

TR-10: TRIP TO INDIA & BANGLADESH TO EVALUATE JUTE INDUSTRY (3/15/82 – 4/23/82)

[Notes taken from a journal and from a PN 1982. Inside cover of Journal is a list of names, in some other language. I will not try to transcribe them. First page:]

Training & Study Tour Reports

A. C. Biswes – yellow NV at LSU found rickettsia – like organism June '81 – Feb. '82

Md Shamsuddin Alme (2 reports)

Netherlands – plant breeding

Rothamsted – unival culture

June 1981 – Sept. 81

Dr. M. Kasem Ali June – July 1979 The royal seed tour. Austine, Germany, North U. K & USA

[and there are a few other report titles, I will leave them out]

[next page, blank]

[next page lists three other people.]

[next two pages, more report references. I suppose these are reports given by these people and he didn't take notes.]

[Next page, blank, next page 4 more report ref']

[Next page blank, next page one more ref.]

[Next page blank, but numbered 2]

PN Monday March 15, 1982 Instructions given on travel acct. Use home address / banking, etc.

[page] 3 Roma 3/17/82 Mr. Jones

PN 3-18-82 See 651 at 9:30

PN 3-19-82 23.00 Air India 128 / 11:15 to Delhi / Claridge

FAO Office in New Delhi, Mr. Rumeaux

Jute Research Institute in Calcutta

Asian Development Bank gave loan in 1976 – UNDP had money also. Jute seed technical assistance / much delay & confusion because of 3 agencies: FAO/UNDP/ASDB. FAO is a subcontractor being evaluated by its own recruits!

De Vreese – U. Pittsburgh – Project Research Leader

Harlan to look at research in general even though tagged as “plant breeder”

Dr. King is the economist.

PN 3-23-82 IC 401 08:40 dept / 10:20 arr / to Calcutta

PN 3-24-82 to Dacca

PN Thursday 25 [3-25-82] inst. Agr. Adv. Committee Friends 3:30 Lib 428

PN Friday 26 Int. Agr. Adv. Comm. / Billy Taylor Trio / theatre

PN Monday 29 Manikganj [**Manikganj** is a district in central Bangladesh., Wikipedia]

PN Thursday, April 1, 1982 Kishoreganj / 5:30 am [**Kishoreganj** (Bengali: কিশোরগঞ্জ) is a district in central Bangladesh., Wikipedia]

PN Friday April 2, World Bank 8:30 / Planninga Commission 10:00

PN Saturday April 3, Chandina [Chandina is an Upazila of Comilla District in the Division of Chittagong, Bangladesh.]

[Follows are a page of JRH’s thoughts about things that could be done.]

[Pg] 4 Get some balance on where jute is going & is breeding & agronomy the more important, etc.

Personalities & organization are problems. Should be looked into.

Might try to generalize an FAO project in agricultural research – if applicable.

Is there any way to shake up the “old guard” - would adding outside planners do any good?

Can the jute project be useful in stimulating other programs by rub off?

What about the training programs? Get some idea of research in Bangladesh – Look out Rice Research Institute & how it is doing.

Red tape in using money has been a serious proble – get some feel for it. Why are disbursement so slow? Gather the Gov’t must pay out in Taka & then get reimbursed

[pg] 5 and the Gov’t is always short of Taka.

3/18 Red taped a whole / saw Trevos Williams & bob Pickel – date tomorrow at 9:30 am. Saw Mr. Wignell who deals w/ seeds in general but not jute. Poetenay is the man to see, but he is out and so is Barmmer. So began reading series annual reports – notes follow:

{Let me skip his notes on these reports. So, JRH spends a few days in Rome getting ready for this rather unusual assignment – to go to India & Bangladesh and try to figure out what is wrong with the Jute industry there – well at least what is wrong with the Jute improvement part of the industry.]

3/19/ Checked out & brought bag to FAO. Plane does not leave until 11:00 pm tonight.

More reports: {I will leave this out}

Bob Pickel on international conservation [?] He wants my ideas on it. / don't think it will gel.

Should contact Keith Aukland at ADB in Manilla – he could pay a visit. Brian Webster will do this for me. Brian is retiring soon & will be replaced by a 37 year old Indonesian girl! Aukland had been taped but he is British.

[pg] 8

S. D. Chaudry – Oxford plant breeder formerly head of Jute Institute – retired may be useful information.

Best to visit Secretary of Agric. & Dacca knows the situation.

3/21 Looked like rain (again) so took my bag to the Termini ^ checked it during noon (!) hour. After all 9?) the red tape was over left & walked around a bit to Foro & Colsseo without going in & out to airport & all that. Dull & getting a cold w/cough & sore throat. They did put me in club class – the bubble on top of a 747. Space all to myself with free headphones and free drinks. The trouble with that was I [Bott]

[pg 9] not feel well enough to enjoy the opportunity. Leaving at 23 hours & arriving at 11:15. We had two breakfasts & a movie which I had just seen on Alitalia. Got one beer out of it & did seem to help the cough. No one met me at airport so took a cab to Claridges. Boy! Has that ever changed! The whole lobby & counter is marble – larger rooms & all that & the prices up accordingly a \$35.00 per night! But for a 3 star in a ?? capital very reasonable – used to be a star (my rating) and I liked it better. Same band & vocalist as in previous visits. Laundry & lots of easy Sunday. Called Mehra – he was out but talked with Mrs. M. They are to call ca 7:00 tomorrow. Called Jean after much waiting but no answer. They had given me the wrong times, but reception seemed good. I could [Bott]

[pg] 10

3/22 Cold much better – good to have the rest.

[I do not want to go through everything here. He seems to be sticking to the task and not bar-hopping like he did in earlier ventures. There is an old man, De Vries, who had medical problems in India and was hospitalized. Otherwise there is not much drama, unless you want to get into the various

personalities, some of whom turned out to be the real problem, I suppose. I do not want to write something that would open old wounds or picture Jack Harlan as a complainer. So, I think we can say that he took this task, went to India and then Bangladesh, studied the problems they were having, wrote his report and returned after about a month and reported to Rome, and – I assume – wrote up a report. What happened to the Jute industry after that I do not know, nor do I much care. HVH2

At the end of the notebook he has some notes about Africa and on page 137 a summary of his credentials.