HELPING TO SAVE CROPS FROM PESTS

Our Governing Board member, Coordinator for Region XI: North America, Prof Rangaswamy Muniappan, "Muni" for friends and colleagues, currently program director for the Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, has recently been featured in the Pacific Daily News as a passionate practitioner who "has been traveling around the world to developing countries formulating strategies for farmers to reduce pests that threaten their crops, while steering them away from harmful and ineffective pesticides."

Muni, a former Guam resident is reported to be "no exterminator, but he can certainly get rid of the pests threatening your backyard crops. And some in Mali, Uganda, Ecuador and the Philippines, for that matter."

The programs he has been involved with primarily concentrate on vegetable crops -- tomatoes, beans, cabbage. The article illustrates some examples of practical IPM as implemented by producers. Scientists can teach farmers about seeds treated with a fungus, Trichoderma, to protect seedlings from another, pathogenic fungus. "Once the seedling grows out of the seeds, the Trichoderma protects the seedling from the pathogenic fungus," Muni said. "It is much cheaper to treat the seed rather than spraying chemicals."

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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

The ENDURE (European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies) Network of Excellence shares the fruits of four years' research with the crop protection community by organizing, in collaboration with INRA, an international conference on 'Integrated Pest Management in Europe', on November 24 and 25, 2010, at the Eurosites George V Center in Paris, France.

EU Member States are working on the implementation of the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides to make Integrated Pest Management (IPM) become a field reality by 2014. Major efforts in research and development are called for to accompany this initiative and help mainstream IPM. We can take advantage of the diversity of experiences, tools, and strategies across Europe and build synergies to make crop protection more compatible with our new environmental goals while maintaining our competitiveness.

That's what the European Network of Excellence ENDURE has been working on since 2007. ENDURE researchers have been busy generating new knowledge, new strategies and new tools on:

- The individual components of IPM
- Holistic approaches encompassing multiple pests and larger time and space scales
- Innovative strategies designed and assessed according to the multiple criteria of sustainable development
- Information tailored to the needs of farmers and advisers
- Learning resources for training and education in IPM
- The current state of IPM in major crops
- Socio-technical levers of IPM implementation
- National experiences on pesticide use or risk reduction and IPM implementation
- Stakeholder points of view on the future of crop protection

ENDURE is offering farmers, advisers, policy makers, researchers and representatives of the farm supply chain and food retail sectors across Europe to join in a conversation to better appreciate, critique, feed into and benefit from our
research strategies and outputs.

For more information, see www.endure-network.eu

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CROPWORLD CONGRESS & EXHIBITION 2010

Supported by IAPPS, CropWorld Congress & Exhibition 2010, to be hosted by UBM (United Business Media Ltd) on 1-3 November 2010 at ExCeL London, will feature 100 exhibitors, attracting more than 2000 visitors, and a conference incorporating 4 streams, led by over 120 internationally renowned speakers. This global event is essential for all those at the forefront of sustainable crop production, focusing on the entire value chain, from seed to consumer. Speakers confirmed already include Defra, ECPA, United States Department of Agriculture, Monsanto, Syngenta, OECD, Velcourt Group, NIAB and BASF.

To register as a visitor or a conference delegate, visit www.crop-world.com.

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