

**Central Asia Region**  
**Integrated Pest Management Stakeholders Forum**  
**Tashkent, Uzbekistan**  
**May 5-6, 2005**

Michigan State University (MSU) in collaboration with the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) held the *Integrated Pest Management Stakeholders Forum for the Central Asia Region* from May 5-6, 2005. This forum was funded by the IPM-CRSP through a planning grant that was awarded to MSU on a competitive basis. IPM CRSP is a Virginia Tech-led, USAID-funded project.

More than 50 participants representing government, national agricultural research institutes, universities, international agricultural research centers, industry, and NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the United States attended this forum. Among the international organizations present were ICARDA, AVRDC, CIP, USAID, The World Bank/IFC, UNDP, UNESCO, JICA, GTZ, and Winrock International.

The goal of the IPM Stakeholders Forum was to take a bottom-up participatory approach in identifying issues, gaps and needs that will help in formulating a collaborative regional program in Central Asia. The U.S. team was represented by IPM specialists Karim Maredia, George Bird, Doug Landis, Pett Walt and Dieudonné Baributsa from Michigan State University; Frank Zalom from UC-Davis; and Colette Harris from Virginia Tech.

Specific objectives of the forum were to:

- review the current status of IPM in Central Asia by interacting with partner institutions and assessing their IPM research and training capacity;
- identify key partners for developing a full proposal for a regional IPM program; and
- build a regional IPM Network in Central Asia for the sharing of IPM information, experiences and technologies.

The U.S. team visited various institutes and universities such as the Institute of Zoology, Tashkent State Agrarian University, the Institute for Plant Protection, the Samarkand Agriculture Institute, the Samarkand Regional Biological laboratory, and the Farmers Association of Samarkand. The U.S. scientists interacted with representatives of various government institutions, universities, NGOs, and private sector organizations. These visits provided an excellent opportunity to assess the current status of IPM and capacity-building needs in the region. The input from stakeholders was highly informative and allowed the development of a comprehensive strategy for a collaborative regional IPM program in Central Asia.

The forum included interactive presentations and breakout sessions to identify needs and set priorities. Breakout groups focused on four themes: Collaborative IPM research on field crops, IPM research on vegetable and fruit crops, outreach/extension, and IPM education/information. Input from all stakeholders was considered and prioritized based on its importance. During the breakout discussions, wheat was chosen as a priority crop due to its importance as a staple food in the region. Potato and tomato were also chosen due to the growing interest by farmers in vegetable crops, as they can easily fit into diversification schemes and be used as sources of extra income.

Based on the assessment of the visiting U.S. team in collaboration with stakeholders, the MSU-led consortium proposed to initiate a participatory and collaborative IPM research and capacity building program in Central Asia with the following proposed activities:

1. Conduct collaborative research in IPM in Central Asia with a focus on:
  - Landscape ecology to enhance biodiversity and biological pest management
  - Improving efficiency and expanding product lines of bio-laboratories in the region
2. Through a participatory approach, develop and integrate ecologically-based IPM information and end-user oriented IPM educational packages in crop management programs
3. Train and build a team of IPM specialists from the region who can provide leadership and support to various stakeholders (e.g., governments, universities, NGOs) to promote ecologically-based IPM research and outreach
4. To break the isolation, foster networking and linkages among IPM specialists and institutions in the region and with the international IPM community

To achieve the project objectives, the MSU team will work closely with ICARDA, taking advantage of their well-established project facilitation unit and regional network in Central Asia. As a first step in strengthening MSU collaboration within Central Asia, the Institute of International Agriculture at MSU has helped an Uzbek scientist from the Institute of Plant Protection to attend the *Agroecology, Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Agriculture* short course that was begun in June 2005.

One outcome of the forum is that, from May to July 2005, a full proposal was developed and submitted to the IPM-CRSP office at Virginia Tech for a long-term IPM regional program in Central Asia. At the end of August, MSU was awarded the grant for a four year period.

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