

THE PIEDMONT MOSQUITO CONTROL: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

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Rice field mosquitoes cause great annoyance in Piedmont since the beginning of the 1990s. For this reason, in 1995 a Regional law was approved to support the mosquito control operations. It established for the first time in Piedmont a mosquito control based on the modern IPM principles. For more than a decade the mosquito control management was entirely left to the local administrations (single municipality, provinces or their agreements), while Region had only a co-financial and supervision function (Bellini, 2003).

In order to optimize the resources in 2006 the regional government decided to put the rice-field mosquito program under the centralized control of IPLA, a public company for the environmental management. In addition, for the other projects was required to the local administrations to choose between continuing in direct management and delegating Ipla (Mosca & Roberto, 2007).

So, since 2007 Ipla started to manage directly the rice-field Piedmont Mosquito Control and 11 of the 18 local projects. For the remaining ones, Ipla became regional supervisor.

The management of the entire operation works at different levels.

At the higher level, a Regional Technical and Scientific Board (TSB) approve the general guide lines for the mosquito control in Piedmont. Two working groups, one for the rice-field mosquito control project and one for the other situations, discuss and propose to the TSB the guide lines.

Yearly the local administrations propose their mosquito control plans to Ipla. Ipla examines all the plans, corrects the errors, normalize the differences and prepare a synthesis for the TSB. At the same time Ipla prepares a plan for the mosquito control in rice-field that is submitted to the TSB. After their approvals, both the local control plans synthesis and the rice-field plan are transmitted to the regional government for formal approving and funding and to the local administration in order to allow them starting the mosquito control campaign.

At the same time Ipla proceed with all the other preliminary operations which include technicians hiring, call for tenders, logistic organization, etc.

Every year, Ipla selects and engages more than 100 technicians, some of which have no experience and need a specific training. Moreover, year Ipla prepares a tender for each products and formulations (altogether for more than 150 tons of about 10 different ones) and organizes the warehouses to receive them. Tenders are also prepared to select helicopter companies and PCO .

Besides the field operations, during the operative season Ipla keep following the administrative aspects (salaries and invoices, supply completion and so on). In that period Ipla also supervises all the field operations (monitoring, treatments, and data flow) and manage the R&D programs.

At the end of each season Ipla receives data and reports from the technicians and vouchers from the local administration. Ipla inspects all the materials to endorse the final accounting of any project.

During the last years Ipla has undertaken other collateral activities, first of all the regional plan to front possible Chikungunya outbreaks.

REFERENCES

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