

IPM CRSP Trip Reports

Country Visited: India

Dates of Travel: 15-24 July 2011

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Amer Fayad (IPM CRSP ME) and Doug Pfeiffer (VT Department of Entomology)

Purpose of Trip: Participate in IPM CRSP sponsored International Workshop on 'Production of biocontrol agents' (Trichoderma & Pseudomonas), meet with USAID India Mission personnel at TNAU, and visit Bio-Control Research Laboratory (BCRL) in Bangalore.

Sites Visited: Tamil Nadu: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, one IPM CRSP farm research site, and T. Stanes and Company Limited, Coimbatore; Karnataka: Bio-Control Research Laboratory at Bangalore.

Description of Activities/Observations:

TNAU: Participated in IPM-CRSP sponsored International Workshop on 'Production of biocontrol agents' (Trichoderma & Pseudomonas). Participants included research scientists representing several of the IPM CRSP regional projects (South Asia: India, Bangladesh), Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan), South Asia (Indonesia) and Latin America/Caribbean (Honduras).

The workshop included lectures followed by hands on laboratory activities. Topics covered the isolation, selection, culture, mass production, and quality control of biocontrol agents (Trichoderma & Pseudomonas). Other lectures covered formulations and delivery system of biocontrol agents, In vitro screening of biocontrol agents, bioefficacy of biocontrol agents, Induced Systemic Resistance (ISR) and Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR), and to storage and shelf life of biocontrol agents.

We met with USAID India Mission staff for one afternoon at TNAU; we briefed them on benefits of the IPM CRSP project, and explained our research on site. We also visited with the USAID mission personnel the T. Stanes and Company Limited in Coimbatore where we learned about the commercial production of biocontrol agents. We had a courtesy meeting with the vice chancellor of TNAU (with the USAID representatives).

We visited with the dean of undergraduate studies and the dean of graduate studies, discussed with them the prospects for collaborative educational programs and Dr Pfeiffer met a potential doctoral student for a graduate student position in the VT Department of Entomology (that student is a current faculty member at TNAU).

BCRL, Bangalore: we toured the BCRL campus, and learned about the diverse activities research scientists at BCRL are doing: mass production of Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, NPV, pheromones and other biocontrol agents. We discussed the potential for more formalized collaboration with IPM CRSP projects in the future.

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		
IPM CRSP International Workshop on Production of Biocontrol Agents	18-22 July 2011	Plant protection specialists involved in regional projects of IPM CRSP	6	5	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Bio-Control Research Laboratory (BCRL)	To inform participants on biology of biocontrol agents (specifically Trichoderma spp. and Pseudomonas spp.), the ability to isolate local strains from soil, and production and formulation of commercial products.

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

This workshop serves as an excellent model for sharing experiences among regional projects. Participants were eager to use some of the technologies they learned at TNAU in their own research projects and respective countries. The potential for using Trichoderma & Pseudomonas as biocontrol agents is promising. Similar regional and international activities among the IPM CRSP regional projects should be encouraged. There were no representatives from both the East Africa and the West Africa regional projects. Both projects could have benefited from the IPM technologies shared at the workshop.

Formal inclusion of Bio-Control Research Laboratory in the IPM CRSP South Asia regional project should be pursued.

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