

Partnership Facility- Final Report

Adaptive Biological Pesticide Development in Trinidad & Tobago and the wider Caribbean

Knowledge for Development Theme:

All

Project Objective:

To develop a research agenda to combat selected insect and arachnid pest species in Trinidad & Tobago (with applicability in the wider Caribbean) using biological/microbial control techniques

Project Progress and Outputs:

We reviewed the literature on current and potential management strategies for selected arthropod pests in the Caribbean, and an intensive stakeholder consultation. Based on these, we prioritized topics for arthropod control in Trinidad & Tobago, with particular emphasis on the use of biological pesticides. The following activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources of Trinidad and Tobago helped us to lobby for their inclusion in a national research and development agenda:

- P. Polar chairs the Industry Development Committees which covers hot peppers, sweet potato, pumpkin and cassava. This group is currently in negotiations with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago for the establishment of a state funded public/private company for the development of these commodities (2005-2006 National Budget of Trinidad & Tobago)
- P. Polar chairs the Rabbit Industry Committee of the Agricultural Sector Reform Programme
- P. Polar sits on the National Biosystematics Committee
- P. Polar sits on the Multidisciplinary Committee for the Advancement of Farmer Participatory Approaches in Trinidad & Tobago

We identified current research gaps and implementation strategies for most promising alternatives. This knowledge was then used in the development of the following concept notes for private and public sector funding:

- Survey to ascertain the establishment of *Hylesia metabus* (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) and the presence of potential biological control agents in Trinidad (submitted to TrinMar)
- Development of inputs to support Ecological Crop Management (ECM) of hot pepper in Trinidad and Tobago (submitted to NAMDEVCO National Marketing Development Company)
- The use of IPM in the management of flies in the poultry industry in Trinidad and Tobago (submitted to Fine Choice Ltd.)
- Improving effectiveness of biological pesticides for the management of cattle ticks (to be submitted to ETH-RFPP for their March 2006 deadline)

Partnership Facility- Concept Note

Expansion of Farmer Participatory Training and Research (FPTR) Activities in the Caribbean

Knowledge for Development Theme:

All

Project Objective: Expansion and mainstreaming of Farmer Participatory (FP) approaches into national extension and research work programmes in the Caribbean

Project Progress and Outputs:

The project aims to build on a Pilot Farmer Field School (FFS) project, funded by the European Union and implemented by CABI CLARC, during which considerable time and effort was expended. We have also undertaken a range of activities and participated in several national and regional initiatives, all of which are aimed at keeping the Centre at the forefront of FPTR related activities. As a result, CABI is currently seen as the leader in FP-related areas in the region. The aim of the current PF is to provide the necessary leverage to this competitive edge in terms of staff time and effort towards project planning and development that will generate substantial FP-related opportunities and activities both in the short and long term.

Activities undertaken included:

- Linkages were renewed / continued in Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago in order to determine the current status and identify opportunities for further collaboration
- Contacts were established with various stakeholders in Barbados (National Council of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP)).
- Sensitization of persons in non-FFS countries was undertaken as an ongoing activity.
- Information sharing and networking among various partners via two e-groups (Caribbean IPM Net) and the Master Trainers network (Caribbean FFS Net)

Outputs:

- A concept note was developed and submitted to a funding agency in the United States (Kellogg Foundation) to further FPTR activities in Haiti.
- A draft schedule for setting up FFS with a group of organic farmers was developed and submitted to CREP

Feedback from both sources is awaited.

- A paper entitled 'Innovations In Farmer Learning: Introduction Of Farmer Participatory Approaches In Trinidad And Tobago' was presented (jointly with Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resource, Trinidad & Tobago) in July at the Caribbean Food Crops Society Meeting in Guadeloupe, attended by regional IPM practitioners and agriculturists.