

IPM CRSP Trip Report

Country(s) Visited: Philippines

Dates of Travel: February 17-24, 2012

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Maria Elisa Christie (MEC), Gender Equity Coordinator, ME; PI, Gender Global Theme (GGT)

Purpose of Trip:

1. Raise gender awareness among bio-physical scientist on SE Asia Regional Program in IPM CRSP; 2. Collaborate with Gender team member and GGT Point Person for the Philippines, Dr. Maria Helen Dayo; 3. Investigate gendered nature of farmer practices, knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions on pesticide safety and pest management; 4. Carry out Focus Group Discussions, household interviews, and field visits in new IPM site in Sariaya, and 5. Meet with IPM HC coordinator, Dr. Aurora Baltazar and update her on Gender Global Theme activities.

Sites Visited:

- University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Baños
- Barangay Bignay I, Sariaya, Quezon
- Barangay Manggalang Kiling, Sariaya, Quezon

Description of Activities/Observations:

Friday, February 17: MEC arrives at IRRI guest house

Monday, February 20: Meetings with Dr. Aurora Baltazar and Dr. Maria Helen Dayo; visit UPLB Gender Center; meeting with Dr. Celia Medina, Director of Crop Protection at UPLB (she used to work with IPM and with SANREM CRSPs); meet IPM CRSP GRA Roma Limpiada; prepare materials for week; meeting at IRRI with gender experts to exchange information and strategies on gender integration in agricultural research

- Tuesday, February 21: Drive to Sariaya for organic festival launched by government
- Lunch with the Municipal Agriculturist Amores and Allan Lauria, the representative of the Mayor of Sariaya.
Introduce IPM CRSP to Local Government Unit Administrator
- Report to Municipal Agricultural Officer, Ernesto Amores.
Held women's Focus Group Discussion and set up household interview for following day.
- Wednesday, February 22: Visit farmers' fields (tomato, watermelon, eggplant, bottle gourd)
- Interview man and woman farmer (husband and wife) at their makeshift tomato sorting, washing, and packing "plant" in their field by the side of the road (Edita and Atienza, HH1)
- Interview another man in his field (Reynaldo, HH2)
- Return to home of Mrs. Susana Mendoza, President of KALIPI to hold more interviews and FGD with men
- Interview Mrs. Nenita (wife of Reynante, HH3)
- Interview male farmer (Reynante, HH3)
- FGD with 5 men farmers
- Visited home of (Edita and Atienza, HH1) to set up appointment for next day to complete HH interview exercises
- Thursday, February 23: Hold 2 Focus Groups at Bignay 1, one with women and one with men; complete interview activities with informant from day before; drive back to Los Baños.
- Friday, February 24, 2012 Drive to Manila, spend the night in Manila for early departure on Saturday

This was the first time the GGT coordinator visited the Philippines site during this Phase of IPM CRSP. The multiple purposes of this trip were met. In addition, the GGT PI and Dr. Baltazar visited IRRI to meet with gender experts (Dr. Thelma Paris' team) to present IPM CRSP Gender Global Theme activities and to exchange strategies and experiences. IPM CRSP GRA Romalene Limpiada joined Drs. Dayo and Christie for the fieldwork. In addition to planned meetings and research, the trip provided training and networking opportunities. Given that the Sariaya site where the research took place is relatively new to IPM CRSP, the trip served to strengthen ties with the local authorities and farmer association leaders. Coinciding with a government-sponsored onion festival and launch of the second annual organic vegetable growing contest, the IPM CRSP team found itself with an interesting opportunity. Despite the rhetoric and the personal support from the Minister of Agriculture who is from Sariaya and who is a key proponent of organic agriculture as part of an integrated rural development plan, it soon became clear that farmers were NOT going organic, and that the few that tried had met with failure. At the same time, farmers are not willing to risk organic farming. They also report facing increasing pests and using more pesticides, especially with the introduction of more crops. This opens the door for introducing IPM as an option that reduces dependency on chemical pesticides without risking the organic production (based on the relationships and training exercises-mapping, timeline, etc. used in this trip). The trip served to identify key information about the farming system: for instance, farmers no longer transplant rice but instead use the broadcast method. In addition to rice, at this time of the season they had the following in the ground: tomatoes, eggplant, watermelon, and a large gourd (larger than a long watermelon) called "kundol"

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

- Work with 2 key vendors of agricultural inputs including seeds and pesticides: Luming' Store in San Juan Batangas; Rosalina M. Ramires in Santa Catarina, Candelaria to educate and provide IPM inputs
- Work with pesticide vendor to develop recycling program for empty containers
- Introduce and promote more IPM technologies, in the wake of the launching of the Organic Festival and farming contest and as a follow up to our visit and awareness raising
- Work with farmer leaders and farmer using IPM technique to extend their currently implemented technology of killing the caterpillars by hand
- Women should be more exposed to seminars on topics that will improve their handling of pesticides and other chemicals for plant protection

-Support woman champions in IPM (such as farmer above) to lead women-only and mixed group

-Work with the government's new effort (now in its second year) to work for sustainable agriculture with the alliance between government entities (agriculture and tourism) and the private sector (Allied Botanical Corporation)

Training Activities Conducted

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Workshop	2/21-23	SE Asia GRA, gender point person		2	Virginia Tech	Qualitative, gender research, Informed consent (IRB requirements and procedure)
Focus Group	2/21/12	Women farmers from Manggalang Kiling, Sariaya, and technician from Municipality of Sariaya		8	Virginia Tech/UPLB	Raise awareness of IPM, the path of pesticide, and gendered impacts of changes in agriculture
Focus Group	2/22/12	Men farmers from Manggalang Kiling, Municipality of Sariaya		5	Virginia Tech/UPLB	Raise awareness of IPM, the path of pesticide, and gendered impacts of changes in agriculture
Focus Group	2/23/12	Women farmers and technician from Bignay I, from Municipality of Sariaya		8	Virginia Tech/UPLB	Raise awareness of IPM, the path of pesticide, and gendered impacts of changes in agriculture
Focus Group	2/23/12	Women farmers and technician from Bignay I, Municipality of Sariaya		8	Virginia Tech/UPLB	Raise awareness of IPM, the path of pesticide, and gendered impacts of changes in agriculture

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Dr. Celia Medina	Director Crop Protection Cluster, UPLB	cdmedina@yahoo.com

Florencia “Flor” Palis	Scientist, Agricultural Anthropology, Social Sciences Division, IRRI	f.palis@cgiar.org
Joyce Luis	Research Assistant to Dr. Thelma Paris, IRRI	
Lina Diaz	Previously Dr. Thelma Paris’ assistant, IRRI	
Antonio Contreras (referred by IRRI gender team, no contact made, but important contact for future). Also Dennis Erasga	Gender expert, Political Science, La Salle University, Manila Gender expert, La Salle	
Mrs. Susana Mendoza	President, KALIPI, Manggalang Kiling	
Marilyn de la Cruz	President, Rural Improvement Club (RIC), Manggalang, Kiling	
Restituto “Resty” Cabula	President, Vegetable Farmers Association, Bignay I	
Griselda Cabula	Wife of President, above, and hostess of FGD	