

Inception Workshop of GTFS/REM/070/ITA - 'Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East'

Location	Tehran, Iran From: 31 May 2004 To: 04 Jun 2004
Participating Countries	Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza
Language	English
Cooperating Organizations	AGPP/RNE
Responsible Officers	A. Impiglia and M. Nosseir

Inception Workshop of GTFS/REM/070/ITA - 'Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East'

Objectives of the workshop

- Presentation and agreement of the regional IPM project objectives and National work-plans
- Learn Who is Who and Who is doing What at Regional Programme level
- Sharing information, knowledge and experiences on relevant thematic areas of the project through Working Group Decision on the forthcoming steps

During the workshop the CTA and technical Division Representatives have reinforced the named below objectives of the Project:

- Community empowerment through introduction and strengthening IPM/Farmers Field Schools (FFS) approach
- Reduction of conventional chemical inputs through IPM/FFS approach
- Reduced environment and health risks through IPM/FFS approach
- Better access opportunities to local and international markets for IPM products

In addition to the main objectives of the workshop above-mentioned, other results and agreed points have been defined:

- The selected crops to deal with during the project; the crops for country are presented below:

Country	Crops						
Iran		Cucumber	Grapes				
Egypt				Strawberry	Citrus		
Syria	Tomato					Apple	
Lebanon			Grapes				Potato
Jordan	Tomato	Cucumber					
W.B.G.S.	Tomato			Strawberry			

- Focusing the respective national plan of action on the following activities:
 - Training of Trainers (TOTs)
 - Farmers Field Schools (FFSs)
 - Curriculum Development
 - National and Regional Studies
 - Exchange Visits
- Country objectives on each specific activity specified (see table below)

Country	TOT/Curricula	FFS	STUDIES	EXC. VISITS
	Person	School	Number	Person
IRAN	20	62	3	32
EGYPT	30	36	4	15
SYRIA	12	24	2	6
PALESTINE	12	24	2	8
LEBANON	12	12	6	8
JORDAN	12	18	2	7
TOTAL	98	176	19	76

Each participating country expressed its own target based on the capacity and knowledge of IPM/FFS available at country level at the time of the inception workshop and project budget accessibility. All parties have agreed upon the above-expected output

of the project, including FAO represented by Messrs Solh and Kenmore and the Donor country represented at the opening session by His Excellency Mr Toscano, Ambassador of Italy to Tehran, and during the workshop by Mr Ferretti, TCAP.

The National Work Plan of Iran, Egypt, Syria, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan are presented in the Inception mission report of the CTA.

Workshop Agenda

The agenda of the GTFS/REM/070/ITA “Regional IPM Programme in the Near East”, Regional Inception Workshop, Tehran, Iran 31st May - 3rd June 2004 is presented below.

Time	Topic	Res. person/ facilitator
Sunday 30 May	Arrival of participants	Host Country
Before or after dinner	Informal meetings	Host Country
Monday 31 May		
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome to the participants-FAO	Dr. El Solh, Director/AGP
9:15 – 9:30	Opening by a representative of the Government of Iran	H.E. Mohammad H. Emadi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
9:30 – 9:45	Address by a representative of the Donor Government	H.E. Roberto Toscano, Italian Ambassador to Tehran
9:45 – 10:15	Introduction and highlights on the regional project	P. Kenmore
10:15 – 10:30	Objective and expected outputs of the workshop	A. Impiglia
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break	
11:00 – 11:15	Iran presentation based on provided outline	Country Representatives
11:15 – 11:30	Egypt presentation based on provided outline	M. El Hariry/ M. El Naggar
11:30 – 11:45	Syria presentation based on provided outline	M. Al Sayed/ M. Hajjar
11:45 – 12:30	Questions/discussion	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:15	Lebanon presentation based on provided outline	I. Nahhal / M. Abou Zeid
14:15 – 14:30	Jordan presentation based on provided outline	Z. Musallam / K. Shalan
14:30 – 14:45	WBGS presentation based on provided outline	A. Almughayyar / Z. Omran
14:45 – 15:30	Questions/discussion	
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee/tea break	
16:15 – 16:45	Training and participatory research: models and strategy for Near East Region	G. Shulten
16:45-17:00	Introductory Notes on Marketing for IPM products from the Near East Region	R. Zuayter (Ms.)
17:00 – 17:30	Questions, wrap up discussion, conclusions	P. Kenmore / A. Impiglia
19:30 After dinner	Dinner, Informal discussions, admin. arrangements	
Tuesday 1 June		

5:00 – 16:30	Field Visit	Host Country
Wednesday 2 June		
8:30 – 9:00	Operational, administrative and financial issues	M. Nosseir
9:00 – 11:00	WORKING GROUP Introduction work plan format, identify regional priorities and studies to be conducted in year 1 and 2; outline for national work plans including training and participatory research programme, roles and responsibilities, new partners, linking with other projects (based on crop, pest control measures, role of natural enemies, area, impact of pesticide used, product market, etc.)	G. Shulten
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:30 – 12:30	Continued working group activity	The facilitators
12:30 – 14:15	Lunch	
14:15 – 16:30	WORKING GROUP: Consolidate, discuss ideas raised during the morning session	P. Kenmore
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee/tea break	
16:45 – 18:45	Continued working group	
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner	
Thursday 3 June		
8:30 – 11:30	Presentation final country work plans developed for 2004/05	6 National teams
11:30 – 11:45	Present the consolidated general work plan for regional project objective and activities	P. Kenmore / G. Shulten
11:45 – 12:30	Questions, wrap up discussion of the day	A. Impiglia
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	Discussion: developing a smooth system to provide support to project implementation, roles and functions	M. Nosseir / A. Impiglia
15:00 – 15:30	Reporting and any other issues	A. Impiglia
15:30 – 16:00	Closing	FAO/ Host Country Rep / Donor Rep.
16:00 onwards	Free time	
Friday 4 June		
	Departure of participants	

GTFS/REM/070/ITA - Regional Field Training Workshop for FFS facilitators

Location	Amman, Jordan	From: 12 July 2004 To: 18 July 2004
Participating Countries	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza	
Language	English - Arabic	
Cooperating Organizations	AGPP/RNE	
Responsible Officers	A. Impiglia, M. Fredrix and M. Nosseir	

Regional IPM Programme in the Near East

Regional Field Training Workshop for IPM-FFS facilitators from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria

Amman, July 12-18, 2004

1. Background and objectives of the facilitator workshop

The regional field-training workshop was organized for FFS facilitators from 4 project countries that are not familiar yet with FFS approaches. Each country sent 5 to 7 facilitators to participate in the workshop. A list of participants is attached in annex 1.

The workshop had the following objectives, which were introduced at the start:

- Get familiar with the FFS concept – what is a Farmer Field School?
- Discuss the organization of a FFS – how to organize groups?
- Introduction on technical contents of FFSs – ecology and IPM
- Introduction on Non-Formal Adult Education (NFE)
- Develop a workplan for the training activities for each of the countries for the coming months

At the beginning of the workshop, the participants were asked to list their expectations. The expectations were linked to technical issues, the organization and implementation of the FFSs, and programme development.

Technical issues

- More information for farmers to improve production, including production technologies (varieties, new cultural and crop protection techniques, etc)
- IPM approaches and concepts; reduced use of chemical pesticides
- Farmers as managers of the farm, decision making skills of farmers
- Product quality, production of safe products

- Economics of production
- Marketing issues (the role of the project, and links with the FFS and farmers)

Organization and implementation of the FFS

- Ability of extension workers/facilitators to select farmers, how to motivate farmers, increase trust between farmers and facilitators
- Introduce IPM concept to farmers, skills of farmers; develop IPM programmes and convince small farmers to use this
- Organization of field days, farmer exchanges
- Financial support for the farmers and the FFS

Programme development

- Spread FFS concept in the region
- Farmers as facilitators
- Partnerships – including private companies
- Strengthen farmer associations
- Sustainability
- Experiences of FFS in other countries

The detailed programme for the workshop can be found in annex 2.

2. FFS concept

A general introduction on the regional IPM programme was given, to understand the broader context. Since most of the participants were not familiar to FFS concepts, an introduction was given on the FFS concepts, and some examples from different regions were discussed. After this introduction, the participants were asked to identify some key elements in the FFS. They then discussed in small groups why each element was included from a learning perspective, and whether the elements can be maintained in the Near East setting. Outputs of this discussion are given in annex 3.

The outputs were presented and discussed. In general it was agreed that it is possible to maintain the key elements in the Near East, with some adaptations to fit local conditions. Some concerns were raised, such as interesting a group of farmers, the number of participants, kind of farmers to join a FFS, transportation, means to implement the FFS.

3. Organization of FFS

Points for organizing and working with farmer groups

As an introduction, the participants brainstormed on their experiences in organizing and working with farmer groups. The following issues were raised:

Do:	Do not:
Allow enough time	Tell farmers they are wrong

Understand the problem of the farmers Establish good relations, socialize Understand what kind of farmer you deal with, relations with community Understand skills of farmer Respect yourself, have self-confidence Understand farming system Let the group take the lead Be honest – also about what kind of organization you represent Try to answer questions Talk clear language, based on science Respect farmers as decision makers	Receive gifts Give false promises Be rude Damage the field when you visit Give free/wrong pesticides Give wrong advice Impose Be shy
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To organize groups, it is important to encourage farmers to join. Also, they need to understand what kind of benefits they can get out of participating in an activity as the FFS, and need to be convinced that they will get useful advice. The topics should be relevant to the farmers. Trust in the person that comes to visit and discuss is very important when organizing a group. Often farmers expect gifts, such as tools, seeds, etc. In many areas private companies are active, and this may cause competition for the farmers' attention. Large farmers have often quite good access to information.

Selection criteria

For the organization of the FFS, it is important to select the crop the FFS will work on, the site where the FFS will be organized, and the participants. Selection criteria were developed by the participants, and were discussed.

Selection of the **crop**

- Crop should be of economic importance for the country
- Crop should be important for farmer – income generation
- Pest and disease situation of the crop should be known, crop should have problems with pests and diseases
- Existing practices of farmers to manage the crop should be known
- High pesticide use, and associated problems for the crop are an issue
- Alternative IPM solutions are available

Selection of the FFS **site**

- The selected crop should be grown by enough farmers to organize a FFS
- The FFS site should be representative for what farmers do in the area
- A FFS study field should be available
- Participants should agree on the FFS location
- The site should be accessible for farmers and facilitators
- The FFS should be in an isolated area where farmers have little access

to services

Selection of the **participants** of the FFS

- Should be (full-time) farmers and should grow the crop that the FFS will study
- Should be interested, motivated to join the FFS
- Should be able to learn, wanting to learn
- Should be decision makers
- Should have a common interest
- Should be cooperative

And in some cases it is preferred that

- they have low education and poor skills (i.e. left out by regular activities and organizations)
- participants should know each other
- Age is also a consideration

Concerning the selection of participants, two issues were discussed in further detail: gender, and size and ownership of the farm. For gender issues, the participants analysed the role division of labour in tomato (example of an output in annex 4, as well as exercise). A discussion followed on whether or not women farmers should participate in the project, whether it should be in mixed groups or not, and whether the project will set a target for the participation of women. At the end, it was agreed that the facilitators will make an effort to encourage women to join the FFS activities where feasible. During the organization of the FFS they can carry out an exercise on labour division, and use this to discuss with members of the community where the FFS will be organized on who should participate. The project will not set a specific target for women participation, but facilitators are expected to make an effort to encourage women to join the FFS.

For the selection of large farmers and landowners vs small farmers, the facilitators will try to have a mixture represented in the FFSs. In many cases large farmers hire labour for the field activities. For a FFS it is important to have decision makers to participate. However, labourers go to the field regularly, and will draw attention to problems that they see in the field. The local situation should be well understood. It might be useful to have (trusted) labourers join the FFSs.

In a number of countries a system of semi self-financing of farmers is being implemented (Kenya, DR Congo, etc). (See annex 5 for background reading). The system was introduced to the participants. They discussed whether it would be relevant and feasible to use such system. They were not clear whether or not to do so. Maybe it can be tried out in a few FFSs. Follow-up from the CTA is needed to discuss details with the country teams after some more reflection.

4. Technical issues

Steps in developing a participatory IPM programme, and in IPM problem solving

To develop an IPM programme, several steps are followed usually:

- Needs assessment

- Curriculum development
- Training of facilitators
- Farmers' field schools
- Follow up activities

This workshop is focussing mostly on the first 3 steps. None of them will be handled fully, but a start is made, and in the workplan further activities will be reflected.

IPM facilitators in Asia identified steps in problem solving in IPM as follows:

1. Problem identification
 - Field visits (baseline survey, e.g. by questionnaire)
 - Cropping calendar
 - Meetings with farmers
 - Consult experts/materials/networks
 - Etc

2. Problem analysis
 - Prioritise problems
 - cause-effect analyses
 - Production practices and field history
 - Farmers' knowledge and perceptions
 - Consult resource persons/materials

3. Listing of potential solutions
 - Farmers' options
 - Facilitators' options
 - Options from research stations, networks, literature, www, etc

4. Selection most potential solution
 - Suitability
 - Sustainability
 - Economic and social viability
 - Field study design and draft curriculum
 - Planning of field activities
 - ...

5. Implementation of plans
 - Training of facilitators
 - FFS (study clubs, participatory research activities, etc)
 - Field exercise/trials (validation and verification)
 - Etc

6. Review and sharing results
 - Discussion and presentations during FFSs
 - Field days
 - Workshops/meetings

- Local media
- Recommendations for further study (improving curriculum, scaling up of activities, etc)

Cropping calendar exercise

Participants carried out a cropping calendar exercise. They defined different practices of farmers and opportunities for improvement at the different times of the season. They worked on tomato and apple. This exercise can be used with farmer groups to get more information on their problems, needs and potential to improve. It also helps in determining the FFS meeting schedule.

Baseline information

Participants brainstormed about the kind of information that needs be available at the start of the FFS season. This includes socio-economic information, as well as technical information. Several ways can be used to collect the information: questionnaires, field walks, discussions with farmers (individual and in groups), discussions with researchers, visits to markets and discussions with market organizations, etc. Each country team will decide what information is useful, and how and when they will collect it (workplans).

Agro Ecosystem Analysis (AESA)

During the field visit the participants carried out the different steps of AESA, working in a farmer field with pepper. In annex 7 an exercise on AESA is attached.

Insect Zoo

During the field visit participants collected insects in the field. Because of lack of time, no further activity could be developed that day. The next day a discussion was held on the insect zoo, and for what purposes to use it (live cycle, recognition of insects, functions of insects, predation rates).

5. Non Formal adult Education (NFE)

An introduction on adult learning cycle was given, and participants discussed principles of adult learning (see annex 8). During the workshop a number of group dynamics and team building exercises were carried out. Also other activities were based on NFE principles: role-plays, brainstorm, group work, etc.

6. Country workplans

At a regional level, it is planned to organize a curriculum development workshop for the 4 countries where FFS approaches are new, during the second half of September. The project management at a later stage will decide organization, time and venue. The project will also aim to develop a field guide for the facilitators in the coming months, providing information and exercises relevant to FFS organization and implementation. Each country will organize a technical workshop before mid-September (Jordan already did). The regional coordinator will assist each of the country teams in an active way.

Each of the country teams prepared a workplan for the period July-September. These workplans were presented and discussed during the workshop. Each team will discuss the workplans with the national coordinators, revise where needed, and submit the plans to the regional coordinator by the end of July.

7. Evaluation of the workshop

	Good 😊	Moderate 😐	Poor ☹️
Content	14	9	0
Methodology	21	3	0
Relevance of FFS	7	17	1
Participation	21	2	0
Facilitation	21	3	0
Organization	20	4	0

Workshop programme

Monday July 12

- Opening of the workshop
- Introduction of the participants
- Objectives of the workshop
- Expectations of the participants
- Introduction on the regional IPM project in the near east
- What is a FFS? presentation
- Key elements of the FFS

Tuesday July 13

- Steps in developing participatory IPM programme
- Experiences in organizing groups
- Selection criteria for the FFS
- Participant selection – gender issues, small vs. big farmers
- Group dynamics
- Financing FFS – introduction on education grants, education loans
- Group dynamics

Wednesday July 14

- Selection criteria for the FFS - review
- Steps in developing an IPM programme and steps in problem solving for IPM and FFS
- Cropping calendar exercise
- Group dynamics
- Baseline information – what information to collect, where and how
- Non Formal Education introduction
- Facilitation skills – role plays

Thursday July 15

- Field trip to Jordan Valley, meetings and discussions with farmers
- AgroEcosystem Analysis by participants in a pepper field

Friday July 16

Free

Saturday July 17

- Insect Zoo - discussion
- Question time
- Group dynamics
- Workplans by country – preparation, presentation and discussions
- Wrap up of the workshop
- Evaluation of the workshop
- Closing

GTFS/REM/070/ITA - Curriculum Development Regional Workshop for FFS facilitators

Location	Lattakia, Syria	From: 04 October 2004 To: 08 October 2004
Participating Countries	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza, Iran Egypt	
Language	English	
Cooperating Organizations	AGPP/RNE	
Responsible Officers	A. Impiglia and M. Nosseir	

GTFS/REM/070/ITA “IPM Regional Programme for the Near East”

Curriculum Development Regional Workshop for facilitators of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and West Bank & Gaza Strip Lattakia, Syria, October 4 - 8, 2004

Draft programme

Objectives

- Work with the FFS facilitators to define the curriculum (content and methodology) for the FFS activities
- Strengthen the skills of the workshop participants, in particular on facilitation
- Develop detailed work plan for FFS implementation for the participating countries

During the workshop held in July 2004 in Amman, the participants developed work plans that include the collection of information from the field (cropping calendars with farmers, base line data, etc), as well as from other relevant sources such as research. Also, workshops were planned at country level to strengthen the technical skills of the facilitators. It is assumed that these activities will take place before the curriculum development workshop.

Participants

- Six facilitators from each of the 4 countries, namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and West Bank & Gaza Strip. Depending on budget availability

- an extra person could be identified/invited from each participating country.
- Two facilitators with previous experience in FFS from Egypt and Iran could attend the workshop. Their invitation is advisable in order to ensure compatibility of concept and approach within the Project's participating countries.
 - Two (2) International facilitators. Ms M. Fredrix, AGPP/HQs, and Mrs F. Praasterink, Consultant.
 - IPM Regional Coordinator for the Near East, Mr. A. Impiglia, FAO, Damascus.

The participants from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and West Bank & Gaza Strip will be the same as the ones that participated at the Regional Field Training Workshop for Facilitators in Amman, Jordan in July 2004.

Venue

Lattakia, Syria

Time

4 - 8 October 2004

Tentative Programme

Day 1

- Update on status in each of the countries.
- Defining learning objectives for the FFS activity
- Information collected from the field: specific problems and possible solutions. For each selected crop and each country.
- Framework of the FFS: frequency of meetings, number of meetings throughout the season, a typical day in the FFS. Methodologies in the FFS (reminder). Available material for use during the workshop.
- Team building, group dynamics

Day 2

- Designing studies for the FFS (for each selected crop)
- Team building, group dynamics
- Introduction on field guide development for the Near East

Day 3

- Exercises in the FFS – practice and designing new exercises (AESA, insect zoos, crop development, to be decided). Fieldwork.

- Team building, group dynamics
- Strengthening facilitation skills

Day 4

- Elaborating detailed FFS work plan for each of the countries (content and methodology)
- Team building, group dynamics