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International Plant Protection Center  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331 / USA

Trip Report  
Larry C. Burrill  
August 29-September 13, 1981  
Philippines and Thailand

Purpose: Attend Conference on Weed Control in Rice sponsored by the International Rice Research Institute and the International Weed Science Society.

Discuss project activities and future direction with Philippine staff, Dr. Sanchez, and Ed Rice.

Discuss with AID Bangkok a request from Chiang Mai University for general assistance in agriculture.

Visit Chiang Mai to discuss above request with Dean of Agriculture and to review IPPC project on economic evaluation of Mimosa pigra.

#### Conference on Weed Control in Rice

A tremendous success! Planning for the week long conference was initiated in May of 1980 when Les Matthews, Past President of the International Weed Science Society (IWSS) visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. The idea was accepted by IRRI administrators and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee of IWSS. From then on it was largely the experience, international contacts, and support staff of IRRI that made a success of this first truly international conference aimed at weed control in a single crop. The contribution of IWSS was primarily in advising on potential speakers and providing funding for travel of speakers from the U.S., Japan and FAO Rome.

The conference brought together 77 people to discuss 33 papers and 2 workshops. Twenty countries were represented including China, USSR, Australia, USA, India, Colombia and West Africa. Weed control measures, economics, equipment, research needs, weed identification, and training needs received attention in the conference which was designed to stimulate and record discussion. Drafts of all the papers were available to participants. The conference proceedings will be published by IRRI and made available at a very reasonable cost. IPPC staff member Dennis O'Brien prepared and delivered an excellent paper on energy and weed control.



### IPPC Project Activities and Future Direction

Discussions were held with IPPC-Philippines staff to bring me up-to-date on project programs as well as exchange ideas on future directions and locations. Field research on corn and rice is promising useful data in spite of an unusually long dry spell in the current rainy season. Technical assistance activities have slowed due to the demands of the field research and the fact that many of the staff of the Regional Crop Protection Centers are away from their centers for training.

Research activities at the RCPC should soon increase now that vehicles have arrived and many of the staff who have been participating in long-term training will be returning.

On Monday after the conference I accompanied project staff to review research plots on upland rice with Dr. Yong-Hon Li, from Nanking Agricultural College in Nanking, China.

Dr. F.F. Sanchez - Director, National Crop Protection Center

I met briefly with Dr. Sanchez and the IPPC staff to discuss what direction future IPPC activities in the Philippines might take. His primary suggestion was that we concentrate on improving the weed control component of the production package for corn. There will soon be a government program aimed at making the Philippines self sufficient in both food and feed corn. The program will include government subsidies on production inputs.

Mr. Ed Rice - AID Manila

The IPPC staff met with Mr. Rice to discuss current project activities and exchange ideas on the best direction for future programs in the Philippines as well as the overall IPPC effort. Mr. Rice will send a letter to AID Washington in support of continued project activities in the Philippines.

Dr. Ray Smith - Consortium for International Crop Protection (CICP)

I met briefly in Los Banos with Dr. Smith to discuss the need for a weed scientist to spend two weeks in Indonesia as part of a team preparing documents in support of a large plant protection program partially funded by AID. We agreed that in view of the scope of the program involved someone experienced in planning and writing project descriptions would be essential. We consequently suggested to AID Washington that Roy Nishimoto, Phil Motooka, and Robert Zimdahl be contacted prior to considering IPPC Philippines staff.

### IWSS Activities (International Weed Science Society)

The rice weed control conference was selected as an appropriate time to change officers in the International Weed Science Society. Dr. S. Matsunaka of Kobe University in Japan is the new President and Dr. M.R.

Vega, Acting Director General of IRRI is the new President-Elect. This was also an excellent opportunity to collect society dues and enroll new members. Twenty-two people paid for a total of 60 years of membership dues.

The IWSS Executive Committee met twice to consider future activities. Of greatest concern was the planned FAO/IWSS workshop on weed control technology to be held in Rome in September of 1982. Later in the week I spent 2 hours discussing speakers and topics with Matthews. Of special interest to me was the suggestion by Dr. Vega that IWSS consider methods to describe to policy makers and administrators the complex role of weeds in the world today.

#### Asian Pacific Weed Science Society

I met briefly with some of the planning committee to review and discuss plans for the 1983 meeting of the Asian Pacific Weed Science Society which will meet in Manila. They intend for this to be a first class conference and current plans include inviting President Marcos to open the meeting.

#### Indonesia

I discussed with Mr. M. Sundaru the status of his request for a visit from Frank Fraser and request that two of his staff be considered by Oregon State University for study in weed science. I had answered his letter suggesting that since one student would be seeking his Ph.D. degree Ray William in Horticulture should be contacted. The second student apparently does not have good enough grades to be admitted so I agreed that we would consider working with him for 2 months on a non-student status to determine if we wanted to recommend him for graduate study. This will be pursued by letter if they are still interested.

#### FAO

In discussions with Mr. Les Matthews he mentioned that he was exploring the possibility of funding preparation and publication of a major book of colored photographs of tropical weeds. Matthews was interested in my proposal that FAO consider contracting with IPPC to prepare several publications other than weed ID books.

#### FAO Bangkok

I met for two hours with Dr. Reddy who is the Deputy Regional Representative for FAO and Professor Huang Ke-Xun from China who is the Regional Plant Protection Officer responsible for FAO plant protection programs in 23 countries in Asia. The general tone of the meeting was yes weeds are a problem but their role is not well understood by policy makers. Weed control researchers need to be more aware of the total production system

and resource limitations the farmer is faced with. FAO will place increasing emphasis on "dry land" areas although in much of Asia some rather high rainfall areas come into this category.

My discussions with FAO Bangkok and with Les Matthews make it clear that for FAO to consider funding an activity a request must come from a member country needing the assistance in question. In other words they do not respond to proposals. There seems to be plenty of money if one plays the game right. Also in the Bangkok office of FAO is Dr. Umali, Regional Representative and Mr. John Lowe, Team Leader for Integrated Pest Management for rice. I have known Lowe for some time but he was out of town.

#### AID-Bangkok

I talked briefly with David D. Bathrick, Director, Office of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning their interest in Chiang Mai University. More specifically their interest in funding a team from Oregon State to visit Chiang Mai University to explore the need for and methods of providing technical support to the Faculty of Agriculture. At this time AID Thailand has only one project in the Chiang Mai area, a watershed project. Their current interest in Thailand is in the North-East in rainfed agriculture. If they were to support a Thai university for some of this work it would not be Chiang Mai. I interpreted these comments to mean AID is not interested in funding a team from Oregon State.

Mr. Bathrick does not know of any plans for the Ford Foundation to leave Thailand. He knows that Gordon Conway, a Ford consultant, will remain for at least another year.

Mr. Robert W. Resseguie, Assistant Agricultural Officer in AID learned of my visit and wanted to discuss control measures for water hyacinth in fish ponds of 2 to 20 ha in size. They are supporting a fish pond project. Heavy growth of water hyacinth restricts the size of fish that can be put in the ponds and interferes with fish harvest.

A new fish project is being prepared and Mr. Resseguie would like to incorporate some aquatic weed control methods to be tested. His letter of June 2 to IPPC Oregon was forwarded by me to IPPC Florida but no response has been received.

The Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok is currently studying the feasibility of composting water hyacinth with human waste for the production of bio-gas. The decomposed material will be tested as fish food.

There are small machines available in Thailand to mount on the long boats and shred the aquatic weeds. The shredded material drops to the bottom.

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Discussions with Lamar Robert, IPPC economist centered around his work on the weed Mimosa pigra, plans for a conference on M. pigra, and the proposal for a new project on the aquatic weed water hyacinth.

The work aimed at preparing a report on economic returns to control of M. pigra is progressing very well. I think the final report will be useful to the Thai government and certainly one IPPC can be proud of. Any support we can provide to Lamar at this stage will be well spent.

The international conference on Mimosa pigra is scheduled for Chiang Mai on February 22-26, 1982. IPPC will provide most of the funding for this conference. It will not be large. The major purpose is to exchange ideas on the losses and costs of control associated with the weed and support the reported findings by Lamar.

Lamar and I spent considerable time going over the proposal for a similar project on water hyacinth in Thailand. We discussed a number of changes in the budget and especially discussed ways in which the Thai government might support the project. The project is subject to considerable modification if and when the concept is accepted by Florida or Oregon.

Chiang Mai University

Lamar Robert, Crop Science faculty member, Wheeler Calhoun and I met for two hours with Dr. Dumrong Tiyawalee, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and 11 department heads and assistant deans. Following is a list of those attending: Mr. Paibool Wivutvongvana, Head Soil Science and Conservation; Mrs. Renu Pinthong, Head, Food Science and Technology; Ms. Rapcepun Jaisaard, Agricultural Economics World Bank, Mrs. Nuchnart Jonglackha, Head, Plant Pathology; Mr. Boonlue Phuangphong, Animal Science; Mr. Vichian Hengsawad, Head, Entomology; Mr. Sanit Ratanabhumma, Associate Dean, Entomology; Mr. Chuckree Senthong, Head, Agronomy; Mr. Pongsak Angkasith, Assistant Dean, Agricultural Extension; Mr. Paiboon Suthasupa, Head, Agricultural Extension; Mrs. Manee Wivutvongvana, Head, Department of Horticulture; Mr. Dumrong Tiyawalee, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

My objectives at the meeting were: (1) convey good wishes from Dr. Eisgruber and the School of Agriculture Administration; (2) brief them on the outcome of my discussion with AID Thailand concerning their interest in funding a team from Oregon State; (3) attempt to learn the true needs and status of the Faculty of Agriculture.

I was pleased with the outcome of the meeting which in reality continued through a tour of a new building complex and a long lunch. All of those in attendance offered their opinions on the current situation and what is needed to allow them to best do their job.

Three major areas of need were apparent:

1. Money. The increased price of oil has had a serious impact on the Thai economy and reduced the level of support to the University.
2. Assistance in acquiring new teaching techniques and in curriculum development.
3. Help in identifying and conducting research programs as part of a new M.Sc. program to be offered in 1982.

This was a very interesting and rewarding few hours for me. My final comment to the group was that I would convey to Dr. Eisgruber my opinion that any support provided by Oregon State University would be very efficiently used by the Faculty of Agriculture and would result in readily identifiable improvements. I said that in spite of the lack of interest by AID Thailand both parties should continue to seek funding to allow an acceptable level of assistance. My opinion, and it is supported by Wheeler Calhoun, is that a program between the two universities would allow OSU faculty to have a great impact on the teaching and research programs at Chiang Mai University at a fairly low cost. The overall situation should result in OSU faculty gaining some pleasant and rewarding experiences.

Some general facts and observations concerning Chiang Mai University:

The University is spread over quite a large and pleasant area near the city of Chiang Mai.

There are currently about 3000 students attending.

550 of the students are in agriculture working toward the B.S. degree.

There are 9 departments within the Faculty of Agriculture: Soil Science and Conservation, Food Science and Technology, Agricultural Economics, Plant Pathology, Animal Science, Entomology, Agronomy, Agricultural Extension (teaching only) and Horticulture.

There are about 140 academic staff members in the faculty of agriculture; 40 have Ph.D. degrees.

The University has 4 objectives: (1) instruction, (2) research, (3) extension, (4) technical service to community.

Ninety-nine percent of the budget goes for teaching.

No research or extension is being done.

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The offering of M.Sc. degree in agriculture next year will necessitate research for theses. There is now no method of using research results. Many of the faculty members in agriculture have only recently returned from their degree studies.

Some of the departments will move in October to a very nice new building complex.

The University library is not well stocked.

All the teaching is done in Thai.

Americans could not learn enough Thai in one year to allow teaching in classrooms.

There is a new 100% + tax on cars imported into Thailand.

Good housing is available in Chiang Mai for visitors.

There is a good international school up to the 8th grade. Nothing after that.

The Thai respect for age is still important.

Assistance from Ford Foundation will end in 1982.

The University has plenty of vehicles for field work or travel but no money for gas.

Wheeler Calhoun

I had a short visit with Wheeler who has been in Chiang Mai for 3 years in the USDA poppy replacement program. He will leave Thailand on October 27.

cc: Dr. Eisgruber, Int'l. Ag.  
Philippine staff  
Mark Smith, AID ✓  
Appleby, Moss, William  
Zindahl