

## IPM CRSP Trip Report

**Country Visited:** Ethiopia

**Dates of Travel:** May 22-30, 2010

**Travelers Name and Affiliation:** Wondi Mersie, Associate Dean and Director of Parthenium Project, Virginia State University.

**Purpose of Trip:** To evaluate the implementation of the project entitled, “Abating the Weed Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) Damage in Eastern Africa Using Integrated Cultural and Biological Control Measures” in Ethiopia.

Discussions were held with Ethiopian partners on the future use of the two bioagents (*Zygogramma bicolorata* and *Listronotus setosipennis*) for the control of parthenium and on the relationships among the various project implementers.

Specific issues addressed on this trip were:

Discuss with partners about the management of project funds

Asses the status of bioagent rearing sites

Asses the current situation with *Zygogramma* and *Listronatus* bioagents at Ambo quarantine facility

Review and discuss the progress in the implementation of project objectives by partner institutions.

**Sites visited:**

- Quarantine facility at Ambo Plant Protection Research Center
- Plant nursery site at a town called Debre Zeit, about 45 Km east of Addis Ababa
- The USAID Mission in Addis Ababa
- AgriService Ethiopia
- Shops where netting material to be used for constructing nursery are sold
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture

### **Description of Activities/Observation:**

Arrived in Addis at noon of May 22, 2010 and met with Mr. Million Abebe, parthenium coordinator in Ethiopia and discussed about the progress of activities of the project and also set program for the next days of stay in Ethiopia.

On May 24 visited AgriService Ethiopia, a local NGO that is currently facilitating the renting of vehicles for project activities. Mersie discussed with the director about the

future planned release of the bioagent, *Zygogramma* and the involvement of AgriService as a member of the committee that will oversee the release program. Mersie also met Ibrahim of Mekele University regarding submission of invoices.

On May 25, Mersie along Million and Kassahun traveled to Ambo to visit the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research's (EIAR) Plant Protection Research Center (PPRC). Mersie met Kemal Ali, the center director. Parthenium project activities to be carried out at the center were discussed. Then the greenhouse where parthenium plants are raised was visited. It was decided to install one more bench to increase space to raise test plants and put in place a drip-irrigation system. Then the quarantine facility where *Listornatus* was held was visited and it was decided to replace the small air conditioners with a bigger units.

In the evening another discussion was held with Ibrahim of Mekele University about invoices.

May 26 - a morning a meeting was held at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) HQ in Addis Ababa.

In attendance were:

Berhanu Melese, Haimanot Abebe, Berhanu G/Medhin all from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture

Kassahun Zewdie from EIAR

Lisanework Negatu from Haramaya University

Merga Tesema from Oromiya bureau of agriculture

Million Abebe from VSU-Ethiopia

Brief overview of the parthenium project was presented by Kassahun followed by a presentation by Mersie about the current status of the bioagent *Zygogramma*. Mersie informed the group that an application has been submitted to USAID to secure a release permit. The meeting was closed after the chairperson from MoA promised to look into what support his organization would provide to make the release program a success.

In the afternoon we traveled to Debre Zeit, a town 45 km east of Addis Ababa and visited sites where ornamental plants are raised and sold to the public. The purpose of the visit was to see the nursery structures that can be used for rearing *Zygogramma*. A structure was identified that can be used as a model for the parthenium nursery.

May 27 - visited shops and identified a place where the netting for covering the rearing nursery is sold.

May 28 - Mersie visited the USAID Ethiopian Mission office and briefed Dr. Belay Demssie on the progress of the parthenium project.

May 29 – discussions were held about future implementation plans with Million Abebe and Kassahun Zewdie.

**List of people contacted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Profession</b>
Lisanework Nigatu	Haramaya University
Ibrahim Fitwy	Mekele University Communication
Million Abebe	VSU-Ethiopia Entomologist
Kassahun Zewdie	EIAR-weed scientist
Getachew Worku	AgriService Ethiopia
Kemal Ali	Director PPRC-Ambo Entomologist
Mohamed Dawd	PPRC-Ambo Entomologist
Aseged Wegayehu	PPRC-Ambo technician
Desta Tolosa	PPRC-Ambo technician
Aberash chala	PPRC-Ambo technician
Alemnesh Mitiku	PPRC-Ambo technician
Berhanu Melese	MoARD, Weed Scientist
Haimanot Abebe	MoARD, Weed Scientist
Berhanu G/Medhin Gebremedhin	MoARD, Weed Scientist
Merga Tesema	Oromiya Agricultural Bureau Weed Scientist