

Trip Report of Frank Zalom, University of California-Davis

(Prepared by Barno Tashpulatova and Karim Maredia)

Country visited: Uzbekistan

Dates of Travel: September 10-15, 2010

Traveler's name and affiliation: Frank Zalom, University of California-Davis

Purpose of Trip:

As a part of the Central Asia Regional IPM CRSP Project, Dr. Frank Zalom from the University of California-Davis visited Uzbekistan from September, 10 - 15, 2010.

On the first day, he visited the Uzbek Research Institute for Plant Protection and met with Dr. Sagdullaev A.U., Director of the Institute. He was impressed with the work on laboratory rearing of *Amblyseius* predatory mites and provided ideas about further cooperation and research work on development of possible new directions for biological control of tomato pests and diseases.

He visited farmers' fields in Tashkent region's Kibray district and met with a vegetable farmer, owner of big greenhouses, discussed with him about some issues on mutual development of new methods of tomato IPM for managing insects and diseases. The farmers showed vegetables grown with the ecologically friendly methods of plant protection using less of chemicals and more of microbiological fertilizers and pesticides against the soil pathogens.

During the field visit, Dr. Zalom found that young farmers were owning the big fields and greenhouses and family businesses competently managing crop production, storage and sale of produce. He felt that there is good scope for cooperation in research and outreach for developing tomato IPM package. During discussion with the tomato growing farmers, he gave some recommendations on biological control that can be adapted against some pests and diseases.

Dr. Zalom visited the Tashkent State Agrarian University (TashSAU) and met with Vice-Rector, Prof. Gafurova L.A., and other faculty members and specialists. Participants discussed the possible plans for cooperation in project work implementation, activities in collaborative research and capacity building activities.

He also visited the Biolaboratory at TashSAU, so-called "Biomarkaz" where beneficial insects are reared for large scale release. The "Biomarkaz" trains biolaboratory specialists with support of the Government. Afterwards Dr. Zalom visited University's educational and

experimental fields and greenhouse plots for conducting collaborative research work trials. He observed the release of predatory mite, *Amblyseius* in tomato greenhouses against whiteflies, aphids and thrips. There were also ongoing trials in tomato greenhouses on grafting for development of resistant plants for various diseases of tomato.

He also participated in a group meeting conducted at ICARDA office with the specialists from the Plant Protection Institute on activities for development of ecologically friendly methods for protection of tomato crop against pests and weeds. At the Uzbek Research Institute of Vegetable, Melon Crops and Potato he met with the Director of Institute, Dr. Khakimov R.A. and acquainted with the activities of the Institute as well as discussed the plans for the second phase of the Central Asia IPM CRSP project.

He met with Dr. Zakir Khalikulov, Acting Head of ICARDA- PFU and Acting Central Asia and Caucuses (CAC) Regional Coordinator and expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the cooperation and support of ICARDA in the IPM CRSP project implementation. Dr. Zalom also discussed with Dr. Barno Tashpulatova and Dr. Ravza Mavlyanova (AVRDC) about the work plan that is going to be implemented in the next year.

Frank Zalom departed from Uzbekistan on September 15, 2010.