

Trip Report

Country Visited: India

Dates of Travel: February 02, 2011 February 05, 2011

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Dr. M. A. Rahman, Team Leader of IPM CRSP program in Bangladesh Site

Purpose of Trip: To attend the IPM CRSP South Asia Joint Program Planning Meeting at TNAU, Coimbatore, India

Sites Visited: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and its experimental farm, Coimbatore, India.

Description of Activities/Observations:

On the first day (February 02), we visited the experimental fields of virus-resistant hybrid tomato at TNAU research farm for an hour in the morning. The tomato plants were found to be infected with 'little leaf' disease, a disease caused by phytoplasma. The disease is newly recorded in India. It is not found in Bangladesh. We then visited farmers' IPM fields in a nearby village from to observe three IPM tomato plots and one okra plot. After coming back to TNAU campus, we participated in a meeting from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm to discuss the gender issues where a large number of women gathered to discuss their roles and experience in vegetable cultivation.

The next day on February 03, the regional meeting was held at the Farmers Training Dormitory of TNAU at 9.00 am. Various regional issues were discussed by Dr. S. K. De Datta and the participants. A workshop on *Trichoderma* is scheduled to be held at TNAU in June, 2011. The BARI (HRC) plant pathologists working with IPM CRSP in Bangladesh have successfully developed an organic fertilizer enriched with *Trichoderma* inoculum named as "Tricho-compost". Presently, this organic fertilizer is being commercially produced by an NGO and has become highly popular among the farmers. Therefore, I proposed to the workshop management to invite a scientist from Bangladesh to participate in the ensuing workshop. Chaired by the Vice Chancellor of TNAU, a meeting was held with selected farmers at TNAU to discuss various aspects of IPM technologies. In the afternoon, Dr. R. Muniappan (Program Director of IPM CRSP) narrated the success story of papaya mealy bug control. Introduction of a parasitoid for controlling the papaya mealy bug has become highly successful that saved the papaya gardens from total destruction. The farmers were deeply impressed with the effectiveness of the technology as they got rid of the problem and were enormously benefited.

On the last day (February 04), the meeting started at TNAU where the representatives of India, Nepal and Bangladesh briefly presented their achievements in IPM technologies and the progress of the on-going activities of IPM CRSP. The meeting was wrapped up at 2:30 pm. I left Coimbatore (India) for Dhaka (Bangladesh) in the evening.

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

The meeting was successful and informative. Regional meetings, such as this, will help the scientists of the region in networking and exchanging scientific and technological information and their application in their own country.

List of Contacts Made:

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