

Trip Report
Visit to Thailand and Cambodia

Name of the Traveler: R. Muniappan

Countries Visited: Bangkok in Thailand; and Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia

Dates of Travel: April 1st to 13th, 2010

Sites Visited: FAO Office in Bangkok, USAID office, ADI office, CEDAC office, General Directorate of Agriculture, and IDE fields in Phnom Penh and mungbean fields in Siem Reap area.

Purpose of the Trip: To develop contacts and identify collaborators in Cambodia for implementation of IPM CRSP Southeast Asia regional program.

Description of Activities/Observations:

I left Blacksburg on April 1st at 8.00 am and reached Bangkok at 11.30 pm on April 2nd. On April 3rd, the IPM CRSP team consisting of Bob Hedlund, Mike Hammig, Merle Shepard, Gerry Carner and I met with Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Advisor/Team Leader and Ms. Dada C. Morales-Abubakar, Program Development Officer, Inter-country Program for IPM in Vegetables in South and Southeast Asia at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Currently they are implementing a project funded by Sweden to reduce the pesticide risk in the Asian countries including Cambodia which was started in 2007. In their powerpoint presentation they mentioned that Cambodia's population is 14.4 million of which 82% (11.8 million) live under rural conditions. Agricultural area is 2,899,036 hectares and agriculture provides 70% of job opportunity. About 85% of the pesticides used in Cambodia are imported from Vietnam and Thailand and 15% from China. Over 386 types of pesticides have been registered of which 136 are in Class 1a and 1b categories. In 2007, about 1,709 shops were engaged in pesticide trade and 15 companies were importing pesticides. Farmers mix 2 to 6 pesticides and apply 15 to 20 times in a cropping season for vegetable crops. Rainy season is from May to November and dry season is from December to April. Very little or no vegetables are grown in the wet season and vegetables are mostly grown in dry season. Cambodia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has adopted IPM to be the key crop production strategy in its policy.

The project is working on vegetables in four and rice in five provinces by assessing pesticide related health risks and non-chemical alternatives for pesticides. Dada mentioned cabbage, tomato, yard long beans, eggplant, cauliflower, Kale, mustard, hot pepper and bitter melon are common vegetables grown in Cambodia. Some of the pests mentioned were viruses and wilt on peppers, brown plant hopper on rice, mealybug on cassava, and stem flies, leaf rollers and leafhoppers on mung bean.

April 4h: Sunday.

We traveled to Phnom Penh on April 5th and met with Mr. Flynn Fuller, Mrs. Ronit Kirshner Gerard, Mr. Reed Aeschliman, and Mr. Samram Tuy at USAID. They suggested that the mission be kept posted of all IPM CRSP activities in Cambodia. They mentioned about the recent release of RFP and plan to have a launch workshop in November after issuing the contract in September. They would like to receive a one page quarterly report on IPM activities and the funds spent in Cambodia.

On April 6th morning, we met with Dr. Tim Purcell and Mr. Muniroph of ADI, an Australian NGO that has a branch in Cambodia. Dr. Purcell explained various externally funded projects that operate in Cambodia. ACIAR, FAO, EU, USAID, World Bank, CRS, ADB, DFID, and CIRAD are some of the major external contributors. ADI is a research oriented NGO concentrates on water resource sector development, public financial management, rice value chain development, etc.

In the afternoon we met with Mr. Keam Makarady of CEDAC. He explained CEDAC's activities on training farmers in safe use of pesticides and creating awareness on their adverse effects. CEDAC is a local NGO and it has over 270 staff members.

On April 7th we met with Dr. Creig Meisner, ACIAR representative who gave us a briefing on ACIAR activities in Cambodia and a general description of agricultural programs in Cambodia.

In the afternoon we met with Dr. So Khan Rithykun, Dr. Ngin Chhay and Mr. Chou Cheythyrit of General Directorate of Agriculture. They mentioned that the Cambodia Department of Agriculture established an IPM program in 1993 using agroecological approach for food security, farmer education, and training the trainers. So far, 600 trainers and 16,000 farmers have been trained through season long farmer schools. By implementing IPM rice yield has increased by 30% and pesticide use has been reduced to zero in rice, however herbicide use has increased in direct seeded rice. They mentioned that tomato leaf curl and bacterial wilt are serious problems.

On April 8th we visited IDE fields in the southeastern part of Cambodia accompanied by Dr. Philip Charlesworth and Mr. Sieng Kan of IDE; Nico Janssen of SNV; and Mr. Bou Sitha and Ms. Ayumi Matuura of International Volunteers of Yamagata. We observed Chinese kale infested with diamondback moth, bittermelon infested with melonfly, eggplant with leaf hoppers, cucumber and ribbed gourd with virus diseases.

On April 9th morning, I met with Ms. Rebecca Cague of Chemonics and in the afternoon the team met with Mrs. Ronit Kirshner Gerard and Mr. Samram Tuy at the USAID mission for debriefing.

April 10th – Saturday. Collected mealybugs on plumeria and hibiscus; *Brontispa longissima* on coconut; spiraling whitefly on guava; *Ceroplastes* sp. on mango at Siam Reap.

On April 11th we visited a mungbean growing area next to Tonle Sap lake at Kamtanthilent area. The 2000 hectare area of mungbean crop was free of pests but over use of various pesticides was noted.

April 12th: Bob Hedlund and I visited Mr. Michael Silberman, Regional Alliance Bulider, USAID, Bangkok, Thailand to explain about IPM CRSP and debrief of our trip activities.

I returned to Blacksburg on April 13th.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Address	E- mail
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