

## Field activities: Integrated Pesticide Management in Mustang

### April 2015, Mustang

Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAOR in Nepal, Dr. Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO RAP, Dr. Binod Saha (AFAOR), Mr. Vidhu Kaystha (Media and Communication Consultant), Mr. Dilli Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary at Dept of Agriculture, Ministry of Agricultural Development (PD/NPC of the TCP/NEP/3502 project), paid a visit to Mustang district in order to make on-the-spot assessment to the results of the Integrated Pesticide Management Project.



The objective of the visit was to gather on-the-spot follow up information on the impact of the Integrated Pest Management project implemented in Mustang District from 2009- 2014.

On 20 April the team moved towards Mustang district from Pokhara. On the way to Jomsom, the district headquarters of Mustang, the team had a meeting with the farmers of Tukuche village in the apple orchard managed by a group of 120 households. The meeting was organized by Mr. Raja Ram Adhikari, Senior Agricultural Officer, DADO Mustang District.



A local farmer Bhoj Bahadur Thakali who had earlier served as the secretary at the Tukuche Village Development Committee for more than 20 years, said in the meeting that the apple plantation was started by the people of Mustang district way back in the year 1972 with the

involvement of a small group of 10 families. Because of lack of road transport facilities, the local production was difficult to be sent to the market outside the district. According to him, after the implementation of Integrated Pest Management Project in the year 2006, apple production is booming in Tukuche village and also in the district of Mustang.

Last year, the people of Tukuche village had sold more than 400 Metric Ton of apple worth about NRS 25 Million. Mr. Niraj Tulachan, a young local farmer, said that his family sold 60 Metric Ton apple last year. He himself is a facilitator trained by Farmer Field School under

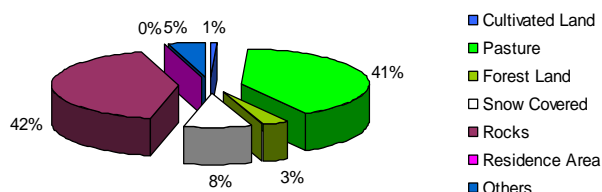
IPM project. He said more training is needed in storing, marketing and preparation of apple based diverse food items.

The teams accompanied by Mr Raja Ram Adhikari, Senior Agricultural Officer, DADO Mustang District moved to Marpha, a small village and made a stop over to visit Temperate Horticulture Development Center.

The team reached Jomsom in the evening.

On 22 April 2015, Sr. DADO Mr Adhikari guided the team to different places of Mustang, including Muktinath shrine where the thousands of Hindu pilgrims pays visit from India and Nepal every year.

In the afternoon, a meeting was held in District Administration Office in Jomsom where Sr. DADO Adhikari made presentation on the agricultural activities of the district. Mr Adhikari highlighted that the district of Mustang is spread over 363958 ha out of which only 1% of the land i.e. 3662 ha is

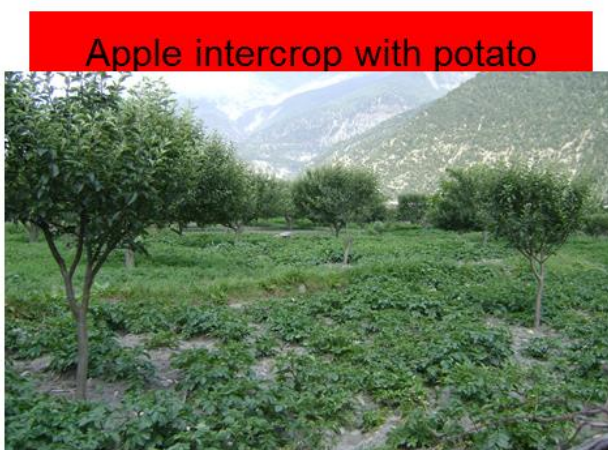


**Cultivated area, crop production & productivity of major crops**

Crop	Year 2070/071		
	Area (ha)	production (mt)	productivity
Apple	883 (330)	5000.00	15.15
Apricot	39(27)	229.00	8.2
Walnut	51 (35)	307.00	8.66

Crop	Year 2070/071		
	Area (ha)	production (mt)	productivity
wheat	584.00	1051.00	1.78
Buckwheat	578.00	960.00	1.66
Maize	520.00	762.00	1.46
Nacked barley	370.00	740.00	2.00
Barley	273.00	506.00	1.85
Potato	267.00	3417.00	12.8
Vegetables	190.00	2575.00	13.55

cultivable land. Area covered by the cultivated land is 2915 ha and irrigated land is 2509 ha. District of Mustang is now known for apple. Wheat, buckwheat, maize, Necked barley, barley, potato and vegetables along with apricot and walnuts are the major food product of the district.



Elaborating on the Status of IPM, Mr. Adhikari informed the team that Status of IPM Activities IPM FFS initiated from the year 2002 in cauli crops with one Officer Level master facilitator and 3 Non officer level IPM facilitators who trained 158 farmers in 7 FFS.



Highlighting on the need of the follow up activities in the IPM programs, he pointed out the need of the following factors to be addressed:

- Plant protection equipment support
- Quality Seed
- EM technology
- Pheromon and lures,
- Bio fertilizer and bio/botanical pesticides / servo oil
- Cattle shed improvement
- Production and marketing of botanical pesticides in local level
- IPM products stall in local and national level.
- Research for efficacy of indigenous herbs and organic pesticides for disease and pest control
- Package of practices for Organic Farming for major crops.
- Bee colony support for pollination



He said that the awareness campaign is equally important to educate people on



- Hazard of pesticides on human health and environment,
- IPM products and its benefits
- Judicious use of pesticide

Mr Adhikari pinpointed the following issue to be addressed with immediate effect:

- Strong Technical Backstopping from Lab and Directorates
- Big challenge to compete with Chinese apple
- Fruit drop
- Soil burn diseases on nursery and apple orchard
- Outbreak on certain insects and diseases
- Package of practices on organic farming



Followings are the recommendations pertaining to the issues made by Mr. Adhikari

- Nutrient management
- Harvest and post-harvest handling
- Establishment of Bio Lab
- Pesticides safety
- Unavailability on bio pesticides
- Effect of climate change



The meeting held in the District Agricultural Development Office was attended also attended by Mr. Yam Prasad Poudel, Sr. Plant Protection Officer, Mr.Surya Prasad Bogati, Plant Protection Officer and Mr. Pradumna Kumar Upadhyay, JT of Agriculture sub-centre of Lete Village.

The team left Mustang the following day and reached Pokhara for night halt. In the afternoon of 24 April 2015, the team flew back to Kathmandu.



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