IPM CRSP Trip Report

Country Visited:  Bangladesh

Dates of Travel:  January 29, 2013 - February 8, 2013

Travelers Names and Affiliations:  Maria Elisa Christie, Virginia Tech  
PI for Gender Global Theme

Purpose of Trip: Raise gender awareness in the BARI team and the South Asia Regional Program. Hold workshop on Trichoderma gendered impact pathways at BARI. Participate in the annual SA planning meeting. Build capacity of BARI and MCC team on qualitative, participatory research methods and on integration of gender into all IPM activities. Introduce Virginia Tech ethics requirements for research with human subjects (IRB). Planning meetings with Dr. Nahar, Team Leader, Gender Global Theme program. Initiate project with rapid assessment of gender-based constraints and opportunities in Trichoderma technology, including key interviews and focus groups with scientists, NGO personnel, producers and farmers in Gajipur (BARI), Rangpur, and Bogra Districts.

Sites Visited:
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gajipur
Mennonite Central Committee office, Bogra
Farmer household and field at Chatra, Pirgonj, Rangpur District

Description of activities and observations:
In sum, this was a very productive visit despite three days of “hartal” (political unrest) that impeded mobility. Most of the objectives above were met, though I was only able to have one day of interviews and focus groups in Rangpur, and was not able to visit GKSS (NGO) in Bogra. However, during all three days of no mobility, I was able to interview key informants at the place where I was lodging. Interviews were carried out with seven people (including farmer, scientist, NGO, and private company), and a focus group discussion was held with farmers and school children at one locality. See detail below. In addition to my work alone prior to the South Asia planning meeting, I met up with the team from Virginia Tech, Penn State, and Ohio State
during the meeting. Including a gender presentation in the annual planning meeting with India and Nepal representatives present may have an impact beyond the presentation to the Bangladeshi team earlier. Further training is required for the team (BARI and MCC) to carry out the Gender Global Theme research given that social science research is new to them. I will support from afar via email, phone, and Skype, but will try to return later this fiscal year if funds are available.

**Tuesday, Jan. 29**

Arrive Bangladesh.

**Wednesday, Jan. 30**

Gender and IPM seminar at BARI. Make presentations on Gendered impact pathways research in IPM CRSP. Session chair- Dr. Kabel Sultan, Director of HRC, BARI, Gazipur. Presentation by Dr. Karim Rezaul, former coordinator of IPM CRSP Bangladesh site, and myself. Distribute and explain gender checklist for reporting.

The second half of the seminar is a workshop on gender and participatory research methods, specifically the use of a timeline, a participatory map, and a socio-economic activity chart. At the same time, the team members are participants of a Focus Group and serve to provide input on the impact pathway of Trichoderma.

Tour the grounds and the two Trichoderma labs at BARI, Dr. Faruk's in the Plant Pathology Division, and Dr. Nahar's at HRC.

Interview Dr. Iqbal Faruk, Plant Pathology Lab.

Lodge at BARI guesthouse.

Begin interview with Jahangir Alam, MCC.

Visit the home of Dr. Farjana Nasrin on BARI campus for tea and snacks.

**Thursday, Jan. 31**

Plan to drive to Bogra is cancelled due to political unrest (*hartal* called by opposition party “Jamaat-e Islami, over the prosecution of their leader for war crimes during the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan). Stay at BARI guest house. Complete interview with Johangir Alam, MCC. Visit floriculture greenhouse and grounds with Dr. Farjana Nasrin. Visit the home of Dr. Kamrul Hasan for tea and snacks.

**Friday, Feb. 1**

Drive to Bogra.
Focus group discussion with farmers and schoolchildren in Farmer household and field at Chatra, Pirgonj, Rangpur District (6 women, 12 men, plus seven girl one boy.) Dr. Nahar carries out two interviews with women farmers. Students present their exercises to the full group, men’s group present, and Dr. Nahar presents the woman’s timeline. Dr. Karim gives farmers an explanation of Tricho-compost and other composts, stressing the disease-controlling ability of the first, and answers questions.

Two fatal vehicle accidents and fighting on the street delay our journey, such that we have little time for exercises with the farmers. Thus, we split up into three groups and get some research done but do not fully meet my training objective for the team.

Upon returning to Bogra, interview Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Administrator of MCC at his office.

Lodge at Uttara Training Institute (UTI). Good facility.

**Saturday, Feb. 2**

Plan to visit GKSS and interview Mrs. Sultana and hold focus group with Tricho-technology workers cancelled due to political hartal.

Interviews in hotel (UTI): Dr. Karim Rezaul, previous IPM CRSP coordinator for Bangladesh and Mrs. Rebeka Sultana, Director General GKSS (NGO); planning with Dr. Najar and Johangir Alam.

**Sunday, Feb. 3**

Drive to BARI in Gazipur.

IPM South Asia regional review and planning meeting (25 men, 9 women).

**Monday, Feb. 4**

Continue IPM South Asia regional review and planning meeting.

Make presentation on Gender and IPM together with Dr. Nahar (including plans for Trichoderma gendered impact pathways and earlier trip to Bogra and Chatra, Pirgonj, Rangpur.

Planning with Dr. Nahar; revise budget for proposed activities.

Present budget request to Drs. Yousuf Mian, Ed Rajotte, and Muni Muniappan.
Tuesday, Feb. 5

Team plans cancelled due to hartal in Bogra and Dhaka.

Work in hotel to process data on flip chart pages before leaving these with Dr. Nahar. Meet her in hotel to wrap up fieldwork.

Developed coding tracking system and entered all interview thus far; left this with Nahar to continue to update using code for each research informant/s (individuals in household interviews, focus group, or key informant).

Interview A.F.M. Mominul Haque, Specialist, Project Management Division and project coordinator for the market development project for Innovision (Katalyst). He and Nahar take public transportation to come to hotel despite the hartal.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Depart for US

Thursday, Feb. 7

Arrive in US
### Training Activities Conducted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)</th>
<th>Training Objective</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Jan. 30, 2013</td>
<td>BARI scientists and NGO partner</td>
<td>11 Men / 7 Women</td>
<td>ME Christie, Virginia Tech</td>
<td>Raise gender awareness; initiate Gender Global Theme gender research program at BARI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands-on training</td>
<td>Feb. 1, 2013</td>
<td>2 BARI scientists and NGO representative (MCC)</td>
<td>2 Men / 1 Women</td>
<td>ME Christie, Virginia Tech</td>
<td>Demonstrate and practice qualitative research techniques to be used in Gender Global Theme research</td>
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### Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

Dr. Nahar is the team leader for the Gender Global Theme activities, and will work with Jahangir and other team members at MCC to conduct fieldwork.

MEC (I) should plan a return trip earlier than expected to continue training and carry out planned field activities, perhaps in June. Regular Skype calls to address needs.

MEC will type up all interviews, except the one with the woman farmer in Chatra (which Nahar will type). Compile one timeline including dates and events that different people provided; verify this with further research with key informants. Develop one institutional chart to map the path of the Trichoderma with the preliminary information collected during this visit. Among other things, this will serve to select key informants and determine where to hold focus groups. Dr. Nahar will conduct a “self-interview”—that is, complete the timeline and map. Make list of key informants in the institutions identified through the mapping exercises and schedule interviews.

Confirm budget allocation for remainder of Fiscal Year.
# List of Contacts Made:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Organization</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mossammat Shamsunnah (i.e. Dr. Nahar)</td>
<td>Horticulture Research Center (HRC), BARI Gazipur (Plant nemotologist)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nahar321@yahoo.com">nahar321@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kamrul Hasan</td>
<td>Planning and Evaluation Division, BARI (Agricultural Economist)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Md. Johangir Alam</td>
<td>Mennonite Central Committee Bangladesh, MCC (Program Officer)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="http://www.mcc.org">www.mcc.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Md. Mokhlesur Rahman</td>
<td>Mennonite Central Committee Bangladesh, MCC (Administrator, Research and Extension Activity Partners (REAP) Program)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mokhles@bangladesh.mcc.org">mokhles@bangladesh.mcc.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Md Golam Kibria</td>
<td>Plant Pathology Section, BARI (Plant pathologist)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mg.kibria@live.com">mg.kibria@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Arefur Rahma</td>
<td>MCC program officer (Did not meet him, but key collaborator at MCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Iqbal Faruk</td>
<td>BARI Plant Pathology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Rezaul Karim</td>
<td>Prior IPM CRSP coordinator at BARI, retired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Yousuf Mian</td>
<td>IPM CRSP coordinator, BARI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Farjana Nasrin Khan</td>
<td>Department of Agricultural Extension Second Crop Diversification Project, BARI (National Floriculture Specialist) (Horticulturalist)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rebeka Sultana</td>
<td>Executive Director, GKSS, BOGRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.F.M. Mominul Haque</td>
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