

Central Asia IPM CRSP Trip Report (June 4 – 14, 2011)

Dr. Walter Pett, Michigan State University

Country Visited: Tajikistan

Dates of Travel: June 4 – 14, 2011.

Traveler's Name and Affiliation: Walter Pett, Entomology (Potato Team), Central Asia IPM CRSP Project, Michigan State University

Purpose of Trip: To participate and lecture in the regional pest diagnostics workshop. Visit Wheat, Potato and Tomato IPM CRSP Research and Demonstration Sites in various parts of Tajikistan. Discuss and plan 2012 Potato work-plan.

Sites Visited: Dushanbe, Hissor, Shahrinav, and Muminabad districts of Tajikistan.

Description of Activities/Observations (Potato Group):

Monday, June 6: Attended a planning meeting of the Central Asia regional IPM CRSP project with the U.S. and host country coordinators/researchers working on IPM packages for wheat, Potato and tomato attended the workshop. The U.S. participants included: Dr. R. Muni Muniappan, IPM CRSP Director from Virginia Tech; Dr. Karim Maredia, Dr. George Bird, Dr. Walter Pett, Dr. Linda Racioppi, and Dr. Zahra Jamal from Michigan State University; Dr. Frank Zalom, UC-Davis; Dr. Naidu Rayapathi from Washington State University; Dr. Mustapha El-Bouhssini from ICARDA; Dr. Ravza Mavlyanova from AVRDC and host country representatives from Tajikistan (Dr. Nurali Saidov), Uzbekistan (Dr. Barno Tashpulatova) and Kyrgyzstan (Dr. Murat Aitmatov). IPM CRSP project activities in each of the three countries were presented by the host country representatives from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Potato IPM Presentation: The potato IPM work is conducted in Kyrgyzstan. Team members include: Murat Aitmatov (IPM CRSP Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan), George Bird (MSU), Walter Pett (MSU).

Murat presented the Potato IPM research work conducted and information on the number of Farmer field schools held in Kyrgyzstan. He mentioned the use of several biopesticides for control of fungal diseases of potato. Colorado potato beetle (CPB) is a serious pest of potato crop in Central Asia and only insecticides are currently used to control this pest. Stated that potatoes from the MSU Potato Breeding Program (Dave Douches) are planted at 2 locations in Kyrgyzstan.

Observation: Research presentation lacked results for the efficacy of the biopesticides and control of CPB. Extension part of Potato Group is very strong.

In the afternoon, the IPM CRSP team visited, a few wheat, potato and tomato fields and collected field samples for pest diagnostic workshop to be conducted the following two days.

Tuesday, June 7 (Regional Pest Diagnostics Workshop): The Central Asia regional Pest Diagnostics workshop was conducted on the campus of Tajik National University. The Pest Diagnostics workshop started in the morning and I presented a basic Entomology lecture.

Observation: Language barrier is a huge problem working in Central Asia. I would have liked more background information on the audience I presented to. I do not know if my talk was too basic.

Wednesday, June 8 (Regional Pest Diagnostics Workshop): The Regional Pest Diagnostics workshop continued with a hands-on diagnostic lab to train the participants in entomology. Insect examined included sun pest, CPB, cereal leaf beetle, and aphids.

Observation: Microscopes would have been helpful.

Thursday, June 9 (Field Trip to Wheat and Tomato Sites): Visited the IPM CRSP wheat research and demonstration site at Turdi village in Hissor district with the IPM CRSP team in the morning. The research plots were planted incorrectly.

Visited a tomato field trial planted in Kahramon village in Shahrimav district in the afternoon.

Observation: We need to explain the importance of experimental design and ensure that our in-country researchers follow the experimental design developed.

Friday, June 10: In the morning the IPM CRSP team met with officials of University of Central Asia's (UCA) Mountain Society Research Center. This meeting was conducted at the Ismaili Center in Dushanbe. Dr. Nasreen Dhanani (UCA Deputy Director) and Mr. Chad Dear (UCA Research Coordinator) hosted this meeting.

In the afternoon, met with IPM CRSP team members and discussed future plans for the project.

Observation: I had met Nasreen Dhanani at MSU in the Spring of this year when she visited MSU. I'm still not sure how MSU and UCA can collaborate.

Saturday, June 11 (Field Trip to Potato Site): I visited a potato farm in Muminabad district about 300 km from Dushanbe with the IPM CRSP team. This field visit was hosted by the local farmers (both male and female farmers were present and actively interacted with the participants). There were four varieties of potatoes grown in unreplicated plots.

Observation: Experimental design needs to be implemented at research sites. It was a very long drive for a short visit at a farm.

Sunday, June 12: Met with Dr. Bird, and Murrat to plan for future work.

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		
Program Planning Meeting	June 6, 2011	Scientists	12	5		Central Asia program planning
Pest Diagnostics Workshop	June 7 - 8	Scientists and students	77	36	IPM CRSP Team members from the U.S. and ICARDA	Pest Diagnostics capacity building
Workplan for next year	June 10, 2011	Scientists	10	5		Workplan preparation

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

1. Research and Demonstration sites should be established and managed in a scientific manner.
2. Training in conducting field experiments is necessary.
3. Communication between Murrat and I must be improved.