

Trip Report

Country Visited: Ethiopia

Dates of Travel: February 3-17, 2011

Travelers Names and Affiliations: Wondi Mersie
Virginia State University

Purpose of Trip: Monitor progress of parthenium project activities in Ethiopia

Sites Visited:

Ambo Plant Protection Research Centre
Ambo University
AgriService Ethiopia
USAID Mission in Ethiopia
Ethiopian Environmental Protection Agency

Description of Activities/Observations:

I visited Ambo Plant Protection Research Center (APPRC) where host-range tests of bioagents for the control of parthenium are conducted under quarantine. I had a meeting with people working in the quarantine facility and two officials of the Center. I have also met individuals at USAID Mission in Ethiopia, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD), Ethiopian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), project representatives from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and a representative of one of our partners, Haramaya University.

The discussion at APPRC focused on the on-going host-range evaluation of the weevil, listronotus and maintenance of *Zygogramma* culture in the quarantine facility. The project coordinator and representative of EIAR were given the responsibilities of following up on the action items. Some of the issues such as protective clothing was addressed as a result of bringing the materials from U.S. The meeting with the two officials of APPRC was related to the release of *Zygogramma*. They were informed that we are still waiting for a permission from the USAID office in Washington.

The discussion at the USAID Mission in Addis Ababa focused on consulting the Ethiopian EPA in the permit requests for the introduction and release of bioagents for the control of parthenium. Following this discussion, I visited the office of the Ethiopian EPA on this subject and briefed the official about the on-going effort to evaluate bioagents for the control of parthenium under quarantine conditions. The status of the application for the release of *Zygogramma* was also explained to the official.

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

Host- range test for *Listronotus* should focus on indigenous crops and plants particularly those very closely related to parthenium.

Methods should be sought to grow parthenium at Ambo rather than collecting it from faraway places.

Purchase some critically needed materials such as air conditioners through a different mechanism other than through the current system that is taking a long time

Employ more people to assist in the routine activities of taking care of the nursery, cleaning and maintaining of cages

EIAR should realize and pass on message to higher officials that the release of just one bioagent is not going to solve the parthenium problem as experienced in other countries such as Australia where full control has not yet been achieved even after releasing nine species of bioagents

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Dr. Kemal Ali	Ambo plant protection research center manager/ Ethiopian institute of agricultural research	251 (0) 112362204 Harari2003@gmail.com
Dr. Melaku Alemu	Crop protection case team coordinator/Ethiopian institute of agricultural research	251 112 366437
Mr. Tariku Hunduma	Crop protection project coordinator/Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437
Ms. Sintu Alemayehu	In charge of quarantine facility/ Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437 sintukecho@yahoo.com
Mr. Aseged Wegayehu	Field & Lab. Assistant/Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437
Mr. Sheleme Bayera	Msc student financed by project/Ambo University	251 112 366437
Mr. Takele Zekie	Technical assistant/Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437
Mr. Wondu Bekele	Technical assistant /Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437
Mss. Aberash Chala	Field assistant/Ambo plant protection research center	251 112 366437
Mr. Lakew Wondimu	Vice President/ Ambo University	
Mr. Taddese Kenea	V/president for administration & Development/ Ambo University	
Dr. Mulugetta Negeri	Lecturer/ Ambo University	251 (0) 911896296 Muluge2002@yahoo.com
	Ethiopian environmental protection authority	
Mr. Berhanu Gebremedhin	Crop protection expert/Ministry of Agriculture	251 (0) 911487424 Gebremedhin_Berhanu@yahoo.com
Mr. Getachew Worku	Director/Agriservice Ethiopia	251 (0) 114655515 Getachew_wer@yahoo.com
Dr. Kassahun Zewdie	Weed scientist/ Ethiopian institute of agricultural research	251 (0) 911186486 kassahunzewdie@yahoo.com
Mr. Million Abebe	Parthenium project coordinator in Ethiopia	251 (0) 912010472 mabebej@yahoo.com
Mr. Daniel Moore	USAID Mission in Ethiopia. Chief, Office of Business, Environment, Agriculture and Trade	(251-11) 130-6339 dmoore@usaid.gov
Dr. Yitayew Abebe	USAID Mission in Ethiopia MEO	yabebe@usaid.gov