

**Trip report final short version: South Asia IPM**

**Maria Elisa Christie, Gender Equity Coordinator, IPM CRSP ME**

Countries visited: Bangladesh, Nepal, India

Dates of Travel: Jan 28, 2010-Feb 13, 2010.

Jan 28            Leave Blacksburg; arriving Dhaka Jan 30  
February 3        Leave Dhaka for Kathmandu  
Feb 6             Leave Kathmandu for Coimbatore  
Feb 12            Leave Coimbatore  
Feb 13            Arrive Blacksburg

Travelers Names and Affiliations:

Ed Rajotte (Penn State)

Sally Miller (Ohio State)

Maria Elisa Christie, Doug Pfeiffer, George Norton, and Muni Muniappan (Virginia Tech)

Bob Hedlund (USAID)

Sites Visited:

Bangladesh: Dhaka; BARI, Gazipur; University of Dhaka; USAID Mission

Nepal: Kathmandu; IDE/International Development Enterprises; Salyan, Lalitpur District (multiple use water system (MUS); USAID Mission

India: Coimbatore; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University; Trichy (Perambalur)

Purpose of Trip:

Initial site visit on behalf of ME gender equity coordinator to all three countries in South Asia Program

Raise awareness of gender issues and requirements in IPM CRSP

Introduce and assess possibilities for Gender Global Theme

Identify gender contact person and in-house gender expertise among partners

Identify academic advisor(s) for gender research and explore opportunities for funding students

Discuss Year one gender workplan with gender contact person and assess budget needs

Coordination and planning with Impact Assessment Global Theme and local partners

#### Description of Activities/Observations:

See proposed agenda per country below (some changes were made)

#### Executive Summary

All objectives were achieved. Follow-up required with USAID Mission in Bangladesh regarding potential funding opportunity for research on women in agriculture. Key finding relevant to the low numbers of women in our trainings in grafting is that in Nepal and India the nursery owners are considered to be all men and the laborers all women; points to the need for research to verify and to intervene earlier in the value chain with training women in micro-enterprise skills or otherwise enhancing their access to owning and running nurseries. Good research possibility with gender and grafting in Nepal and match for IDE's previous experience with value chain; also possibility of leveraging funding from their other related initiatives. Propose holding Gendered Access to Trade (GATE) value chain workshop in March/April 2011. Possibility of holding initial gender workshop in Tamil Nadu together with other global theme workshops (possibly in August), with gender coordinator pairing up with other gender experts in country to implement this (no need for MEC presence but instead guiding role providing guidelines/model for the workshop and the Gender Dimensions Framework.) In India, both in the north and the south, there are opportunities for researching IPM from the perspective of women's role in cooking based on their rejection of pesticide residues on food—as consumers at the market or as farmers' wives. Despite constraints to women's mobility in culturally conservative regions (much worse in the north, as reported by Dr. Nutan), women-only meetings and working with women's organizations remains an important strategy for reaching women.

#### Highlights

Identified students for funding at the University of Dhaka Dept of Geography and Environment.

Possibility of Mission funding for women in agriculture research in Bangladesh.

MEC gave gender awareness and objectives and workplan of the Gender Global Theme presentations in each country. Handouts were made available. This served as an awareness-raising activity that was followed by planning meetings with the persons to work with the gender global theme (and also, together with George Norton with the persons that will work with the impact assessment theme).

Follow up requires close coordination with George Norton on survey.

Survived being rammed by a truck in Bangladesh.

Budget allocation for GGT: India: NAU \$4050; TERI \$1650; Bangladesh: \$2550; Nepal: \$1750

Gender numbers for MEC awareness raising and Gender Global Theme presentation:

Country	Female attendance	Male attendance
Bangladesh	2	34
Nepal	5	17
India	2	11
US Team	2	5

*This is year 1; need to dramatically improve numbers over coming years.*

#### **Bangladesh:**

Very poor gender balance at BARI. Good gender competency at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)-Bangladesh (current NGO partner), and good possibilities with the University of Dhaka Department of Geography and the Environment. No gender expertise at BARI but George Norton's socio-economic contact (Mohammed Sadique Rahman) for Impact Assessment seems best suited to be gender coordinator in HC institution. "MD Sadique Rahman" is an agricultural economist at BARI; his thesis included a study of impact of women's decision-making on participation in micro-credit schemes. Spoke with Arefur Rahaman, MCC Program Officer; organization has extensive gender experience and gender equity policies. Student research (Dhaka University Dept of Geography) in coordination with MCC a good possibility. BARI should continue to work with MCC to train women in IPM.

After MEC's presentation, a man says they have no problem with gender in Bangladesh, that women are empowered in Bangladesh; they have a woman Prime Minister and a woman Minister of Agriculture and more. But, he says it is hard to find qualified women scientists. MEC stresses will have to start where we are and go from there, but use IPM CRSP training opportunities to improve this situation. Also in response to MEC presentation, a man says that while it is true that a woman must interview women, it is not true that a man must interview a man; women can do both. Still, MEC stresses, the point is need women interviewers and that it is clear a man could not enter a women's home to interview her. Clearly need more awareness about gender-based constraints and opportunities in IPM and how gender can serve as a motor or impediment for economic growth.

MCC-Bangladesh: 100% of their beneficiaries are women; MCC Bangladesh has policy for gender integration with research, extension and activity partners (REAP) to include a certain % of women in their staff. Currently they have 2 women and 4 men program officers; at the field level they have 5 women and 7 men; at the guard level there are 3 women and 4 men. He says they have no problem bringing women to trainings. They have a human resource person who works with gender. MCC would be excellent to work with for accessing women in the field and logistical support, but as NGOs, they do not have an academic approach or, of course, publications. So there might be great opportunities to build on and go beyond what they do and know and train students who could work in this and learn from it as well as write things that would serve to disseminate the lessons. They can also play a pivotal role increasing participation of women in our research and training.

Misc. 80% of the women in Bangladesh are Muslim. These women do not work in the fields but in home gardens (“homestead gardens”) given restrictions on mobility. Only Hindu women are working in the field, mostly as laborers with government and private enterprises. Nonetheless, Muslim women will be involved in decision-making. IPM CRSP has Muslim women working in their homes making pheromone traps. Mobility is a key gender-based constraint and must be addressed, perhaps by working with women’s groups; it provides opportunities as well. See two student research concept notes focusing on homestead gardens and poultry, both in culturally sanctioned women’s space. Note also that women are no longer involved in grafting with our project, because eggplant was dropped as a crop due to rotation and market considerations; this was a key contribution of our program to the economic well-being of women.

Identified an advisor and two prospective students at the Department of Geography and Environment of the University of Dhaka. (Propose using GGT funds (\$2550) to fund two students at Dhaka University (\$2528 for both). Dr. Shahnaz Hussain was the collaborator on the Gender Atlas in Bangladesh project led by Virginia Tech (with UC Davis, U of Dhaka project) and funded by HED. She is excellent. I gave her a copy of the final revised proposal for the Gender Global Theme submitted to USAID for approval. With Shahnaz’s strong recommendation, I propose funding two students starting the current academic year. Umme Habiba has proposed studying “Gender based constraints and opportunities for IPM in Homestead Gardens: A case of Bangladesh.” Tahera Sultana, a current M.Phil student has proposed to study “Gender based constraints and opportunities for IPM in Poultry Farming: A case of Bangladesh.” Dr. Karim needs to make contact immediately to make agreement with Dr. Hussain so that students can begin coursework in the current academic year and make financial arrangements. In discussion with Shahnaz, I proposed that the student(s) put together the directory in Year 1 and be prepared to travel to participate in a gender workshop in Year 2, should the program decide to send them. In any case, the students could be asked to deliver the outputs for FY 1 including the rapid gender assessment, within the scope of their own research. They may also be asked to do a gender analysis of the socio-economic survey, though they are planning their own. I skimmed Umme’s Masters’ thesis on gender and food security in drought-prone areas and was impressed with the quality of research and English. I mentioned her to Dr. Karim and he said the student would need to connect with our MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) partners, but that especially they have all the contacts and have places to stay etc. and would not require hotels. I suggest he formally introduce them.

Both students have submitted a concept note (attached); I think we should plan for them to be supported by the IPM CRSP over the next two years as they complete a Masters of Philosophy. See budget, attached. Since once students complete the M Phil they are often in line for a PhD program, we can keep the door open for further funding depending on success and outputs during the first two years. Of course even funding for a second year would also be dependent on successful completion of year one, which in this case would mean passing her exams. I also proposed the students meeting with our site coordinator Dr. Karim to discuss collaboration; meeting with collaborators in MCC; putting together a gender directory of key people in gender in agriculture in Bangladesh—all of which are in the Gender Global theme workplan for year one. In year two they could help do a gender analysis of the results of the socio-economic survey, though they will each be carrying out their own survey. All of this may not be feasible given the focus on coursework in student's first year, but it was discussed. In particular, I asked Dr. Hussain if the student could carry out a draft, initial "rapid gender appraisal" using the Gender Dimensions Framework in the GGT proposal attached and I do believe this would be feasible and appropriate within their proposed research. A student could be considered for participation in the gender workshop likely to take place in Tamil Nadu.

It was agreed MEC role would be "joint-supervisor" with Dr. Shahnaz. Below is the budget we discussed and additional items (supplies and supervision). This is cut and pasted from Excel and also attached. Note that it is for one student, and I am proposing two, based on Ed's recommendation; I also believe it is an important gender strategy to increase their possibility of success and having mobility by creating the option for two women to work together for part of their fieldwork. This may play a role in their success given the cultural restrictions on women's mobility even in the educated population. The next step would be for Karim to review the budget and meet Dr. Shahnaz and the students to set this up.

Feb 3 Meeting at USAID Bangladesh Mission with Mark Visocky, Deputy Office Director of Economic Growth Office

Mission funding potential for topic beyond (but overlapping with) IPM CRSP. Mark Visocky says they are interested in 3 themes, one of which is Women in Agriculture (or did he say Women's issues research?); others are research and extension. Want to keep these separate. Mission is suddenly getting lots of money but no increase in human resources and so need to fund big projects. (Is this part of the Feed the Future initiative he mentioned?) Will now have 15-20 M for agriculture a year. Wants projects with budgets of around \$2M a year, 12M projects for large dissemination. This is USG initiative; health, nutrition, emergency \$, largest Title 2 funding in the world; only plan linkages with health field; problem is will not change staffing patterns—so will be understaffed and thus will want big projects.

Clinton focus is on agriculture. New Mission director has ag experience working with Gates Foundation. They want to make Bangladesh the "poster child" and India the regional center; South Asia has been left behind with the focus on Africa. Push now to catch up to Africa. There is lots of experience, but not enough solutions. Mark rattled off key issues like not enough women in extension, not having trainings at right times or places, need to know and address their priorities. (Sounded like my presentation!)

Need answers—solutions. Need qualitative research. Need to know how to reach women. What do women want? Do they want to be taught by a man? What do they do, when, where? How do new technologies affect women? Do they need different tools? Are they being hurt by interventions? Don't want new technology to affect women negatively.

Stresses importance of training Bangladeshis in US, and need to send a cohort so have group support and impact on return. For it to work, people sent to study in US must be employed and home institution must agree to maintain national wages so they can support their families. In US, pay living expenses.

Says we can approach him with ideas and send concept paper. Take time to think through carefully; do not send for a couple of months (he is too busy). Need consortiums, partnerships with NGOs. Now that we have the money, he says, let's not do bits and pieces, but take holistic approach. Need full-time partners to speed up getting the technology out. Focus on women in ag, not just IPM. Need broader approach.

In response to my query regarding women in ag vs gender and development, Mark says want women in agriculture, not gender focus. Need good discussion among various players and then decide who gets to administer the money. (We use IRRI for IPM—avoid corruption of gvt.) Need capacity building to get BARI up to speed. Clinton wants to go back to funding governments.

Mark says there has been lots of work with home gardens. Helen Keller Foundation has home garden promotion. Interesting comparison: Save the Children took health approach to home gardens, CARE took livelihood approach; the latter was more sustainable, survived longer after NGO left the village. CARE's approach included nurseries.

#### Recommendations for GGT in Bangladesh:

Assign MD Sadique Rahman, Agricultural Economist at BARI, responsibility for gender equity and reporting

Develop strategy with MCC for increasing participation of women

Use GGT funds (\$2550) to fund two students at Dhaka University (\$2528 for both)

Students to begin coursework and also implement RGA; create directory of gender expertise

Use India funds to cover transportation for MD Sadique Rahman to attend gender workshop in India (if there are sufficient funds or he will be funded in part by Impact assessment to attend)

#### **Nepal:**

USAID Mission

Meeting with Dr. Bill Patterson, Director of the General Development Office, at USAID Mission: Food security now more broadly defined to include economic growth and poverty reduction. 5 years ago it

was defined as staple crops, but is now much broader. Includes who eats what, when, first (gender issues here). Important to look at culture at the household level. Interested in the anthropology front. Clear that increased income does not equal increased nutrition—can simply mean more noodles. Mission is refocusing again on the poorest of the poor: women. Mentions key impact of USAID funding lots of students in the 70s to India for a Bachelors then to US for MSc. These form a cohort of people who know each other and are in important positions in NGO, gvt, USAID. But now the generation is retiring; need more.

Meetings at IDE: IDE has extensive network and experience with value chain and working with women farmers. Need for increasing number of women in grafting training, and identifying and addressing causes of low participation. (In recent training—in Pokhara?—had 138 men and 8 women participants.) Few women nursery owners, but also potential entrepreneurs are selected by IDE regional directors in conjunction with Ministry of Agriculture officials. Begs the question of how gender bias affects selection—and need to research perceptions of women as potentially viable nursery managers/owners. IDE works in “production pockets” trying to bring in all aspects—including private sectors sourcers. GGT could target women entrepreneurs in new pockets to bring in as nursery owners. Focus on enterprise model, targeting nursery operators; these becoming source of information and more profitable farmers. In SIMI project, had media strategies to bring in women; these could be developed for IPM and deployed in later years of the project.

In the short term, must take steps to increase women’s participation in trainings. Coordinate with Sally’s plant diagnostics training: get more women there. Can use value chain study and workshop to identify gender-based constraints and opportunities for grafting enterprises. Also lots of opportunity for leveraging resources with other IDE projects.

Good resource in Ambika Kumari Rai, recommended by Luke for gender work with IPM CRSP: typical situation of gender expert unemployed because of termination of project (was with IDE under a Winrock International-funded SIMI project until it ended 6 months ago), and of the lack of institutional commitment to gender. Ambika has experience working with women’ associations, with farmers’ organizations, and with gender integration. In my presentation, stressed difference between qualitative and quantitative – 10 men and 10 women not OK if women don’t make decisions or speak. Ambika asks about “level” of participation and points out how men always put women in vice-chair position (as I noted in Kenya and other places). Ambika was not there for my presentation. Luke says she is great in the field. Would not be able to write academic article but would be excellent at carrying out field research and training. Luke asks if can do workshop in March or April 2011, or October-November 2010—those are best months for weather. IDE plans to hire Ambika on a contractual basis and would use GGT funds to do so and to cover her travel expenses for research. He suggested hiring her on short-term contract at \$1k per month for two and ½ month at \$2500; including \$500 for travel the total cost would be \$3000. Nepal GGB is only \$1750, but Luke said they would make it work. Will have to leverage funds from other projects at IDE.

In meeting with Luke, Ambika and Madan R. Pariyar (Program Development Specialist ), we agreed on the following points for workplan. Komal Pradhan is National Program Coordinator and currently in charge of M and E while recruiting new one over next two weeks; he is permanent staff and should be my primary contact for now on gender correspondence:

- 1- Get gender expert on team; also make directory of gender experts in fields relevant to IPM technology and grafting (including agriculture but also micro-enterprise, etc.);
- 2- Gender workplan and integration for Year 2
- 3- Rapid Gender Assessment focusing on grafting value chain
  - a. Read 4 domains gender dimensions framework (MEC SEND HANDBOOK)
  - b. Determine gender-based constraints and opportunities
  - c. Develop survey questions and apply a survey
- 4- Improve gender balance on team
- 5- Gender reporting using matrices including developing and tracking qualitative indicators

In FY 2, will prepare a gender workshop to focus on grafting in Pokhara to include participants from Bangladesh and India; prep, execute, and follow up.

Luke agrees to follow up with the activities that we talked about, including engaging Ambika for the study. They said they will manage within the budget. I will send a summary email on the activities and a sample of priority questions that we can add for our on-going project surveys. While the introductory gender workshop has now been planned for India before the end of FY 1 and I have recommended that India use its funds to cover travel of one rep each from Nepal and Bangladesh (with the idea that Ambika be funded as gender representative from Nepal), I still propose we carry out a gender workshop focusing more on grafting and the value chain in Pokhara in Spring 2011. Luke says they would like to host such a workshop and that it can be done at low cost; he would like to do it in Pokhara where they can build in training programs around IPM CRSP activities and their program activities, and where they can have interventions that are empowering women (women leaders in marketing and planning committees and other local institutions developed by our programs). I would propose that India and Bangladesh send a gender representative to participate in this workshop, as well as other regional programs, in particular Central Asia.

Visit to Salyan, Lalitpur District, Multiple Use Water System (MUS) site developed by USAID and now new technology site for IPM CRSP: Supported by Gates also. Had focus group with 12 women, 1 child. Also had 3 women technicians. Were formed in 2005 with USAID project support. The Secretary of the group was confident in speaking; she was young. Group has problem with clubroot. Have replaced pesticide with solution made of local materials including chili. Group has 37 women in organization; share 4-5 hectares for all. Say with more money from vegetables, there is less quarrel in the household. Before the group, they were under lots of pressure to stay in their house; with the organization, the more progressive people in the community influenced the more conservative and the benefits of the group convinced the latter it was OK for women to have more mobility. Men used to say vegetables and other agricultural production was women's work; now they help. Men used to prepare the land and



women break the clod and weed. Now men help with the latter two as well. Now grow off-season in greenhouses—tomatoes—under plastic during the monsoon.

Women ask: Anything IPM can do to make things better? Have more awareness of bad effects of pesticides; seen health effects on media. Want advice on how to reduce pesticide use. (Gender based opportunity.)

Man says women in Nepal are much more active than in India or Bangladesh. Women in the Terai in Nepal are the most illiterate, says Luke.

Luke says IDE works in two ways: group mobilization, and supply chain. Have Gates and others supporting to develop local providers of inputs. Still need extension to diagnose problems to be sure right products are there in the market. Also develop collection centers (mostly vegetable, also goat, fisheries, oils.) Need to develop “pocket areas” where there is enough demand for sellers to make it. Opportunity for CRSP to work in these areas and leverage Luke’s other funding. Focus on developing profitable vegetable production and marketing centers to develop regions/pockets and keep men from migrating too. (Man in their promotional video says now earn more than overseas.) In new production pockets are searching for women entrepreneurs; can link into that and select women interested in becoming nursery operators; focus on enterprise model and participants becoming source of information; can make them more profitable than farmers.

Use GGT to train women nursery operators to test for pests (in FY 2). Because few or no women nursery operators, few in Pokhara training (supposed this, since trainees were recruited by extension and not clear on what basis; could have left women out).

Meeting with Luke’s socioeconomic/gender team:

Ask the question: why are so few women trained in grafting? Why are there so few nursery owners? What are the gender-based constraints? Missed opportunities? Do value chain study in conjunction with a GATE (Gendered Access to Trade) workshop—two weeks including interviews of key actors along the chain. Provide material for chapter in grafting book. Nursery operators can be local providers. Opportunity to link with the pocket areas and develop economic opportunities for women in grafting. Do study: how to achieve gender equity in this area?

Misc. Low # of women in extension but increasing. Of Nepal’s population of 27 Million, 67% are farmers. Luke mentions sustainability problems: organizations launch agricultural projects but pests build up over time, just when the organization is ready to pull out. Need government buy-in and long term ownership.

Recommendations for GGT in Nepal:

Use \$1750 GGT funds to contract Ambika Kumari Rai to carry out gender activities for FY 1; funds will need to be matched by IDE in order to complete total \$2500 projected cost. Her responsibilities include carrying out RGA on grafting technology and training in IPM, making a list of gender expertise in country; identify potential women nursery operators in new production pockets.

Increase numbers of women at IPM CRSP trainings, such as Sally's plant diagnostics training. Identify gender-based constraints and develop strategy to address these.

Use India funds to cover transportation for Ambika to attend gender workshop in India.

**India:** GGT budget for TNAU \$4050; TERI \$1650

Requesting Dr. Uma of TNAU to be part of our meetings in advance of our trip proved to be very important as she has been assigned to IPM CRSP for three years beginning this April. Upon this institutional support is crucial; she said there is a possibility that they will reduce her teaching load from two to one class as well. Uma is well qualified and has worked with IPM CRSP in the previous phase. She has a doctoral thesis on women and empowerment (which she clarified she does not define as women having power over men but rather the appropriate person making the relevant decisions---certainly not radical feminist and a good thing to work within this institutional culture). She is currently finishing up a research project with the Ministry of Agriculture on women's associations and empowerment and two other projects (below).

We discussed Uma organizing and implementing the gender workshop on her own, even if a two day version in order to attach it to the other global theme workshops in September. I told her India had about \$5000, which was half of the regional budget and that we needed to agree with the heads of the project how this would be spent. Funds are needed to cover student fieldwork and minimal farmer costs to do the rapid gender assessment, and funds will be required for the workshop. India funds should cover the travel costs of one person each from Bangladesh and Nepal (unless other funds from the previous phase can cover this, in which case two representatives from each country would be better). (IS THERE ANY WAY TERI CAN SPONSOR TRAVEL FOR ONE OF THE OTHER COUNTRY GENDER REPS TO THE WORKSHOP IN ORDER TO LEAVE TNAU MORE FOR THE WORKSHOP COSTS?; PERHAPS FUNDING Mohammed Sadique Rahman ("MD Sadique Rahman"), agricultural economist at BARI? Or, can they help cover the costs of the workshop since India funds are spread thin between two sites? Funds in TNAU and in TERI may also be used for training women farmers, though it seems that this may not be able to happen until FY 2 given funding shortage. Clearly the majority of the funds now and in the future should stay in TNAU given the opportunity to work with students. If appropriate, TERI should send the person in charge of their gender activities/integration to the workshop.

Upon request of Dr. Mohankumar, I wrote the following formal message regarding Uma's proposed role aimed at formalizing this relationship with top level support:

“Dear Dr. Mohankumar and Dr. Doug Pfeiffer;

Cc: Dr. Ed Rajotte, Dr. Uma

(later sent by Ed to: Dr. R. Samiyappan, Director, Center for Plant Molecular Biology

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, E-mail: [directorcpmb@tnau.ac.in](mailto:directorcpmb@tnau.ac.in)

I am very pleased to inform you that Dr. Uma has been selected to be the Gender Global Theme Regional Coordinator for South Asia throughout this new phase of the IPM CRSP, and that she has graciously accepted this responsibility. As Regional Coordinator, Dr. Uma will carry out a workplan in both sites in India, as well as support our gender program in Bangladesh and Nepal. Among her responsibilities for this first year are carrying out a Rapid Gender Assessment, organizing and facilitating a workshop on gender and participative methodologies, and tracking and reporting gender indicators. She will coordinate with Dr. Selvaraj on gender issues, particularly in the collection and analysis of quantitative socio-economic data. She will also work closely with the IPM CRSP technical team to promote the adoption of IPM through gender strategies.

I would like to thank you for the institutional support that TNAU will provide to Dr. Uma.”

Besides Dr. Uma, there was one other woman participating in the meetings, Dr. Nutan from TERI. She said TERI has a social security division that includes gender and other issues. They also have an impact assessment area, both of which could be leveraged to support gender equity in IPM CRSP. She stressed that in northern India things were much worse for women, who are often not allowed out of the house. She said all the landowners are men, and all the decisions are made by them. All the labor is female and the farmer's wife is not allowed out of the house. But they have found a way to reach them by calling women's meetings and they are able to play an important role in IPM as they are told to not cook vegetables that have been sprayed. Will work with women composting units. Strategy: have to link technical with decisions in the house (children, education, health). (G-based opportunity).

Uma says no classes in TNAU even mention gender. But, have 2-3 people who work on women and empowerment in Ag Extension Department. Also, has opportunity to bring students into the IPM CRSP through three different entries:

Draw on university's RAWE class (Rural Agricultural Work Experience) where students spend 3-4 months in villages (80-110 students per year; go in June-July) to undertake gender research. Wait until FY 2 to build on Rapid Gender Assessment and studies completed this fiscal year.

Uma can also get PhD or PostDoc to do gender study.

Also, use Management students (where Uma teaches) to study market preferences and perceptions of organic and low-chemical produce.

Uma is currently working on 3 projects, of which two are wrapping up and in April she can get to work on IPM CRSP. 1) BT cotton and gender; -(-ask What role do women play in adoption of IPM?); 2) local governance; 3) impact of women's groups on technology adoption and productivity enhancement and livelihood security (with Min of Agriculture). Good opportunity to build on latter.

After MEC presentation on Feb 8, man thanks her for making clear the difference between sex and gender. (This is often the case.)

Big research question is: how adoptable are the IPM CRSP technologies and how does gender play a role in this? Who decides? What are the perceptions of the technology? Market prices are key to adoption, as is yield. But study showed that bottom line was quality, and that preference is very different from one village to the next. YOU CANNOT INTRODUCE THE SAME VARIETY IN SEVERAL VILLAGES AND EXPECT THE SAME RESULT. Need to study who is the consumer and what are their preferences. How do they select produce? This research is not on-farm but in market. Also need to educate nursery owner/managers who are (always?) men, and whose workers are always women. (Propose working on this in FY 2, following value-chain approach that we will start in Nepal in FY 1 and develop more in workshop in Spring 2011.) Also in FY 2, plan to focus on educating nursery managers/owners, and to bring in women through collective self-help groups. (Women are not allowed out of house easily alone, but have greater mobility in groups.) Good potential for article on addressing constraint to IPM posed by cultural obstacles to women's mobility in India and Bangladesh. Research what can IPM CRSP do to remove obstacles to participation: collective strategy is one. Seek partnering with government or other programs. How does this—women working in groups and women making income through IPM enterprises-- impact gender relations?

Misc. Uma says women are lowest in rank. First the men eat, then the children, then the elderly, then the women. Women eat the leftovers.

#### Recommendations for GGT in India:

Fully empower Uma as regional coordinator; as soon as Bangladesh has named gender point person, introduce the three formally so she can begin gender integration and coordinating reporting requirement.

Hold gender workshop in Tamil Nadu in August or when other Global Theme workshops will take place.

Use women's self help groups as strategy for bringing in women to IPM small enterprise, for instance in grafting or gardening.

Study role of food preferences in determining acceptance of certain varieties and of organic and low chemical produce.

Draw on university's RAWWE class (Rural Agricultural Work Experience) where students spend 3-4 months in villages (80-110 students per year; go in June-July) to undertake gender research. Wait until FY 2 to build on Rapid Gender Assessment and studies completed this fiscal year.

Uma can also get PhD or PostDoc to do gender study; use this FY identify student or post-doc for funding in year two.

Also, use Management students (where Uma teaches) to study market preferences and perceptions of organic and low-chemical produce.

### **Expectations of Regional Coordinator (Uma and others in other Regional Programs)**

Read Gender Global Theme proposal, workplan and Gender Dimensions Framework Handbook

Assure/coordinate the implementation of workplan for Year 1 at regional level

Apply Gender Dimensions Framework for a Rapid Gender Assessment on particular technology or aspect of IPM and produce a preliminary case study (concept note) identifying gender-based constraints and opportunities for IPM.

Organize and facilitate gender and participative methodology workshop for region, in coordination with GGT PI.

Integrate gender questions into socio-economic survey. Assure collection of sex-disaggregated data.

Coordinate regional reporting and ongoing effort to increase and document women's participation. Use two matrices and cross-cutting indicators (appendices to the GGT proposal), attached.

Integrate gender report into team annual report and also send separately to GGT PI.

Update on gender global theme activities mid-year.

Working with gender point persons in other countries in region, develop gender strategies and workplan for FY 2. Integrate gender.

Direct support to other countries in region; possibly travel to one country in their region to help replicate gender workshop there in Year 2 together with gender point person there.

Keep track of different gender activities and research in region and orient as needed.

Promote women-only trainings, women-led trainings and other participation strategies

### **Follow up required**

Send Luke and Nepal team proposal and appendices; also to Uma and India team, and Bangladesh once USAID has approved it. Send with short paragraph outlining expectations of them in FY 1.

Ask for Ambika's cv and gender point person in Bangladesh.

Push for increasing and assuring women's participation in Diagnostics training and other workshops.

Send Luke gender questions for value chain to include in his GATES survey (could add 20-25 questions); can also add key questions to interviews at collection centers.

Get copies of current surveys (which I believe Luke gave to George)

Mail Luke and Uma hard copy of GDF handbook.

See Manju support for Pokhara workshop

Contact Karim immediately re- can MD Sadique be responsible for country gender activities (working with MCC)? And working with students.

Get Shahnaz' paper on gardens at the AAG in Chicago

MEC remind Mark Visocky to send me garden study.

### **Country-specific recommendations:**

In Bangladesh

Assign Sadique to coordinate and integrate gender activities in BARI in conjunction with MCC for increasing women's participation. Also responsible for reporting. Should participate in India gender workshop, funded by India budget or creative mechanism such as sharing costs with Impact Assessment GT.

Approve student concept papers and establish IPM agreement for two years of funding each of two students. Agree on student outputs for year one, including rapid gender assessment, directory, and bibliography/literature review. Set up joint supervision. Karim meeting with Shahnaz and students.

In Nepal

Contract Ambika to initiate activities. Attend India gender workshop, funded by India budget. Begin rapid gender assessment. Later, in FY 2, plan and implement gendered access to trade workshop for March or April 2011 focusing on grafting in conjunction with MEC and with participants from regional program (and perhaps Central Asia). Include 20-25 questions re gender in GATES survey this summer.

Increase numbers female attendance in future grafting trainings and explore the reasons behind previous disparities.

**Key contacts for gender work**

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He should be my contact for now.

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**Attachments:**

One document with three country programs/agendas (some changes took place)

Concept notes and cvs for two University of Dhaka students

Proposed budget for students in Bangladesh

Two reporting matrices (appendices to the GGT proposal)

Gender Global Theme workplan for FY 1