Ss) with Solanum melongena EG203 (AVRDC) as rootstock for eggplant and tomato due to failure of Ss against bacterial wilt (Ralstonia solanacearum) in several locations. Eg203 is resistant to bacterial wilt, Fusarium wilt and root knot nematode, and tolerates waterlogging (http://203.64.245.61/fulltext_pdf/EB/2011-2015/eb0205.pdf). S. torvum is not resistant to root knot nematode. S. indicum has been collected in Nepal but not yet tested.

S. Mohankumar and G. Karthikeyan summarized IPM IL efforts in Tamil Nadu for the regional IPM program as well as the IPDN and Insect-transmitted viruses global themes.

Sulav Paudel described IPL IL associate award activities in Nepal in the expanded districts (Surkhet, Banke).

Kaushik closed the meeting with a summary of IPM IL activities in the Delhi area.

7 Feb

• Toured the TERI laboratories and discussed biopesticide, biofertilizer and other projects within TERI. Attended final day of TERI conference in Delhi focusing on sustainable farming and environmental protection. Muniappan and Norton visited USAID, meeting with S. Krishnan and B. Duguma of the Office of Food Security and J. Beed, Mission Director.

8 Feb

• Traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh

9 Feb

• (BARI, Joydephur) Discussed progress on Year 4 and 5 activities with IPM IL Bangladesh coordinator Dr. Yousuf Mian. Several activities are underway but others, such as IPM package testing in country bean and anthracnose management in bean, could not be done due to the political situation that resulted in numerous hartals that prevented travel. Others in the work plan that were dropped for various reasons included activities on lady beetle parasitoid rearing, papaya mealybug, and Pseudomonas (biocontrol). Muniappan emphasized incorporating field days and other outreach efforts to Year 5 activities. The need to write up results and submit for publication was also emphasized.

• Conducted and participated in annual progress review and planning meeting. BARI scientists reported on all activities (Alam, Nahar, Gooffar, Hussein, Nazimuddin, Masud). Again the need for field days and publications was emphasized. Mr. Rahman from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) described Trichocompost
production and uses. The program has reached 7,500 marginal farm families in seven districts. Tricho-compost is being produced commercially by GKSS in Bogra, with market coverage of 10 districts. Mr. Khalil of Ispahani described production and sales of biocontrol products. A total of 75,000 farmers purchased IPM products this past year. Nahar presented results of work on the Gender global theme project.

- Toured BARI field trials, including IPM IL projects and nascent organic vegetable production trials. Norton met with Mr. Sidique Rahman to enlist his participation in the follow-up farmer survey to be conducted in Jessore and Barisal beginning in June. He will also start his PhD program at Bangladesh Agricultural University in agricultural economics and use data from the Buy-in project surveys in his research.

10 Feb

- Traveled to Jessore to observe field trials in gourds, country bean, cabbage and others. 75 farmers have demonstration plots underway for the buy-in project. A farmer field day is scheduled in late February.

11 Feb

- Visited CIP office to coordinate Mission buy-in project with S. Begum and others. CIP project mandated to train 36,000 households in FTF regions of Bangladesh (Jessore, Baripur, Baisal). They will be using IPM IL IPM packages in those sites. CIP will concentrate on high-value vegetables as well as white potatoes and sweet potatoes. Major focus areas are potato and sweet potato varietal development, potato seed multiplication (seed system), systems level innovation (home gardens, IPM, grafting), and income and nutrition.
- Went to USAID mission to meet M. Tegenfeldt, Shibly and S. Bhuiyan of the Office of Food Security to discuss Bangladesh activities and report on our CIP discussions.

12 Feb

- Traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal.

13 Feb

- Met with representatives from our IDE partner, Agricare, NARC, and CEAPRED to review the past year’s project activities and to coordinate future activities. Norton met with Arjun Khanel who will start a PhD program in Nepal and use data from the buy-in project in his research.

14 Feb

- Traveled to Nepalgunj to meet with project field personnel and coordinate with KISAN project. KISAN project will use IPM IL packages in their outreach effort to 160,000 farms. Tomato is the most profitable vegetable in the hill districts, which have the advantage of being able to produce during the monsoon season and have a market in India. IPM packages are critical for tomato production under these conditions. Ram K.C. indicated that they are promoting local grafting/nursery businesses. Gender assessment showed that women are receptive to IPM messages
and prefer more visual information. Female literacy continues to be a problem in vegetable production.

- Met with Agricare reps and visited agrovet shop. Agricare is a private Nepali company that supplies biopesticides for IPM IL packages. Agricare also operates a grower support service and maintains a telephone bank to which farmers and others can pose questions about production and pest management problems. Questions and answers are broadcast by text message to farmers that are registered to receive them.
- Traveled with Evan Myer from the USAID Mission.

15 Feb
- Toured hill districts of Surkhet to visit IPM IL cooperating farmers. Returned to Kathmandu.

16 Feb
- Depart for U.S.