

## IPM CRSP Trip report

**Travelers:** Jeffrey Alwang, George W. Norton, Muni Muniappan, Judith K. Brown, Sarah Hamilton, Rick Foster, Victor Barrera, Elena Cruz, Marco Arevalo, Margarita Palmieri, Reina Teresa Martinez

**Dates:** May 12-15, 2010 (Only J.K. Brown)

**Destination:** Guatemala

**Purpose:** Visit to vegetable fields and Seminis Field Station; Begin process of planning for new activities; Discussed geminivirus and Liberibacter research for Virus-vector Global Themes and LAC

### **Description of activities**

May 12: Arrive Guatemala City, overnight.

May 13: Visit Del Valle campus, meet prospective graduate students; Depart for field visits; visit Seminis-Monsanto field station in Salama; discussed possible collaboration for field trials/demonstrations and diagnostics assistance. Collected samples from virus-infected pepper trials for geminivirus resistance.

May 14: Tomato, pepper, melon field visits in central and northern Guatemala; Met with Bayer representative on problem in tomato (geminivirus symptoms, TYLCV-like); collected symptomatic field samples. Discussed research objectives in potato and coordination with Honduras effort in potato, whitefly/aphid-virus management in tomato/pepper/eggplant; discussed possible means of leveraging funds (Seminis-Monsanto, Bayer, and USAID Mission in GT).

May 15: Return trip from north-central highlands through Zacapa Valley, early melon fields; Departed for San Pedro Sula on evening flight.

**Dates:** May 16-22, 2010

**Destination:** Honduras

**Purpose:** (i) Conduct annual meeting for LAC research group; (ii) Review progress on CRSP research activities; (iii) Begin process of planning for subsequent year activities.

### **Description of activities:**

May 16: Arrive La Lima, Honduras. Alwang, Muniappan and Foster met with M. Rivera (FHIA) to coordinate subsequent activities (see attached schedule).

May 17-18: Planning meeting at FHIA's headquarters in La Lima (meeting presentations available on CD-ROM). Meeting was attended by representatives from each host-country institution involved in the project and by representatives of the IPM CRSP's global themes. Each country team presented its progress to date and worked to develop research themes for subsequent year. Ecuador is well along the way in developing an IPM package for naranjilla, will work to finish a package for potatoes in the Illangama watershed within 2 years, and is in various stages of development of packages for blackberry, tree tomato, maize and beans. The Honduras team has completed a number of experiments, but needs to focus more on combining practices into packages for tomatoes, peppers and sweet potatoes. Viral problems appear to be very significant and means of moving from diagnosis to recommended actions and packages will be given priority in subsequent years.

The IPM package work in the Dominican Republic and Guatemala is in early stages of development. The Dominican Republic has a multi-disciplinary team that has completed basic diagnostics and prioritized research areas. Work is needed to establish field experiments. The Guatemalan team is still being constructed. Virus and disease diagnostic work in the county is quite advanced—a result of strong connections to the virus and IPDN global themes—but the team needs to broaden its focus to include other pests and diseases and move toward IPM solutions. Several options were discussed to effect this broadening.

The global theme presentations indicated strong complementarity with the regional program. The virus global theme has created a strong network in the region and has built solid diagnostic capacity. The same is true of the IPDN. Discussions indicated the need to broaden activities of both themes to include Ecuador and to assist the entire regional research team in developing solutions to problems such as white fly-transmitted diseases and other vectors of viruses. The impact and gender global themes presented their activities to date. The impact theme is conducting a baseline survey in Ecuador and has plans to conduct two more (Dominican Republic and Guatemala) in the following year. George Norton will share his survey instrument with the rest of the regional partners. Norton also stressed the importance of collecting cost, yield and price data for experiments, particularly those conducted in farmer fields. He will share a template for this data collection with team members. The Guatemala team agreed to identify an appropriate contact with the impact program.

The gender global theme began its activities this year with a gender workshop in Guaranda, Ecuador. This was attended by regional team members. Elena Cruz, the regional gender coordinator, presented activities to date. Several gender-related questions have been incorporated into the baseline survey and the survey will include some observations where identical questions are asked of both male and female members of the same household. The gender theme will concentrate on completing a report template (from the baseline survey in Ecuador) that will be used as a structure for other baseline survey reports. These reports will be standard outputs of the gender global themes as baseline surveys are completed in each country. In addition, the Ecuador team proposed to prepare a research proposal to investigate the feasibility of a woman-managed small-scale bio-inputs/bio-control facility in Ecuador.

Afternoon May 18. Toured FHIA grounds, toured the banana-breeding center, and traveled to Comayagua Valley.

May 19. Toured the FHIA research station in Comayagua, and several commercial grower facilities. Team was joined by USAID representative Marco Tulio Galvez. It is clear that the Honduras research needs to be oriented more towards development of IPM packages and less toward seeking solutions to individual grower problems. The team recommends that the Honduras team consider re-focusing its efforts toward package development. Alwang, Norton, Barrera, Cruz, Martinez, Arevalo and Palmieri returned to La Lima. Muniappan, Brown, Foster and Hamilton traveled to Tegucigalpa to meet USAID

May 20. Alwang, Norton, Barrera, Cruz, Martinez, Arevalo and Palmieri returned to home country. Muniappan, Brown, Foster and Hamilton traveled to Tegucigalpa where they met with Mr. Todd Hamner, Director, Oficina de Medio Ambiente, Agricultura y Comercio (MAAC), USAID, Honduras. They briefed him about our trip and explained activities of IPM CRSP in Honduras and different parts of the tropical world. Following meeting, Brown and Muniappan I traveled back to La Lima.

May 21. Brown and Muniappan met with Dr. Adolfo Martinez, Director General of FHIA, for debriefing and discussed possible linkages with the IPM CRSP objectives via anticipated USAID funding, and traveled back to U.S.

#### **Summary of findings and subsequent steps:**

- 1) Draft workplans will be submitted by Alwang no later than July 15. These workplans will show clear indications of movement toward development of IPM packages. Each proposed activity will show how its completion will contribute to package development. Alwang will prepare a workplan template and send it to the country teams by June 15. Teams will present international travel requests by country at this date.
- 2) Draft workplans for Dominican Republic and Guatemala will contain a description of proposed field experiments in addition to laboratory work. This description will include objectives and methods.
- 3) Annual reports will be submitted to Alwang by September 15. The template for these reports was provided to each team.
- 4) Teams will ensure that training activities will be properly reported with gender disaggregated data. Efforts will be made to collect comprehensive training data.
- 5) Teams will collect cost of production and price and yield data for all farmer field experiments according to the template prepared by George Norton.
- 6) Teams will review the list of chemicals on the past IEE/PERSUAP and make additions based on planned experiments and country-specific chemical needs. A copy of the past PERSUAP for the region is attached.
- 7) Virginia Tech team agreed to explore possibility of a trip to Dominican Republic before August 2010. Team recommended that subsequent annual meeting be held in June/July 2011 in Guatemala.
- 8) Country teams agreed to identify potential students for long-term graduate training in the US and LAC universities.

**Participants and contacts:**

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