

IPM CRSP Trip Report

Country Visited: Mali

Dates of Travel: 4-13 March 2011

Traveler Name and Affiliation: Donald Mullins, Department of Entomology, VA Tech.

Purpose of Trip: To visit and assess field research plots in Mali and to work with personnel at the Environmental Toxicology Quality Control Laboratory on their plans to upgrade their mission capabilities.

Sites Visited: Mali; Goundaka, Yawakenda, Boro, and Borko (villages near Bandiagara), and The Environmental Toxicology Quality Control Laboratory (ETQCL), Central Veterinary Laboratory, Bamako.

Description of Activities/Observations:

During the March 2011 trip to Mali a group of US West Africa IPM CRSP collaborators visited several villages in the Malian Dogon country located near Bandiagara (Goudaka, Yawakenda, Boro and Borko). We observed agricultural production of various crops including onions, cabbage and potatoes. We obtained information on the division of labor in production and marketing and also learned how the revenues generated by marketing were distributed between village members. The distribution of labor responsibilities and the sharing of the revenues, varied considerably between the different villages.

Work with personnel at the Environmental Toxicology Quality Control Laboratory, included: 1) inspection of the renovations that had been done to the laboratory to accommodate the new analytical equipment that had been ordered (3 Agilent gas chromatography units), 2) reviewed the inventory of the various pieces of equipment that had been received to date, 3) made plans for ordering and installing a UPS unit (automatic uninterruptable power unit) to protect and improve the functionality of the lab equipment, 4) review the ETQCL strategic plan, and 5) provided input developing the ETQCL business plan.

The laboratory renovations were almost completed with the exception of the upgrades to the electrical power supply system required to accommodate the new analytical equipment. Progress was made in developing the business plan.

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

Additional items for improving the ETQCL analytical capabilities and functionality that should be considered should include purchase of the following items: 1) an additional diesel power generator specifically assigned to the laboratory, 2) a soxhlet extraction system, and 3) a high performance liquid chromatography system. Purchase of these items might be possible within the budget allocated for the ETQCL equipment budget.

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
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