

Trip Report

Country Visited: Honduras

Dates of Travel: 2 Jan. 2010 – 10 Jan. 2010

Traveler's Name and Affiliation: John Adam Sparger, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip: Agricultural scientists and extension agents working for Fundacion Hondurena de Investigacion Agricola (FHIA) were surveyed in order to collect economic data related to integrated pest management technologies being developed for eggplant, tomato, onion, and pepper production for small to medium scale producers within Honduras. The main technologies under evaluation for all four crops are predatory insects or other biological controllers, solarization of seedbeds, and cowpea green manure. Grafting is being evaluated specifically for eggplants and pressure regulating valves of pesticide applications specifically in onions. This data will be used to develop an economic impact assessment of the ongoing research activities.

Sites Visited: FHIA – main research station in La Lima, Cortes
FHIA – field station in Comayagua Valley

Description of Activities/Observations: The first day was spent in San Pedro Sula with the Director of the Vegetable Protection Department, Dr. Mauricio Rivera, planning interviews with key personnel as well as coordinating travel to and within the Comayagua Valley. Two days were spent at FHIA's main research station in La Lima, Cortes. Surveys were conducted with four scientists from the Vegetable Protection Department who are the main scientists developing IPM technologies for the crops under investigation. Three days were spent at FHIA's field research station in Comayagua Valley interviewing two additional research scientists and seven extension agents working directly for FHIA or with FHIA through a partnership with Fintrac EDA. These scientists and extension agents provided information about potential adoption of IPM technologies, production costs, and yield data for the selected crops. Additionally, three medium scale producers who have held extension roles with FHIA in the past and one large scale producer of agricultural exports operating within the Comayagua Valley were interviewed to collect information on current pest management strategies and the potential for adoption of IPM technologies.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items: FHIA was very accommodating and easy to work with. They handled travel arrangements and coordinated meetings with all the scientists, extension agents, and producers. They were very helpful in suggesting comfortable, safe, and convenient lodging during the week. All of the scheduled interviews were completed

during the week. They have sent several requested data files via email before, during, and after the trip as well. I cannot think of how it could have been any smoother.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Dr. Mauricio Rivera	Head Pathologist	josemauriciorivera@gmail.com
Dr. Donald Breazeale	Director of Investigations	breazealedonald@gmail.com
Dr. Hernán Espinoza	Entomologist	hespinoza@fhia.org.hn