

# Participatory Appraisal in Expanding the Eastern European IPM CRSP

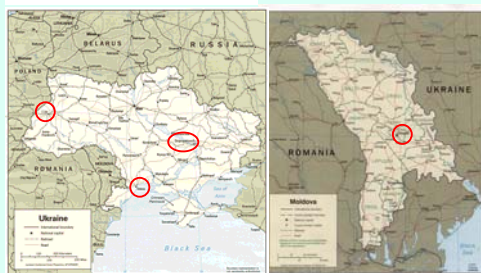
## Introduction

The Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program has been active in Eastern Europe since 1998, focusing on olive IPM in Albania. The project began with a Participatory Approach involving scientists of the Plant Protection Institute, the Fruit Tree Research Institute and the Agricultural University of Tirana, as well as several US scientists.

The project in that first phase dealt with three insects, olive fruit fly, olive moth, and Mediterranean black scale, the diseases olive knot, and leaf spot, and the weed complex. An economic analysis (Daku 2002) predicted a net gain for Albania of \$39 million over 30 years from results of the project.

## First Albanian PA

An initial Participatory Appraisal was held in Albania in July 1998, and involved initial training in participatory approaches, unannounced farm visits followed by nightly assessment of each day's visits, and finally by development of a detailed research plan in Tirana. This process resulted in six areas of activity spanning insects, pathogens and weeds; these served as the research areas for the next several years.



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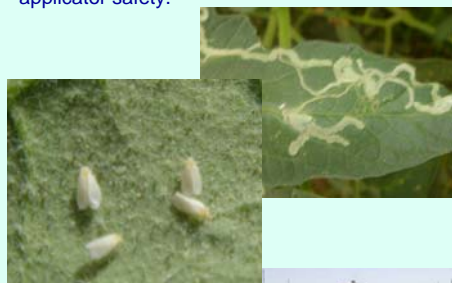
## IPM CRSP – Second Phase

With a newly defined IPM CRSP, the project was proposed to expand into other Eastern European countries, and into other crops. Based on our experience in Albania, it was decided to focus on the high-value horticultural crops tomato, cucumber, grape and apple. The new project proposal included, in addition to Albania, Ukraine and Moldova.

## Second Albanian PA

In order to support the regional proposal, a second Participatory Appraisal was held in 2004. Because of the crop group, a fourth Albanian institution was added – the Vegetable and Potato Research Institute. This PA featured the crops listed above. Farm visits centered in the agricultural districts of Lushnje, Berat and Korçe (see map below).

In Lushnje and Berat, the visits focused on greenhouse-grown cucumbers and tomatoes. It was learned that whiteflies and leafminers were among the most important insect pests, and growers were very concerned over pesticide quality and applicator safety.



Apples and grapes were the subject of inquiry in the Korçe Valley (see map), the principal area of apple production in Albania. The main problems were apple scab, mildews, aphids, leafminers, codling moth, and similar concerns over pesticide quality and risk as determined in the vegetable operations.



## PA Summary

After the farm visits the research team returned to Tirana, where there were two days of prioritization of pest problems and research needs. There was widespread lack of knowledge of IPM principles and practices. Many growers admitted to a poor ability to identify pests and often did not know much about the insecticides that they purchased. Poor performance of pesticides was generally attributed by farmers to re-packaged small volumes of pesticides being adulterated.



## Expansion into Ukraine and Moldova

A planning trip was made to Ukraine and Moldova in June 2005. Contacts were made with plant protection specialists and farmers in three Ukrainian oblasts, L'viv, Dnipropetrovsk and Odessa, as well as in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau (see maps). The proposed crops were formerly grown, in high quality. Quality has dropped since the breakdown of the centralized economy, and there is a desire to modernize production practices.

A PA is planned for spring or early summer in the new host countries. We plan on capitalizing on the experience of Albanian colleagues with the participatory approach by including some in the PA team.



## Follow our progress! Eastern European IPM CRSP

<http://everest.ento.vt.edu/Fruitfiles/Albania/EasternEuropeIndex.html>

## References

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## Acknowledgments

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