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# Diversity of Hymenoptera, Cultivated Plants and Management Practices in Home Garden Agroecosystems, Kyrgyz Republic

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Miami, Florida

DIVERSITY OF HYMENOPTERA, CULTIVATED PLANTS AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES IN HOME GARDEN AGROECOSYSTEMS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

BIOLOGY

by

Robin Colleen Dougherty Currey

2009

To: Dean Kenneth Furton  
College of Arts and Sciences

This dissertation, written by Robin Colleen Dougherty Currey, and entitled Diversity of Hymenoptera, Cultivated Plants and Management Practices in Home Garden Agroecosystems, Kyrgyz Republic, having been approved in respect to style and intellectual content, is referred to you for judgement.

We have read this dissertation and recommend that it be approved.

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Date of Defense: November 6, 2009

The dissertation of Robin Colleen Dougherty Currey is approved.

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Florida International University, 2009

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## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Kahina and Smail Bouferguene and my extended family in Tosor and Tamga, especially Daria Toguzbaeva.

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I wish to thank the residents of Tosor and Tamga for sharing their gardens and their lives with me. Daria Toguzbaeva and her family's openness and friendship, especially Munara and Chinara, made this research possible and made me a better person. David Lee's, Suzanne Koptur's, William Vickers', Bradley Bennett's and Mahadev Bhat's guidance have been particularly helpful in crafting this research and this dissertation. I would like to especially acknowledge Dr. Lee and Dr. Koptur for introducing me to the wild world of pollination and gardening. Dr. Richard Ford's mentoring and confidence in me was the foundation for my professional development in the field of ethnoecology. Catherine Brown's support is acknowledged and appreciated. Research described herein approved under IRB approval 021603-00 from FIU.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

DIVERSITY OF HYMENOPTERA, CULTIVATED PLANTS AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES IN HOME GARDEN AGROECOSYSTEMS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

by

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Florida International University, 2009

Miami, Florida

Professor David Lee, Major Professor

Pollination-dependent fruit trees grown in home gardens play an important role in the agricultural based economy of Central Asian countries, yet little is known about the status of pollinator communities, the cultivated plant composition or the factors that influence management practices in Kyrgyz home garden agroecosystems. As agricultural systems are human created and managed, a logical approach to their study blends anthropological and ecological methods, an ethnoecological approach. Over three years, I investigated how species richness and abundance of Hymenoptera, cultivated plants, and home garden management were related using quantitative and qualitative methods in the Issyk-kul Man and Biosphere reserve. Structured surveys were undertaken with heads of households using a random sample stratified by village. Gardens were then mapped with participation of household members to inventory edible species in gardens, most of which are pollinator-dependent, and to compare home garden diversity as reported by respondents during interviews. Apple diversity was studied to the variety level to understand respondents' classification system in the context of *in situ* agrobiodiversity conservation. Household members identified 52 edible plant species

when mapping the garden, compared with 32 reported when interviewed. The proportion of plant species received from others through exchange and the number of plots cultivated significantly explained the variation in edible plant diversity among gardens. Insects were sampled in gardens and orchards to determine potential pollinator community composition and the effect of different management practices on Hymenoptera richness and abundance. I collected 756 Hymenoptera individuals (56 bee; 12 wasp species); 12 species were new records for Kyrgyzstan or within Kyrgyzstan. Economic pressures to intensify cultivation could impact management practices that currently promote diversity. A home garden development initiative was undertaken to study management practice improvement. Participants in the initiative had higher adoption rates than controls of management practices that improve long-term yield, ecological sustainability and stability of home gardens. Home gardens, as currently managed, support abundant and diverse pollinator communities and have high cultivated plant diversity with few differences in community composition between garden management types.



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Home Gardens and Biodiversity

Small farmers, home gardeners, produce the majority of food in the developing world (Hall 2001). Home gardens are small-scale agroforestry systems with a mixture of trees, shrubs, herbs and other cultivated crops located in the area surrounding a house, maintained and managed by those in the household (Fernandes and Nair 1986, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). The boundaries of home gardens can be diffuse or, as in the Former Soviet Union, well defined, delimited by fencing or walls. Home garden systems are fundamentally different from large scale agriculture: they use no chemical inputs, are not mechanized, and host high levels of diversity including agrobiodiversity, non-cultivated plant diversity, as well as insect, mollusk and bird diversity (e.g., Hylander and Nemomissa 2008, Raheem et al. 2008). Improving smallholder farming systems is critical for reducing hunger and poverty through long-term growth in agricultural productivity (Hall 2001). Mitigating negative environmental effects that often accompany agricultural growth, such as agrobiodiversity and biodiversity loss, deterioration of ecosystem services, and contamination is a critical challenge for conservation science (Norris 2008).

Biodiversity loss directly and negatively impacts human populations because of the fact that we depend on the natural environment for food, medicines, raw materials and other

resources such as water (Primack 1998). The effects of loss are cascading– that is, many independent factors collectively exacerbate biodiversity loss to a greater degree than each individual threat (Primack 1998). Home gardens have been identified as playing a critical role in the preservation of genetic variability for many agricultural species, which constitutes the foundation of future food availability (Ford 1994).

Biodiversity refers to the number of species in a given area, the genetic diversity of those species and also the diversity of life forms, and it plays a role in stabilizing community and ecosystem processes (Tilman 1996, Primack 1998). Applying biodiversity concepts in human-occupied space to issues of resource sustainability is challenging because of the mixture of both ecological and human components (Soberón et al. 2000). Nonetheless, home gardens play two major roles in the conservation of biodiversity at two different scales: within the garden and the garden itself. There can be many different species and varieties of plants within gardens (e.g., Nabhan 1985) while the gardens themselves can serve as habitat for other plant, insect and animal species that are not intentionally planted or tended by households (e.g., Perfecto et al. 1996, Hylander and Nemomissa 2008, Raheem et al. 2008).

Home gardens, low-intensity agro-forestry plots, and abandoned temperate orchard meadows all tend to have high levels of biodiversity, and are known to be important for the conservation of not only agrobiodiversity (Altieri 2004), but also birds (Mas and Dietsch 2004, Perfecto et al. 2005, Dietsch et al. 2007) and insects (Klein et al. 2003, Perfecto et al. 2003, Steffan-Dewenter 2003, Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003,

Armbrecht et al. 2005, Gardener and Ascher 2006, Winfree et al. 2008). The latter reported that orchard meadows in Central Europe are one of the most species rich habitat types and that bees and wasps are good indicator species. Bees are good indicators of floral diversity and wasps of insect and spider diversity (Kevan 1999, Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003).

### Insects, Income and Crops in Kyrgyz Home Gardens

Home gardens in the Kyrgyz Republic contribute as much as 50% of agricultural value added and marketed surplus for the Kyrgyz Republic, and provide households, despite their small size (average 0.1 ha), with a sizable portion of their income (World Bank Kyrgyz Republic 2005). In 2006, fruit and berry production in Kyrgyzstan was over 186,600 tons, with nearly 62% of that yield being grown in home gardens (National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic 2008). Apples from home gardens provided households in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan with nearly 10% of their annual revenue (Ostashko and Currey 2007). Earning income from the sale of home garden production is not a new trend, and this pattern of production is not unique among countries of the former Soviet Union (Seeth et al. 1998, Lerman and Stanchin 2004). For example, Seeth and co-authors (1998) found that 90 % of fruit and berries in Russia were grown in home gardens and small private plots, and households in Turkmenistan earned 36% of their income from home gardens (Lerman and Stanshin 2004).

The dominant tree species in home gardens of northern Kyrgyzstan are apple (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.), apricot (*Armeniaca vulgaris* Lam.), pear (*Pyrus communis* L.); shrubs

include currant (*Ribes* spp. L.) and raspberry (*Rubus* spp. L.), and a variety of vegetables, herbs, and grasses are present in home gardens. Apple cultivars are predominately self-sterile but can also be variably self-fertile or self-fertile (Pratt 1988). In general, apple flowers must be insect (or hand) pollinated to obtain fruits (McGregor 1976, Partap and Partap 2002). Pollinators of apple flowers are known to include honeybees, bumble bees, solitary bees and some flies (Scott-Dupree and Winston 1987, Kearns 2001, Partap and Partap 2002). In the Kyrgyz Republic, we lack published research on pollinator communities and insect communities in home garden systems (Chelpakova and Milko 2004). The lack of information on the entomofauna of Kyrgyzstan is an especially notable gap in knowledge, given the number of economically important, insect pollinator-dependent agricultural species whose wild relatives are native to the region. Crop wild relatives in Kyrgyzstan include the main progenitor of cultivated apple, *M. sieversii* (Lebed.) M.Roem.; *M. niedzwetzkyana* Dieck., another wild relative of the domesticated apple; the wild apricot, *Armeniaca vulgaris* Lam., the wild pear *Pyrus korshinskyi* Litv., and the almonds, *Amygdalus bucharica* Korsh. and *A. ledebouriana* Schlecht., among others (Ministry of Environmental Protection 1998, Dzhangaliev et al. 2003, Forsline et al. 2003, Eastwood et al. 2009, IUCN 2009).

Wild pollinators are important for crop pollination, but habitat destruction and land use intensification, especially in agricultural landscapes, can threaten pollinator communities and their ability to provide crop pollination services (Steffan-Dewenter and Westphal 2008). Globally, wild pollinators are in decline for a number of reasons including habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use, and disease (Banaszak 1992, Buchmann and



Nabhan 1996, Kearns and Inouye 1997, Kevan 1999, Kearns 2001, Goulson 2003, Billeter et al. 2008). However, Steffan-Dewenter and Westphal (2008) noted a gap in pollinator research from subtropical and temperate regions and contrasting results concerning the effects of different agricultural management strategies on pollinator communities and pollination services (Kevan 1999, Winfree et al. 2008). Contributions from Central Asia have been noticeably absent in recent research detecting pollinator declines and pollination limitation, even though the mountains of Central Asia are a global biodiversity hotspot (Davis et al. 1995). Very little is known about the ecology of agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic and there is a paucity of information concerning insect community composition and agrobiodiversity in Kyrgyzstan, especially in home gardens (Chelpakova and Milko 2004).

Home gardens and other forms of agroecosystems are important to the conservation of plant resources when it is considered that “these plant resources are directly dependent upon management by human groups, thus, they have evolved in part under the influence of farming [land use] practices shaped by particular cultures” (Altieri et al. 1987: 49). Thus, diverse cultures in a region apply distinct folk-scientific and aesthetic criteria to the selection of plants (Nabhan 1985, Jain 2000). As agricultural systems, including home gardens, are human created and managed, a logical approach to their study blends anthropological and ecological points of view and methods: an ethnoecological approach.

Ethnoecology has been described as “a way of looking” at land, and the relationship humans have with the environment, that incorporates the role of cognition in shaping

behavior and management (Nazarea 1999). It deals with human cognition of environmental components (e.g., plants, animals, water, soils) and the classification of its components within a given environment (Nazarea 1999). Ethnoecology grew somewhat in response to the discounting of traditional ecological knowledge and management practices employed by indigenous cultures as random, destructive and primitive (Nazarea 1999). Conklin (1954) introduced the notion of an “ethnoecological approach” and since that time ethnoecological investigations have sought to understand “local” perceptions and landuse practices (Nazarea 1999). Many ethnoecological studies are concerned with the management of natural resources (biotic and abiotic) and practitioners seek to make their research part of international efforts of biodiversity protection and the recognition of indigenous knowledge (Ford 1994).

With the proposition that home gardens and other agroforestry systems can serve as a reservoir for biodiversity, many non-governmental and governmental agencies are seeking ways to conserve existing agroecological systems. However, with increasing food insecurity, climate change, and calls for agricultural intensification, conserving existing agroecosystems, home gardens, and the diversity of plants and other organisms within them faces serious challenges (Lobell et al. 2008, Norris 2009). Across disciplines, there is consensus that food demand is increasing and that will put pressure on the ecological integrity of agricultural systems. Most small farmers, home gardeners, live in resource-poor areas in environments that are already ecologically vulnerable and more at-risk to ecological degradation (Altieri 2002, Lobell et al. 2008, Norris 2008). Employing a model for research that integrates ecological, sociological, economic and

anthropological methods can help address why certain management practices are successful and why others fail to inform biodiversity conservation and efforts to preserve and improve agricultural livelihoods.

### Research Objectives

The objectives of this dissertation research were:

- 1) to document the edible plant species in home gardens and evaluate different methods for obtaining this information
- 2) to evaluate the factors that contribute to agrobiodiversity in home gardens
- 3) to assess the relative contributions of different agroecosystems, home gardens and orchards, for Hymenoptera richness and
- 4) to design and evaluate an applied ethnoecological development initiative to improve income with horticultural practices that maintain and improve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

### Study Region

Fieldwork was primarily conducted in the villages of Tosor (42°09'N, 77°26'E, approximately 1623 m elevation) and Tamga (42°08'N, 77°32'E, approximately 1675 m elevation), Jetti-Oguz Rayon (district), Issyk-Kul Oblast (state), Kyrgyz Republic, Central Asia, from in June 2003 until November 2006. The two villages are 12 km apart on the shore of Lake Issyk-kul [(1608 m shoreline) in Ter-Ghazaryan and Heinen 2006, ECONET 2008)]. The Issyk-kul Basin is part of the Tien Shan mountain range with elevations that reach 3500 m (Ter-Ghazaryan and Heinen 2006, ECONET 2008). The

villages are part of the Issyk-kul UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. For more information on the non-agricultural ecosystems of the region, see Krever et al. (1998) and Carpenter et al. (2001).

## Chapter Outline

In the second chapter I reviewed home garden research as it pertains to agrobiodiversity conservation. I focused on an ethnoecological conceptual model that I suggested could be used as a tool for approaching home garden research to help ensure pertinent variables are being studied that are generally relegated to different disciplines.

In the third chapter I analyzed edible plant species and varietal diversity in home gardens using and comparing the effectiveness of different research methods. I used interviews, structured survey instruments, and full agroecosystem mapping to determine edible plant species diversity, and in the case of apples, variety diversity. Full garden mapping resulted in the identification of approximately 40% more species than were revealed in an interview context. The variation in mapped species diversity in home gardens was significantly explained by the proportion of species received from neighbors and relatives and self-propagated (28%) and by the number of plots cultivated (36%). Home gardens were more species diverse when home gardeners received more plants from others and less species diverse when household members had access to additional land that could be cultivated. I discussed the ramifications of different sampling methods and how the relationship of explanatory variables for species diversity in Kyrgyz home gardens differs

from previously published research, with the conclusion that the differences are seemingly due to Soviet legacies.

Chapter four examines another dimension of biodiversity in home gardens, the diversity of Hymenoptera, many of which are pollinators of the cultivated crops described in chapter three. I surveyed Hymenoptera during apple bloom in home gardens and orchards over two years, investigating how species richness and abundance of total Hymenoptera, solitary bees, social bees, and wasps was related to overstory cover, overstory bloom, vegetation cover, average ground cover height, and agroecosystem management. Average height of vegetation was the best predictor of Hymenoptera richness and abundance and solitary bee abundance and richness. The results suggest that home gardens and orchards, as currently managed, support abundant and diverse pollinator communities, with few differences in community composition between management types.

Twelve hymenopterans from seven families collected during the course of the research documented in chapter four were new records for Kyrgyzstan. Six species were new records for Kyrgyzstan and six were new records for Issyk-kul district. These are described and documented in chapter five by listing each species in turn, noting the gender and number of specimens collected, locations and dates of collection and brief details of the species' distribution.

In Chapter six I investigated the effectiveness of low-external input technology (LEIT) agricultural extension for home garden management practice improvement. Economic pressures to intensify cultivation in home gardens could impact management practices that currently promote the insect and cultivated plant diversity in Kyrgyz home gardens as documented in chapters three, four and five. The focus of LEIT is on integrating improved agricultural techniques into current practice to increase the sustainability of agriculture for farmers. Documenting and understanding current practices is improved by using an ethnoecological approach. Participants in the agricultural extension initiative had higher adoption rates than non-participants of management practices such as compositing, thinning of fruits, grafting, and seedling establishment, which can improve long-term yield, ecological sustainability and stability of home gardens. I discussed the importance of the selection of which management techniques to focus agricultural extension on based on ethnoecological research and agroecological principles and the contributions of mobilization activities, marketing, and improved access to credit to adoption rates.

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## CHAPTER II

### HOME GARDENS AND AGROBIODIVERSITY: AN ETHNOECOLOGICAL APPROACH

#### Abstract

Home gardens are important reservoirs of agrobiodiversity. Home garden systems are fundamentally different from large-scale agricultural systems, partly because of their small size, their proximity to people's homes, the daily use of products within them and low levels of external inputs. Researching home gardens requires a different approach because there are many factors that influence home gardeners' management decisions that are traditionally studied by different disciplines. While conservation scientists agree in the need to work across disciplines, with development organizations, and with farmers to address conservation issues posed by agricultural expansion and intensification, the challenge remains of precisely how to do this. Because agricultural systems are human created and managed, a logical approach to their study would be one that blends anthropological and ecological points of view. An overlooked ethnoecological model, the Landscape-Lifescape model, establishes a framework for more thorough studies that clearly elucidate and distinguish which factors exert pressure on management decisions of home gardeners, especially useful in the context of applied ethnobiology, anthropology and development studies. This model is described and the ramifications for biodiversity conservation and rural development applications is discussed.

Key words: agrobiodiversity; agriculture; home gardens; ethnoecology; socioecological systems

## Introduction

The recent rise in global food prices has resulted in serious setbacks for reducing poverty and establishing food security for the 2.5 billion of the world's population who live on less than \$2 per day (Naylor & Falcon 2008). Small farmers, such as home gardeners, produce the majority of food in the developing world (Hall 2001). For example, in the Russian Federation in 2006, 53% (by value) of the country's total agricultural production came from home gardens, including 93% of the total potato output and 81% of fruit/berry yields (Sharashkin 2008). Home gardens are small-scale agroforestry systems with mixtures of trees, shrubs, herbs and other cultivated crops in areas surrounding households, maintained and managed by those in households (Fernandes & Nair 1986). Home gardens occur in many countries worldwide, but differ regionally in species composition, structure, role in household and management practices (Lamont et al. 1999). Home gardens range from 0.1 ha to 1.0 ha (Nautiyal et al. 1998, Lamont et al. 1999, High & Shackleton 2000). Home gardens are considered by some to be small-scale agroforestry systems (Sinclair 1999) while others recognize home gardens as specialized agroforestry systems subject to different rules of management because of their proximity to the house and the daily use of plant products within them (Alcorn 1981, Agelet et al. 2000).

Home garden systems are fundamentally different from large scale agriculture: they use no chemical inputs, are not mechanized, and host high levels of diversity including agrobiodiversity, non-cultivated plant diversity, as well as insect, mollusc and bird diversity (e.g., Hylander & Nemomissa 2008, Raheem et al. 2008). Improving smallholder farming systems is critical for reducing hunger and poverty through long-term growth in agricultural productivity (Hall 2001). Mitigating negative environmental effects that often accompany agricultural growth, such as agrobiodiversity and biodiversity loss, deterioration of ecosystem services, and contamination is a critical challenge for conservation science (Norris 2008).

Conservation scientists agree in the need to work across disciplines, with development organizations, and with farmers to address the conservation issues posed by agricultural expansion and intensification (Mascia et al. 2003, Altieri 2004, Norris 2008, Lowe et al. 2009). However, the challenge remains of precisely how to do this (Lowe et al. 2009). Agricultural ecosystems are human systems. Home garden management decisions are based on both global and local ecological factors, cultural norms and values, and socioeconomic realities of the land manager (Lamont et al. 1999, Mendez et al. 2001, Coomes & Ban 2004, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). An overlooked ethnoecological model, the Landscape-Lifescape model, provides a framework that could be applied to home garden research to more clearly elucidate and distinguish which factors exert pressure on management decisions of home gardeners.

Ethnoecology, like ethnobiology, is the study of how different cultural traditions perceive, cognize, use, and manage both the environment, and their knowledge of the environment, including the organisms within the environment (Ellen 2006). It draws on different "...disciplines and integrates them into a comprehensive methodology" (Ford 1999: 71). Ethnoecology seeks to enhance the understanding of the interaction of humans in their environments and provides a framework for understanding environmental management, agricultural sustainability, biodiversity conservation and intellectual property rights from the perspective of those managing, or as Altieri (2002) describes it, the "farmers rationale" and the scientific perspective, or the "scientific basis" (Nazarea 1999, Altieri 2002: 4). To do this, ethnoecology appeals to three broad sources of information: patterns of land use, species utilization and knowledge of human behavior. This review separates out home gardens as a specialized form of agriculture by describing current home garden research, with a focus on agrobiodiversity conservation, and demonstrates the potential of an ethnoecological approach for researching these complex systems.

#### Home garden research

An objective of home garden research is to identify the set of land use practices that involve an intentional combination of trees and agricultural crops on the same tract of land in some spatial arrangement (Sinclair 1999), as well as the explicit identification of which tree and agricultural species are utilized. Implicit in this goal is the identification of factors that influence land use practices, as well as which species are used. Home garden research differs from much ecological and cultural anthropological research in

that it requires an understanding and documentation of cultural, social, and economic factors critical in determining management practices and an understanding and documentation of the role of ecology and individual species' taxonomy and growth requirements (Alcorn 1981, Lamont et al. 1999, Nazarea 1999, Jain 2000). Thus, home garden research exists in a multidisciplinary zone among ecology, sociology, anthropology and economics in its goal to assess the many factors influencing one tract of land.

Recently, home garden research has been conducted in two radically different systems: among more traditional cultures in the tropics (Americas, Africa, South East Asia and India) and among modern societies in primarily temperate regions (North America and Europe). Home garden studies can be classified into six broad categories:

- 1) description of plant species and their uses (e.g., Lamont et al. 1999, Agelet et al. 2000),

- 2) documentation of ecological processes within home gardens (Baijukya & de Steenhuijsen Piters 1998, Gajaseni & Gajaseni 1999) and the comparison of gardens to intact forests (Boster 1983, Vickers 1983),

- 3) documentation of user-defined zones of management (Westmacott 1992, Jugerius 1998, Withrow-Robinson 1999, De Clerck & Negreros-Castillo 2000, Backes et al. 2001, Mendez et al. 2001),

- 4) documentation of socioeconomic variables that may influence management (Nautiyal et al. 1998, High & Shackleton 2000, Shrivastava & Heinen 2005, Kabir & Webb 2009),



5) eliciting of aesthetic perceptions (Smardon 1988, Nassauer 1995, Grove & Burch 1997, Nassauer 1998) and

6) more holistic studies that consider many of the above variables (Alcorn 1981, Coomes & Ban 2004, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009).

The classification is somewhat arbitrary in that many of the studies mentioned above often overlap in their content. However, this classification is useful in that it categorizes the primary focal point of the studies and illustrates the discrepancy between the limited scope of the factors explicitly researched in a given study and the broad range of factors that actually influence home garden management (Altieri 2002).

The majority of these studies are primarily descriptive, in that they identify species grown and used (Lamont et al. 1999, Agelet et al. 2000), or document single variables that might influence management practices (Nautiyal et al. 1998, High & Shackleton 2000). As mentioned above, many factors influence home garden management and have ecological, social, cultural and economic dimensions. The documentation of user-defined management zones (Westmacott 1992, Jugerius 1998, Withrow-Robinson 1999, De Clerck & Negreros-Castillo 2000, Backes et al. 2001, Mendez et al. 2001) and the eliciting of aesthetic perceptions (Smardon 1988, Nassauer 1995, Grove & Burch 1997, Nassauer 1998) represent more inclusive approaches to understanding management decisions on the following premise: the organization of space is coded by the way it is experienced and molded by and through ongoing social relations (Green 1995). Several authors (Vickers 1983, Nautiyal et al. 1998, Lamont et al. 1999, Withrow-Robinson 1999, High & Shackleton 2000, Mendez et al. 2001) conclude that space is coded by

culture but also by economic factors, and that species composition and garden zonation is flexible, varying with social and economic changes. However, only High & Shackleton (2000) and Nautiyal and co-authors (1998) have explicitly quantified this phenomenon. Home garden researchers struggle with adequately addressing the multiple factors and complex interaction of these factors that influence management.

### Ethnoecology

Ethnoecological approaches (see Posey 1984, Brush 1992, Nazarea 1998) have re-shaped ecological and agricultural studies of societies, with their focus on the “depth of people’s knowledge of their environments” (Sillitoe 2006:152), indigenous rights, and participatory approaches that they have replaced other kinds of approaches in environmental and ecological anthropology (Ellen 2006:14). Ethnoecology grew somewhat in response to the discounting of traditional ecological knowledge and management practices employed by indigenous cultures as random, destructive and primitive (Nazarea 1999, Sillitoe 2006). Conklin (1954) introduced the notion of an “ethnoecological approach” and since that time ethnoecology has developed considerably, drawing from different disciplines, including the closely related field of historical ecology, but also cultural ecology, ecological and environmental anthropology, cognitive anthropology, botany, ecology, landscape ecology and agroecology (Ford 1994, Balée 1998, Ford 1999, Nazarea 1999, Altieri 2002, Ellen 2006). What separates ethnoecology and other ethnosciences from their most closely related research program, historical ecology (see Balée 2006), is ethnoecology’s base in cognitive/linguistic

principles, and focus on people's perception, or cognition, of landscapes and the environment and not only as an agent of change on the landscape (see Nazarea 2006).

A conceptual model that illustrates an ethnoecological approach is Nazarea's Landscape-Lifescape model, which addresses the complexity of studying home garden systems (Nazarea 1999). Nazarea's model incorporates a way of explicitly looking at the multiple local factors that influence land management, yet is flexible enough to permit its application to the myriad home garden systems in the world. In principle, this approach to home garden research allows for more thorough studies that clearly elucidate and distinguish which factors exert the most pressure on management decisions of home gardeners from both the perspective of the home gardener and the scientific perspective. Because of the breadth of factors influencing home gardens that are typically studied by different disciplines, it is a challenge to adequately address all factors. Home garden researchers need to improve their description, documentation and testing of the cultural, economic and ecological factors that influence management decisions for both the individual gardener and at the community level.

Ethnoecology has been described as "a way of looking" at land, and the relationship humans have with the environment, that incorporates the role of cognition in shaping behavior and the actions of management (Nazarea 1999). It deals with human cognition of environmental components (e.g., plants, animals, water, soils), the classification of its components within a given environment and the actions that people take or do not take to manage those environmental components (Nazarea 1999). Ethnoecological

investigations have sought to understand “local” perceptions and landuse practices (Nazarea 1999). Many ethnoecological studies are concerned with the management of natural resources (biotic and abiotic) and practitioners seek to make their research part of international efforts of biodiversity protection and the recognition of indigenous knowledge (Ford 1994). Nazarea proposed an ethnoecological conceptual model for identifying and understanding resource management practices at the local level that integrates ecological and anthropological points of views, which is appropriate for home garden research (Nazarea-Sandoval 1995, Nazarea 1999, Altieri 2002).

#### The Landscape-Lifescape model

The basic premise of the Landscape-Lifescape model is that management practices are the product of both the biotic and abiotic components of land (landscape) and the “superimposition of human intentions, purposes and viewpoints over environmental features and the resulting patterns of production, consumption and distribution” on land (lifescape) (Nazarea 1999: 91). Put another way, the landscape represents value neutral components of land: energy flows, species pools, nutrient cycling and physical factors such as soils, slopes and river valleys and the lifescape is how human cognition, decisions and actions manifest themselves on land given specific biotic and abiotic resources (Fig 1). A lifescape can be any manifestation of human intention on land; in this case a home garden.

In Nazarea’s (1999) model, ecological variables are defined separately from socioeconomic and cultural variables (Fig 1). The ecological variables (e.g., biotic and

abiotic elements; material and energy flows) are categorized as the landscape. The landscape and the ecological variables are described as being neutral. That is, these variables, when taken as a whole, are essentially the template for human action: the raw materials. The model indicates that natural resources can contribute to the lifescape both directly and indirectly, through a filter of human cognition. Nazarea defines variables such as cultural values and norms, institutions and available technologies, as well as activities and goods produced as contributing to the structure of the lifescape. These variables contribute to the pattern of consumption, production and reproduction for a given locale. Issues of global concern such as conservation, sustainability and degradation are depicted as resource management practices, which in the model are situated between the lifescape and the landscape. The manner in which biotic and abiotic variables are manipulated given specific cultural, social and economic circumstances is a management practice. The result of this manipulation (management practice) is an alteration of the ecological variables Nazarea characterizes as the landscape.

The model provides for the explicit identification of the natural resources available for use and which are actually exploited. It also encourages description and understanding of the cultural, economic, political and social circumstances of the people who are the subjects of the research. The model implies human interaction with land is continuous and iterative across time. The iterative nature of this model makes it valuable for addressing questions of biodiversity conservation and sustainability. The lifescape is directly linked with the landscape. The degradation of the lifescape limits the “neutral” components of the landscape that are available for humans to act on. The improvement

of the lifescape (e.g., increased biodiversity) enhances the landscape (sum of environmental components) upon which humans can then again act. This model for understanding land management does not eliminate other approaches to home garden research and does not provide a definitive outline of research methods. I believe this is its strength. It provides a way to identify and evaluate factors that will explain the interaction of humans with their environment. The problems with current home garden research and the potential benefits of employing Nazarea's Landscape-Lifescape model will be illustrated by the review of work on the role of home gardens in the conservation of biodiversity.

#### Home garden research and biodiversity

Biodiversity loss directly and negatively impacts human populations due to the fact that we depend on the natural environment for food, medicines, raw materials and other resources such as water and their effects of loss are cascading— that is, many independent factors collectively exacerbate biodiversity loss to a greater degree than each individual threat (Primack 1998). Home gardens have been identified as playing a critical role in the preservation of genetic variability for many agricultural species, which constitutes the foundation of future food availability (Ford 1994). It is not surprising that as concern over both food security and biodiversity loss mounts, home gardens have received more attention; especially for the role they play in providing food and in conserving domesticated plant diversity.

Biodiversity refers to the number of species in a given area, the genetic diversity of those species and also the diversity of life forms, and it plays a role in stabilizing community and ecosystem processes (Tilman 1996, Primack 1998). Applying biodiversity concepts in human-occupied space to issues of resource sustainability is challenging due to the mixture of both ecological and human components (Soberón et al. 2000). Nonetheless, home gardens play two major roles in the conservation of biodiversity at two different scales: within the garden and the garden itself. There can be many different species and varieties of plants within gardens (e.g., Nabhan 1985) while the gardens themselves can serve as habitat for other plant, insect and animal species that are not intentionally planted or tended by households (e.g., Perfecto et al. 1996, Hylander and Nemomissa 2008, Raheem et al. 2008). Here, research concerning the former will be considered.

Home gardens and other forms of agroecosystems are important to the conservation of plant resources when it is considered that “these plant resources are directly dependent upon management by human groups, thus, they have evolved in part under the influence of farming [land use] practices shaped by particular cultures” (Altieri et al. 1987: 49). Thus, diverse cultures in a region apply distinct folk-scientific and aesthetic criteria to the selection of plants (Jain 2000, Nabhan 1985). Nabhan (1985) and Cleveland and co-authors (1994) have identified three reasons why traditional varieties of plants are valuable to conserve:

- 1) though traditional varieties may not be high yielders, many have adaptations such as insect and pathogen resistance or to growing on marginal lands that might be important for continued food production as environmental degradation continues,

2) though many varieties may not offer high economic returns, native crops and special foods may be symbols for cultural identity (Dove 1999) and

3) many traditional varieties exist in geographically and ecologically distinct populations and have diverse genetic composition between and within populations (Cleveland et al. 1994).

The genetic diversity of crops within any region are related to the duration and continuity of agriculture, diversity of native plant species to exploit, cultural diversity and introgression of crops with native (wild) relatives (Nabhan 1985). Several authors have sought to identify cultivars and to determine how they are distinguished by farmers (cultivators) (Boster 1985, Brush et al. 1995, Clawson 1985, Cleveland et al. 2000, Elias et al. 2000, Soleri & Cleveland 2001). These authors have determined the criteria to be primarily phenotypical. Some authors have then studied the phenotypes that are selected for by farmers and have sought to identify underlying genetic diversity (Jianchu et al. 2001, Soleri & Cleveland 2001).

Two mechanisms have been proposed for the conservation of biological diversity in crop plants (native varieties): *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation (Nabhan 1985, Altieri et al. 1987, Altieri & Merrick 1987, Cleveland et al. 1994). *Ex situ* conservation is the collection of propagules from existing varieties and storing them in order to preserve germplasm. Criticisms of *ex situ* conservation are that the evolutionary process of these plants halted (Altieri & Merrick 1987) and the plants are removed from the original cultural-ecological (human-land interface) context in which they evolved (Nabhan 1985).



Altieri and Merrick (1987) and Altieri and co-authors (1987) conclude that a combination of both methods offers the best opportunity for the conservation of biodiversity and germplasm diversity. They also state the conservation of traditional agroecosystems and surrounding ecosystems is the best strategy for successful *in situ* preservation of crop germplasm. In order to conserve traditional agroecosystems, of which home gardens are a type, it is necessary to fully understand the factors that influence management dynamics. Home garden research has identified many of these factors in many different regions.

Home garden research has identified the extent of biodiversity in home gardens (e.g., Lamont et al. 1999, Agelet et al. 2000, Kabir & Webb 2009). Research in home gardens has also concluded that while biodiversity is high in home gardens, it is often not as high as intact habitat (e.g., Boster 1983, Vickers 1983). However, researchers have also found that while absolute biodiversity may not be higher in home gardens (interspecies diversity), intraspecies diversity is higher and the diversity of species at the scales larger than the home garden, the landscape scale, is higher (Boster 1983, Clawson 1985). Intraspecies diversity is attributed, in part, to farmers seeking to minimize the risk of crop failure by planting several varieties so that yields are stable (Altieri et al. 1987, Brush et al. 1995), culinary preferences, and the maintenance of traits with culture value that maintain traditions and social relations (Soleri and Smith 1999). However, factors influencing folk variety (landrace) retention are not well researched (Cleveland et al. 1994, Soleri and Smith 1999). The direct link between economic returns of certain crops and the availability of markets for plant products with species selection by home

gardeners has been established (High & Shackleton 2000, Nautiyal et al. 1998).

Decreases in the biodiversity of home gardens due to changes in social relations and the loss of traditional ecological knowledge have also been documented (Agelet et al. 2000, Cleveland et al. 1994). However, many variables that influence biodiversity within home gardens are still poorly understood, especially those that are potentially more influenced by cultural dynamics. Perhaps home garden research is not adequately addressing the issues that would contribute to the long-term sustainability of these systems for the preservation of crop genetic resources.

#### Application of the Landscape-Lifescape model

Nazarea's Landscape-Lifescape model (1999) could help address some of the shortcomings of current home garden research as it pertains to the conservation of biological diversity. Altieri and Merrick (1987) identified inadequate sampling procedures (see also Stamps & Linit 1999) and the difficulty of identifying the factors that influence the persistence of genetic resources in traditional agroforestry systems as problems with relying on *in situ* conservation. When the actual status of biodiversity and the factors that influence the persistence of genetic resources cannot be adequately identified, there are few assurances that the genetic resources can be conserved. Some of these problems might be overcome by implementing a model for research, such as Nazarea's (1999), that links cultural, social, economic and ecological variables.

Nazarea's model calls for the identification of resources that are available for exploitation by humans (landscape) and the result of this exploitation (lifescape). Critically for *in situ* biodiversity conservation efforts, Nazarea's model illustrates that landscapes as perceived

by those managing them (“cognition”) may or may not result in an “action,” that leaves a trace on the landscape (Fig. 1). Understanding home gardeners’ perceptions of their home garden, environmental factors and processes, and the myriad of factors that influence home gardeners’ decision making provides a basis for interventions with the potential to improve livelihoods and *in situ* biodiversity conservation. Many of the variables addressed in Nazarea’s model do not necessarily require resources (time, money, etc.) above and beyond those home garden studies that are already being performed. Many researchers perform in-depth interviews but neglect to assess economic status. Others assess economic issues without attempting to understand the persistence plants that are not actively traded or sold in the garden. However, some factors are more difficult to document and understand and will require time for explicit study, such as understanding cultural cognition of land and determining culturally relevant cues to sustainability (Nazarea 1999). The Landscape-Lifescape model will not be a panacea for home garden research, but it can provide a framework for more thorough studies.

Nazarea (1999) warned against globalizing local phenomena and advocated the need for understanding points of view and the capacity for self-determination at the local scale. She stated that generalizing situated systems to “pan-human” categories and systems of classification without meaningful context (“un-situated”) negates the implications of local self-determination and local solutions to biodiversity conservation. I do not propose the application of her model for the development of pan-human categories and systems of classification. I propose the application of her model as a global research framework for scientists and development workers from multiple disciplines to understand local systems

that would ensure pertinent variables are being studied in home gardens so that organizations that operate on a global scale have a more thorough understanding of local resource management systems that produce food. The model permits the investigator to better develop research about the variation in home garden systems by consciously addressing the interaction of the human component and the biological component of home gardens: the ethnoecological approach.

### Concluding Remarks

With the proposition that home gardens and other agroforestry systems can serve as an *in situ* reservoir for biodiversity, many non-governmental and governmental agencies are seeking ways to conserve existing agroecological systems. However, with increasing food insecurity, climate change, and calls for agricultural intensification, *in situ* conservation of agrobiodiversity faces serious challenges (Lobell et al. 2008, Norris 2009). Across disciplines, there is consensus that food demand is increasing and that will put pressure on the ecological integrity of agricultural systems. Most small farmers, home gardeners, live in resource-poor areas in environments that are already ecologically vulnerable and more at-risk to ecological degradation (Altieri 2002, Lobell et al. 2008, Norris 2008). Employing a model for research such as Nazarea's (1999) conceptual model for understanding landscape-lifescape integration might help address why certain management practices are successful and why others fail to inform biodiversity conservation and efforts to preserve and improve agricultural livelihoods.

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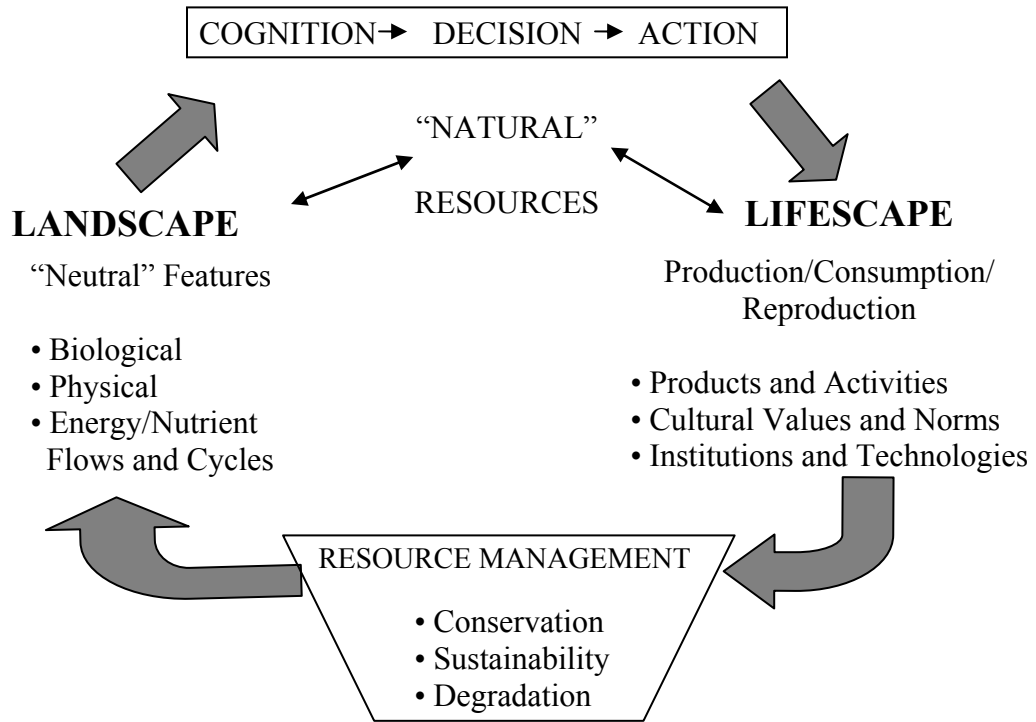
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Figure 1. The Landscape-Lifescape conceptual model for ethnoecological research (adapted from Nazarea 1999:92).



## CHAPTER III

### EDIBLE PLANT SPECIES DIVERSITY IN KYRGYZ HOME GARDENS

#### Abstract

The role of home gardens in the conservation of agrobiodiversity in Kyrgyzstan is unknown, but could be important given the number of different crop relatives, especially fruit tree crops, that grow wild, which provide residents with the opportunity to introduce these species into their gardens. I surveyed edible plant species and apple variety diversity by using interviews, structured survey instruments, and full agroecosystem mapping. Temperate home gardens in Kyrgyzstan are diverse with an average of 24 edible plant species per home garden, more diverse than some tropical home gardens, and that plant material received from others (relatives and neighbors) and number of additional plots owned were the best predictors of the diversity status of cultivated plants. Received plant material was positively related to the diversity of edible plants while additional plots owned was negatively related. The relationship of explanatory variables to mapped fruit species diversity in Kyrgyz home gardens, especially the variables of home garden size, additional plots owned, and age of home garden, differed from similar studies in primarily tropical home garden agroecosystems. Different methods used to document cultivated species diversity yield different results; mapping home gardens with members of the household revealed 50% more species than in an interview context. The results demonstrate that methods for collecting information about species diversity in home gardens need to be carefully considered with full garden mapping with

participation of household members being the best method and that factors important to explaining home garden diversity in other parts of the world do not apply or have inverted relationships when applied to Kyrgyz home gardens, perhaps to due Soviet legacies.

## Introduction

The conservation of indigenous cultigens, especially fruit and nut species, has unique importance in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet Republic, in the heart of Central Asia. The mountains of Central Asia were designated as a “hotspot” for global biodiversity in 1995, due, in part, to the more than 300 fruit and nut species that grow wild, some of which are wild progenitors of globally important crop species (Davis et al. 1995, Eastwood et al. 2009). Dozens of crop wild relatives that are valuable sources of genetic material for crop improvement grow wild in Kyrgyzstan, such as apple,, apricot, pear, cherry, plum, many species of raspberry and currant, grape and the nuts: almond, pistachio, and walnut (MEP 1998, Dzhangaliev et al. 2003, Eastwood et al. 2009) (Appendix 1). Additionally, the northern regions of Kyrgyzstan were important corridors for the Silk Trade Route over the course of many centuries, and movement of cultivars, via trade, has been ongoing over that time (Anonymous 1993, Forsline et al. 2003). The role of home gardens in the conservation of agrobiodiversity in Kyrgyzstan is unknown, but could be important given the number of different crop relatives, especially fruit tree crops, that grow wild, providing households with the opportunity to introduce these species into their gardens.

Home gardens are small-scale agroforestry systems with mixtures of trees, shrubs, herbs and other cultivated crops in areas surrounding households, maintained and managed by those in households (Fernandes & Nair 1986). Home gardens, with different combinations of trees, shrubs, and other crops are a type of small-scale agricultural system that occurs throughout the world with the commonality being that they are based around the household with daily use of plant products within them (Alcorn 1981, Agelet et al. 2000, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). Home gardens are considered by some to be small-scale agroforestry systems (Sinclair 1999) while others recognize home gardens as specialized agroforestry systems subject to different rules of management due to their proximity to the house and the daily use of plant products within them (Alcorn 1981, Agelet et al. 2000). Recent research in tropical home gardens document species composition, diversity of cultivated and non-cultivated plants, their uses, and demonstrate that home gardens are sites of high species diversity and can play a role for *in situ* biodiversity conservation (Lamont et al. 1999, Agelet et al. 2000, Coomes and Ban 2004, Kumar and Nair 2004, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). Studies in tropical systems have also documented ecological processes within home gardens (Baijuka and de Steenhuijsen Pijters 1998, Gaijaseni and Gaijaseni 1999) and both cultural and socioeconomic factors that influence management practices (Nautiyal et al. 1998, Lamont et al. 1999, High and Shackleton 2000, Coomes and Ban 2004, Shrivastava and Heinen 2005, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009, Kabir and Webb 2009).

Home gardens in temperate Kyrgyzstan are poorly known and have not been well researched. Molodogazieva and Spoor (1997) state that any study in the realm of human

ecology, which home gardens are, will suffer because of the lack of attention to the field in the Soviet period and the lack of differentiation among ethnicities (Molodogazieva and Spoor 1997, Tchorev 2002). It is also challenging to obtain historical information since much was destroyed and deciphering ethnographies from Soviet times and literature pertaining to ethnic Kyrgyz as a result of the strong influence of communist editing (Tchorev 2002). However, beginning in the late 1990s a number of studies began to be published highlighting the importance of home gardens in different republics of the former Soviet Union (FSU) for household income generation, subsistence, ability to weather external shocks (such as the collapse of the FSU) and also their importance to the national economies of former Soviet republics (Van Atta 1998, Seeth et al. 1998, Pallot & Nefedova 2003, Wegren 2004, Lerman & Stanchin 2004, Lerman 2006, Lerman 2008, Sharashkin 2008). For example, during Soviet times, home garden production in the Soviet Union accounted for only 3% of the agricultural land area but approximately 30% of the total gross agricultural product (Lerman et al. 1994). By 2005, Russian home gardens accounted for over 50% of the total agricultural output (and value) on only 3% of the agricultural land (Sharashkin 2008). From 1997 to 2007, approximately 60% of Uzbekistan's agricultural output consistently came from home gardens (Lerman 2008). Home gardens in the FSU continue to be very important for household income generation. Lerman and Stanchin (2004) found that 36% of income for rural households came from their 0.25 ha. home gardens and in 1997 Ukraine, rural families obtained 53% of their family income from home gardens. The biophysical, economic and socio-cultural factors that led to the establishment and the current role of home gardens in Kyrgyz household food procurement and income generation is poorly understood. A serious gap

in home garden research in Kyrgyzstan and from the FSU is the lack of direct research to document how and why cultivated plant species are planted, selected and maintained in, or removed from, gardens. The above-mentioned studies pertaining to household plots are more policy oriented and rely on government statistics or socio-economic surveys that do not address species or varietal composition of home gardens; the focus is not on the home garden, per se, but rather on the role of the home garden in transitional economies. None of the studies examine home garden management strategies, species selection, or species composition in the gardens.

The lack of specificity in these studies relating to home gardens is not surprising as home gardens, in general, are poorly studied (Nair 2001), especially in temperate regions.

However, the direct link between economic returns of certain crops and the availability of markets for plant products with species selection by home gardeners has been established by researchers in other agroecosystems (Nautiyal et al. 1998, High and Shackleton 2000).

This is likely impacting the diversity of home gardens in the FSU as home gardeners seek to sell more of their home garden production for income generation (Seeth et al. 1998).

Decreases in the biodiversity of home gardens due to changes in social relations and the loss of traditional ecological knowledge have also been documented (Cleveland et al.

1994, Agelet et al. 2000). These variables affecting biodiversity and ecological processes

within home gardens of the FSU are poorly researched but may not impact

agrobiodiversity in the same way due to the unique socio-political-ecological systems in

many republics of the FSU. While many researchers are concerned about the loss of



knowledge about plants and shifts away from agrarian lifestyles (Reedy et al. 2009), in Kyrgyzstan, there was a shift away from nomadic pastoralism towards agrarianism.

#### Kyrgyz and the History of Home Gardens

Ethnic Kyrgyz have historically been nomadic pastoralists, meaning that they specialize in animal herding that requires movement for grazing (Crawford and Leonard 2002).

Kyrgyz pastoralism is primarily of the Eurasian Steppe Type characterized by the herding of horses sheep, goats, cattle and camels (Barfield 1993). While the Kyrgyz and other nomadic pastoralists were never fully self-sufficient and relied on their sedentary neighbors for some of their food and material culture, they only occasionally practiced agriculture and, in general, do not have a strong agricultural tradition (Bacon 1966, Khazanov 2001). There is some evidence that Kyrgyz practiced a combination of pastoralism and agriculture and shifted to a more nomadic herding around 5 B.C. (Kuehnast and Strouthes 1991). After catastrophic livestock losses, Kyrgyz, like neighboring Kazakhs, have been known to focus on agricultural production either as laborers or independently, though often with the goal of returning to pastoralism (Bacon 1966, 1954).

In the 1800s, Kyrgyz and Russian contact intensified and was relatively peaceful until the 1916 revolt which was precipitated by a number of factors that remain under debate (Kuehnast and Strouthes 1991, Bacon 1966, Tchorev 2002). One of the results of this revolt was the migration of 1/3 of the Kyrgyz population, primarily to China (Kuehnast and Strouthes 1991, Bacon 1966) along with many of the early Russian settlers who came

to what is now the Kyrgyz Republic and established many of the home gardens with plant material they brought with them (Currey, unpublished oral history). Kyrgyzstan was designated as a Soviet Autonomous Republic in 1926 and was subject to Stalin's collectivization plans (Kuehnast and Strouthes 1991). The process of collectivization was an important factor in the development of today's Kyrgyzstan for a number of reasons that include: attempted conversion of the Kyrgyz from pastoralists to sedentary agriculturalists, a change in the economy; and disruption of kin networks, and the establishment of household plots, or home gardens (Lerman et al. 1994).

Analyses of available government statistics from 2003-2007 on agricultural production showed that home garden production is very important for the Kyrgyz economy. As of 2007, there were 726,632 home gardens in Kyrgyzstan (NSC 2008) and they averaged 0.1 ha. in size. These home gardens provided 27% of the total market value of agricultural production in 2007, or \$356.6 million (2007 1 USD=37.37 Kyrgyz som) on only 9% of the country's arable land (NSC 2008). Home gardens provided 77% of the total fruit and berry production in 2007, 40% of the grape and 7% of the melon production. Additionally, home gardens yielded 52% of Kyrgyzstan's vegetable production (by value), 28% of potatoes, and 9% of grains (NSC 2008). Home garden production has been fairly stable from 2003-2007, with the exception of fruit and berry production and melon production (NSC 2006, NSC 2008). Fruit and berry production has steadily increased from 60% of the total market value in 2003 to 77% in 2007 and melon production was stable at around 30% until 2007 when it fell to 7%, primarily to the result of late frosts that year. For the years in which the questionnaire was

administered, 2003-2004, households' were asked about their 2003 production. In 2003, home garden production accounted for 22% of the total value of agricultural output in the Kyrgyz Republic. Home gardens provided 60% of the value of fruit and berry production, 32% of the melons, 32% of the grapes, 52% of Kyrgyzstan's vegetable production (by value), 29% of the potato production, and 9% of the grains (NSC 2006).

In this paper, I examine cultivated plant species diversity in home gardens of two adjacent villages in northeastern Kyrgyzstan. Using an ethnoecological approach (Nazarea 1999) I seek to determine: (1) the status of agrobiodiversity in home gardens and begin to describe the decision-making environment for selected households; (2) the effectiveness and accuracy of different methods for determining cultivated plant diversity in the socio-cultural-ecological context of Kyrgyz households focusing on fruit tree species diversity, singled out because of the predominance of their wild progenitors in Kyrgyzstan; and (3) what factors accounted for observed fruit species diversity, including plant exchange, in an applied ethnobotany context to help elucidate the role of home gardens for agrobiodiversity conservation.

### Study Area

Fieldwork was conducted in the villages of Tosor (42°09'N, 77°26'E, approximately 1623 m elevation) and Tamga (42°08'N, 77°32'E, approximately 1675 m elevation), Jeti-Oguz Rayon (district), Issyk-Kul Oblast (state), Kyrgyz Republic, beginning in June 2003-November 2006. The two villages are 12 km apart on the shore of Lake Issyk-kul [(1608 m shoreline) in Ter-Ghazaryan & Heinen 2006, ECONET 2008)]. The Issyk-kul Basin is

part of the Tien Shan mountain range with elevations that reach 3500 m (Ter-Ghazaryan & Heinen 2006; ECONET 2008). The villages are part of the Issyk-kul UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. For more information on the non-agricultural ecosystems of the region, see Krever et al. (1998) and Carpenter et al. (2001).

In 2003 in Tosor, the majority of households were ethnic Kyrgyz and there were 2107 residents, 346 home gardens (totaling 104 ha.) averaging 0.3 ha. with 19.5 ha. of established orchards and 64.0 ha. of newly planted orchards surrounding the village (Jailov 2006). Tamga, in 2006, had more residents (3199) and home gardens, 846 totaling ~85 ha., but they were smaller in size, at 0.10 ha., and managed by a mixture of ethnic Kyrgyz, Russians, and Tatars: 52.2 ha. of established orchards and 33.0 ha. of newly planted orchards (Jailov 2006). The history of home garden establishment in the two villages differs and the following synopsis of establishment is based on oral histories of current residents. Prior to Russian contact in the late 1890s, ancestors of current Tosor and Tamga residents lived, primarily in the valleys above what is now Tamga, which were the winter settlements for these nomadic pastoralists. Residents report that Slavic serfs that were freed under reforms of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century (see Sharashkin 2008) first came to what is now Tamga in the late 1890s. They planted the first gardens, including fruit trees, with plant materials that they brought with them. About the same time, the first fruit tree nursery was established by Russians, some 200 km away on the north shore of the lake, and Tamga residents obtained seedlings from this nursery. After the 1916 revolt, many of the early Russian settlers left Tamga and Tatar families migrated in with their own plant material at the same time that ethnic Kyrgyz families began to move into

what is currently Tamga from the valley above (some say there was a delay of around five years before Kyrgyz moved into current Tamga – 1920-1925); one of these Russian-established Tatar gardens and gardens of two descendants of the first Kyrgyz family were studied in the current research. In the 1920/30s “shepherds” living in the valley above were collectivized and the village of Tosor was established, about 12 km east of Tamga. However, gardens were not established in Tosor until the 1960s with planting material obtained from the nursery on the other side of the lake and from relatives in Tamga who had already established their gardens. When asked about the time gap between village and garden establishment, one resident said, “Tosor’s people were shepherds, not gardeners.” Additional gardens in Tamga were planted after World War I in the 1930s as Japanese prisoners of war built a “sanatorium,” or recuperation hospital for the Soviet Army, that employed ethnic Kyrgyz, and again in the 1950s and 1960s as in Tosor. The next wave of home garden establishment was in the 70s and 80s as the garden establishers’ children married and started their own families. In Kyrgyz families, traditionally the youngest son inherits the parents’ assets, historically livestock, now livestock, homes, home gardens and additional land in private ownership.

## Methods

Data were collected using multiple quantitative and qualitative methods. In 2003-2004 a structured survey with informed consent was undertaken with the heads of households using a random sampled stratified by village in both Tosor (N = 10) and Tamga (N = 11). All households had home gardens. The questionnaire included questions about household composition, land holdings, agricultural production from all land holdings,

livestock ownership, perceptions of ecological issues affecting home garden production and diversity, use of inputs, information concerning markets for home garden production, sources of income and categorization of expenditures as well as detailed information about home garden composition. Respondents were asked to list the species and varieties of fruit trees and shrubs and vegetables that they grow in their home gardens, the numbers or area planted in each, average age of trees, source of plant material, yields and yields sold.

Gardens were later mapped (2004-2006) with the participation of household members. These maps included the location of all trees and shrubs (fruits, nuts, hedges, living fences, decorative; N = 20) and vegetables, medicinal, and decorative plants (N = 10). The purpose of this mapping was to obtain a full inventory of edible species in home gardens in the study area but also to compare home garden diversity as reported by households in an interview context, a garden walk with full inventorization, and full identification of apple varieties to understand their classification system in the context of *in situ* agrobiodiversity conservation. The differences in reported diversity and actual diversity of cultivated plants were tested using paired t-tests (total diversity; fruit and nut species diversity; vegetable diversity).

To investigate how the diversity of cultivated fruit species are related to different household characteristics, cultural, and socio-economic factors and to make this study comparable with published research (Coomes and Ban 2004, Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009), I used stepwise multiple-regression analyses

with backward selection after testing for correlations among the variables (probability=0.15). The first set of regression models examined species diversity of cultivated fruits (reported and identified), age of the garden, home garden area, number of plots owned in addition to home gardens, importance of agriculture to total household income, proportion of plant species sold, and proportion of plant species received from relatives, neighbors and self-propagation. Anticipating that there would be differences between reported species diversity and actual diversity, I sought to determine if explanatory models for cultivated species diversity yielded different results. I used fruit species diversity as the test variable because of the importance of fruit tree production to household income and the Kyrgyz economy, but also the potential role of home gardens in conserving fruit tree diversity given the high diversity of fruit tree crop wild relatives in Kyrgyzstan. The variables of proportion of plant species sold and proportion of species received and self-propagated were used, rather than the total number of species, due to the differences in the number of species reported by households versus what they actually maintained in their gardens. I tested for outliers in the response variables and removed those that were greater than or less than 3.0 standard deviations from the mean. In an effort to avoid multicollinearity in regression models, independent variables were tested for independence (Barlett Chi-square test statistic).

The second model concerned mapped edible fruit species diversity in home gardens and households' perceptions of environmental issues in their home gardens: soil fertility, soil salinization, light, pest insects, and pollination (bivariate variables: 0 = not a problem, 1 = problem for my home garden production). Environmental perceptions were modeled

with the independent variable of mapped fruit diversity to determine which environmental issues, as perceived by the respondents, may limit or enhance diversity. For the final model, I used an analysis of variance (ANOVA) model and examined mapped cultivated species diversity of fruits (versus reported) as the response variable and the following groups: 1) respondents' who stated they felt having more species in their home garden was more important than, 2) those who said cultivating fewer species but planting a larger for each was more important for them.

Statistical analyses were performed with SYSTAT v. 12. All variables were tested for normality and transformed when necessary, regression models were tested for normality and means are reported  $\pm$  one standard error.

## Results

### Characteristics of Households

Surveyed households were predominately headed by men (66%), with an average age of 51.5 years, who had graduated from high school (11 years) with some higher education and 85.7% ( $\pm 7.8$ ) were living in the same villages in which their fathers lived (Table 1). A sizeable portion of households were comprised of more than one generation (38%). The majority of heads of households were formally employed ( $57.1 \pm 11.1\%$ ). Those who are employed cited their occupation as sales and services, teaching, day labor, driving, and other skilled labor. Respondents were asked to identify which member of the family was primarily responsible for their home garden; 62% were male, much younger than the head of the households with an average age of 42.0 years, and were well



educated but lacking formal employment (Table 1). Gender of the home gardener was significantly correlated with the ethnicity of the home gardener, with women being more likely to tend the garden in non-Kyrgyz households (Pearson  $r^2 = 0.693$ ; Bartlett  $X^2 = 12.125$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

### Home Garden Characteristics

All respondents had home gardens with an average of  $34.1 \pm 4.14$  years that ranged in size from 0.17-0.30 ha. (Table 2) and owned at least one other plot, most of which were irrigated (average  $1.5 \pm 0.17$  ha. in size,  $N=17$ ). They also own small orchards ( $0.09 \pm 0.04$  ha.,  $N=12$ ) that were part of collective farms before the collapse of the Soviet Union (Table 1).

Homes and gardens were frequently inherited ( $38.1\% \pm 10.9$ ). Home garden boundaries are clearly defined by fencing it came in three types with most households using a combination of all three: living fences ( $70\% \pm 11$ ; e.g., *Salix*, *Populus*, *Ulmus*, *Armeniaca vulgaris*), often with barbed wire; metal fencing, both formal and informal (scrap bound together); or adobe. Homes, livestock shelters and boundary walls are almost exclusively constructed with adobe and provide excellent nesting sites for pollinators such as solitary and social bees. Livestock and poultry roam freely within the home garden but larger animals are generally contained in a fenced area or a shelter within the boundaries of the home garden and, during the day, graze the areas surrounding the villages with a member of the family or with a shepherd (Table 3). When households had animals, manure was

used in the garden and chemical input use was low, primarily due to the expense and lack of market access (Table 4).

Medicinal and decorative plants were cultivated in gardens in addition to edible plants (Table 5) and living fences. The five most common medicinal plants were *Calendula*, *Matricaria*, *Melissa*, *Mentha*, and *Urtica*. The five most common decorative plants grown in home gardens were *Dianthus*, *Gladiolus*, *Lilium*, *Chrysanthemum*, and *Paeonia* were grown in home gardens. Home gardens in Kyrgyzstan were multicropped with nearly every household practicing intercropping, sequential, relay, patchwork, and multistory cropping to greater or lesser degrees.

Ninety-five percent of households reported selling production from their home gardens (Table 5). Sixty-five percent of households sold their production from home either to buyers who came to them or to tourists and neighbors. Formal markets are far away from the villages of Tosor and Tamga but 42% of households sell at market; the average distance to market was 70.6 km (Table 5). On average, households sell at one market  $1.3 \pm 0.80$  (range 0 - 4), and 27% of households stated that they had difficulties with transporting their production to market (Table 5). Of those that noted the type of transport they used to get their products to buyers, both to formal markets and/or to buyers who came to the villages (N=19): 42% walked, 26% used a cart (mostly donkey or horse drawn), 21% transported by car and 5% used a bus. The remaining 6% sold only to buyers who came to them, requiring no transportation.

One hundred percent of households earned income from agriculture (including home gardens) and for 43% agriculture was the largest source of income (Table 1). Livestock provided income for 86% of respondents and for 19% earnings from livestock was the largest source of income. Salaries provided nearly 24% of households with their largest income source. Overwhelmingly, households reported food costs (29% of respondents) and educational and medical expenditures (also 29%) as their largest expenditures. For other households (14 %), agricultural expenditures were their largest expense and coal/firewood expenses were the largest burden for an additional 11% of households. The remaining four families reported one of the following as their largest household expense: electricity, fuel, business expenses (including taxes, land rent, etc.) or unexpected events such as weddings and funerals.

#### Edible Plant Diversity

Respondents reported 23 edible plant species with an average of  $11.9 \pm 1.30$  species per home garden (range 3 - 21, N = 20) (“Reported,” Table 5; Appendix 2). Fifteen fruit and nut trees, fruiting shrubs, vines and herbaceous fruit species were reported with an average of  $6.4 \pm 0.63$  (3 - 13, N = 21) per garden. There were a total of 17 different vegetables, with an average of  $5.5 \pm 0.73$  (1 - 11, N = 20) species reported in home gardens. The three most common species were garlic, potato and carrot (Appendix 2). Households do not sell all species and varieties of fruits and vegetables. On average only three fruit tree species were sold, primarily apple, apricot, and pear (Table 5). Vegetables grown in home gardens are primarily for home consumption with only  $0.6 \pm 0.22$  mean species sold.

Household members identified (N=10) 52 edible plant species (mean  $23.9 \pm 2.40$ , range 18 - 43, N = 10) per home garden (“mapped,” Table 5; Appendix 2). This was double the number of cultivated plant species reported by households when interviewed. There were a total of 30 vegetable species ( $12.6 \pm 1.42$ , 9 – 23, N = 10) actually being grown in home gardens. For fruit species (N=20), home gardens contained from four to 20 species ( $9.0 \pm 0.83$ ). On average, household members reported 8.2 fewer species than they actually grew in their gardens as determined by mapping their gardens (Paired t-test;  $t_9 = 9.683$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ; *ln* transformed mapped species diversity). The same trend was apparent with vegetable species with respondents reporting 4.7 fewer species than they identified when in their gardens (Paired t-test;  $t_9 = 7.540$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ; *ln* transformed mapped diversity). Household members (N=20) reported only  $6.3 \pm 0.64$  fruit species but actually maintained significantly more species in their gardens ( $9.0 \pm 0.83$ ) (Paired t-test;  $t_{19} = 6.282$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

Edible plant species in home gardens are obtained from markets ( $58.7\% \pm 6.7$ ) but also received by households ( $28.2\% \pm 5.6$ ) from relatives ( $54.0\% \pm 4.1$ ) and neighbors ( $13.8\% \pm 5.3$ ) (Table 6). On average, respondents (N=20) reported that they purchased  $3.9 \pm 0.40$  species from markets. While the proportion of species received is similar for fruits and vegetables, households save and plant more of their own species, self-maintained through grafting or seed saving, of vegetables ( $24.6\% \pm 8.4$ ) than fruits ( $2.3\% \pm 1.6$ ). Thus, only  $33.0\% \pm 8.8$  of the fruit species maintained by households in their gardens ( $2.6 \pm 0.70$ ) were received through exchange or self-propagation.

One household was an extreme outlier for mapped edible species diversity and was excluded from the regression models seeking to explain edible fruit species cultivated in gardens as reported by households and mapped diversity. This was the garden of one of the original Tatar settlers of the village of Tamga and with 20 fruit species, diversity in their garden was nearly twice as high as the next most diverse household (12 species) and essentially represents the possible species pool rather than the norm for the communities. The variables of home garden area, age of the home garden, number of additional plots owned, importance of agriculture to total household income, proportion of plant species sold, and proportion of plant species received from relatives, neighbors and self-propagation were not significantly correlated (Bartlett  $X^2_{15} = 24.40$ ;  $p = 0.059$ ). The final model for reported fruit species diversity included the variables of the proportion of species that were received and self-propagated, the proportion of plants sold and the number of plots cultivated in addition to the home garden (Table 7). These factors explained 76% of the variation in cultivated plant diversity in home gardens ( $R^2 = 0.757$ ,  $F_{4,15} = 11.682$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). The diversity of cultivated plants was positively related to the proportion of species received and self-propagated (more diverse when receive and maintain own) and negatively related to the proportion of species sold, plots cultivated and age of the garden (diversity was lower in older gardens, when households formally sold home garden production and grew crops on additional plots).

When each of the factors that were included in the model were modeled separately using simple linear regression analyses, the proportion of species received and self-propagated significantly explained 31% ( $r^2 = 0.309$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 8.053$ ;  $p = 0.011$ ;  $y = 4.915 + 3.504x$ ;  $t =$

2.838) of the variation in cultivated plant diversity; the proportion of species sold also explained 31% ( $r^2 = 0.305$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 7.904$ ;  $p = 0.012$ ;  $y = 8.529 - 4.468x$ ;  $t = -2.811$ ); and the number of plots cultivated explained 20% ( $r^2 = 0.200$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 4.510$ ;  $p = 0.048$ ;  $y = 8.080 - 1.278x$ ;  $t = -2.124$ ). The age of the home garden did not significantly explain reported species diversity. For mapped diversity of edible fruits, nuts, berries and other fruits (e.g., grape and strawberry), the final model differed and included the proportion of fruit/nut species received and self-propagated, the number of plots cultivated, but also home garden area and agriculture as the largest source of income; these variables explained 74% of the actual variation in fruit/nut species diversity in home gardens ( $R^2 = 0.736$ ,  $F_{4,14} = 9.782$   $p = 0.001$ ) (Table 7). When modeled separately, the proportion of fruit/nut species received and self-propagated was positively related to and explained 28% ( $r^2 = 0.279$ ,  $F_{1,17} = 6.575$ ;  $p = 0.020$ ;  $y = 7.226 + 3.578x$ ;  $t = 2.564$ ) and, like the model for reported diversity, the number of plots was negatively related to and significantly explained 36% ( $r^2 = 0.359$ ,  $F_{1,17} = 9.540$ ;  $p = 0.007$ ;  $y = 11.132 - 1.811x$ ;  $t = -3.089$ ) of the variation in mapped fruit diversity. Income from agriculture and home garden area did not significantly explain mapped diversity when modeled separately.

Because of multicollinearity, the ethnicity and gender of the home gardener were not included in the regression models, even though it was hypothesized that they would be important explanatory variables. As reported above, gender of the home gardener is significantly correlated with ethnicity, thus the affects of ethnicity and gender on mapped fruit species diversity were tested in separate analyses of variance models. For ethnicity, the two groups were: (1) ethnic Kyrgyz and (2) non-Kyrgyz (Russian, Tatar, Bashkir).

Home gardens of ethnic-Kyrgyz (N=13) were significantly less species diverse than those of the Russian (N= 5), Tatar and Bashkir gardens (N=1 for both) and ethnicity explained 52% of the variation in total species richness ( $r^2 = 0.517$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 6.583$ ;  $p = 0.019$ ).

Gardens primarily tended by women were significantly more species diverse than those tended by men ( $r^2 = 0.531$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 7.050$ ;  $p = 0.016$ ).

#### Perceptions of Environmental Problems and Diversity

When respondents were asked their opinion if soil fertility, soil salinization, light, water, pests, inadequate pollination or other issues were limiting yields in their home gardens, 100% of households stated they had problems with pests and 80% cited soil fertility as a problem for them (Table 4). Soil fertility was identified as the biggest problem by 19.1% of respondents and pests were the biggest problem for 33.3% of respondents. The next most frequently problems reported by respondents were soil salinization and low light (14.3% of households for both) followed by water availability (9.5%). While 29% ( $\pm 10$ ) of household members reported problems with pollination, no household identified it as their most serious problem. Additionally, household members were asked about certain management practices. Most use manure (90%) and do not use chemical fertilizers (75%) or herbicides (90%). No one reported using pesticides in the previous twelve months. Agronomic services were available and were used by 40% of households, while veterinary services were used by 95% of households (Table 4).

In the regression model seeking to understand mapped edible fruit species diversity as related to respondents' perceptions of environmental challenges in their gardens, the final

model included the environmental issues, as perceived by respondents, of soil fertility, soil salinization and pollination. These three variables explained 52% of the variation in mapped fruit tree diversity ( $R^2 = 0.524$ ,  $F_{3,15} = 5.499$ ;  $p = 0.009$ ) (Table 8). Diversity was negatively related with all variables. When variables were examined in separate simple linear regressions, soil salinization explained 23% of the variation in plant diversity ( $r^2 = 0.226$ ,  $F_{1,18} = 5.266$ ;  $p = 0.034$ ;  $y = 9.813 - 4.313x$ ;  $t = -2.295$ ). Soil fertility and pollination problems, separately, did not significantly explain the variation in mapped fruit diversity and since 100% of respondents reported pest insects were problems for them, this could not be modeled.

#### Perceptions of Diversity

Sixty-two percent of respondents stated they felt it was more important to plant small areas of many different species in their garden than it was to plant fewer species in larger areas, thus 62% of households are prioritizing species diversity (Table 4). There was a follow-up question for the attitude of the household towards the importance of diversity in the garden. Though there were slight variations, all households answered this open-ended question with the same core theme: diversity was needed for nutrition. Household members were specifically asked about changes they made to their garden since the collapse of the FSU. Forty-five percent increased species diversity (2% decreased; remaining made no changes), 47% increased varietal diversity (2% decreased), 61% planted more trees (1% have fewer trees than before the collapse) and 34% have expanded the area of vegetable plantings in their home gardens (3% decreased) (Table 4).



The analysis of variance model examining the attitude of heads of households about the importance of diversity and explained reported diversity of fruits was not significant ( $r^2 = 0.268$ ,  $F_{1,15} = 1.165$ ;  $p = 0.297$ ).

## Discussion

This research on agrobiodiversity in home gardens in two communities in northeastern Kyrgyzstan has six main results. First, temperate home gardens in Kyrgyzstan are diverse with an average of 24 edible plant species per home garden, more diverse even than some tropical home gardens where researchers reported not only edible species, but all cultivated plants, and, in some cases, full inventories (16 by Coomes & Ban 2004; 26 by Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008; 34 by Kabir and Webb 2009). The total number of edible plant species reported here, 52, is higher than reported in another study that focused on edible plant diversity in Costa Rica (27 in one community, 46 in another by Zaldivar et al. 2002), but much lower than those reported elsewhere that focused on cultivated species diversity (82 species by Coomes and Ban 2004), or those that did full garden inventories (e.g., 233 by Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009; 309 by Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008). The species diversity of edible plants in Kyrgyz home gardens was expected to be lower than published tropical home garden agrobiodiversity studies, as edible plants are not the only plants maintained in home gardens, and the overall species pool in temperate areas is lower than in the tropics. Sample sizes in this study were small, and as the number of plots sampled increases, one would expect that diversity would also increase. However, one of the gardens randomly selected was one of the original gardens in the whole region and the household has a passion for gardening; they

are “expert” farmers (Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008). Thus, the number of edible species may not significantly increase with a larger sample size, unless in a different eco-region or villages with different ethnic groups known to have quite different dietary preferences and unique gardens (e.g., Dungani, Uzbek). The next step for home garden research in Kyrgyzstan is to begin large-scale studies with full species inventorization in different geographical areas of the country.

Second, it clearly matters what methods are used to determine edible plant species diversity cultivated in home gardens. When interviewed, respondents reported 50% fewer species of fruit, vegetables, and varieties of apples that they grew in their gardens compared with mapped inventories. There is a distinct pattern to the discrepancies; the less commercial the species, respondents were less likely to report it when interviewed. For example, households did not report wild plums, even though they grew in 14% of gardens. Perhaps these are not considered by respondents to be “edible,” though many use wild plum fruits for jam and alcoholic beverages. Respondents rarely reported the endangered wild apricot (4.8% respondents reported) even though they were abundant ( $4.6 \pm 1.4$  trees/home garden) and actively cultivated by 62% of households as living fences and hedges. Nearly all households consume the kernels of and jam made from wild apricots grown in their gardens. Wild apples were not reported by households and only 10% identified apples as “wild” in their gardens during mapping, not as a separate species, but as an apple variety. But in the process of trying to understand what households meant when they said that their apples “went wild,” I found that the rootstock of nearly every “cultivated variety” of apple and apricot in all home gardens was a locally

collected wild apple or apricot that was planted from seed, in most cases, collected from the valleys above the villages and the cultivated variety later grafted onto to wild species. How deliberate the selection of characteristics of the wild apples for rootstock is (Cleveland et al. 2000), is not known as this phenomenon was not the original target of this research, but it is interesting and calls for further research, especially for adaptations to the arid growing conditions of Kyrgyzstan. These are critical findings for *in situ* agrobiodiversity conservation research in Central Asia because of the predominance of crop wild relatives of fruit species. The research shows that interviews will underestimate cultivated plant diversity by at least 50% and give the impression that endangered and threatened species of global economic importance are absent from home gardens when they are actually and literally the foundation of the garden.

However, the third finding is that if the goal of the research is to determine what factors influence cultivated plant diversity in home gardens, interviews may be adequate. When reported and mapped, or actual, fruit species diversity were modeled separately with the same set of explanatory variables results were similar to each other, but with uniquely Soviet nuances when compared to studies conducted in home gardens in other regions of the world. Both models explained a large portion of the variation in fruit species diversity: 76% of reported and 74% of actual diversity. These results are comparable to or better than published models of species diversity in home gardens that included similar, though not identical, explanatory and response variables in their final models: 80% (Coomes and Ban 2004), 35% (Perrault-Archambault & Coomes 2008) and 24% (Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). For both models, the proportion of plant species received

and self-propagated and the number of plots cultivated significantly explained the variation in species diversity (reported and actual), even when modeled in separate linear regressions. For mapped diversity, two other variables were included in the final model, but, like Kabir and Webb found in home gardens in Bangladesh (2009), they did not significantly explain actual diversity when modeled separately: largest source of income from agriculture and home garden area. For reported diversity, the variable of proportion of fruit species in the garden sold was included in the final model (but not for actual diversity) and significantly explained 31% of the variation in reported diversity when modeled in a simple linear regression. As mentioned above, this is likely due to the households' being more likely to report the species if they sell it. This should be taken into consideration when determining which methods to use.

The major differences were not between the two different response variables, but in the relationship of explanatory variables to fruit species diversity in Kyrgyzstan compared with similar studies in other regions of the world. These differences are seemingly due to Soviet legacies and may apply to home gardens in other republics of the Former Soviet Union, especially for the variables of home garden size, additional plots owned, and age of the home garden. While the number of additional plots significantly explained variation in mapped fruit species diversity, like other authors have found for species diversity in home gardens (Coomes and Ban 2004, Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008), the relationship was inverted with the number of additional plots cultivated negatively related to species diversity. Households use additional land primarily for vegetable (potato), wheat, and hay cultivation, rather than fruit production associated

with the distance of plots from the home garden, theft of fruits from plots, and restrictions on the planting of perennial crops. The number of plots cultivated being inversely related to edible species diversity contrasts with the above mentioned studies that found that as land holdings increased, species diversity also increased with an underlying influence of wealth, but this is not exclusively applicable to the FSU. Home gardens in Kyrgyzstan were generally established when collectives were established with residents being allocated similar sized plots at more or less the same time so there is uniformity in the allocation of land within communities in Kyrgyzstan. (see reviews for Soviet Union in Lerman et al. 1994 and Sharashkin 2008). Home garden size and the number of plots cultivated in Tosor and Tamga are not as variable as in other parts of the world and are not good wealth indicators. Home garden age, for reasons mentioned above, also did not explain cultivated plant diversity in this study, though an important factor in other areas of the world (Coomes and Ban 2004, Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). However, there were a number of similarities in factors explaining fruit species diversity in Kyrgyzstan with these studies in Peru and Costa Rica. Like these studies, gender and ethnicity of the home gardener, not always the head of the household, was important and gardens were more diverse in households when the home gardener was a non-Kyrgyz woman.

Forth, plant material received from others (relatives and neighbors, alike) is an important factor for the diversity status of gardens in Kyrgyzstan, as in other regions of the world (Vogl-Lukasser et al. 2002, Coomes and Ban 2004, Perrault-Archambault and Coomes 2008, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). Home gardeners in the study villages access planting

material from the wild (especially for fruit tree rootstocks and *Ribes* spp.), from relatives as they inherit their parents' gardens and are gifted cuttings for grafting and seeds, from neighbors, *in situ* inheritance from previous landowners when buying land, and from markets (bazaars, nurseries). Plant material exchange is structured and interconnected through plant exchange networks that are kin based (Coomes and Ban 2004, Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). Given that non-Kyrgyz gardens with women as the home gardener were more diverse, it is likely that exchange networks in Kyrgyzstan are also, if not kin based, based on ethnic groups and, perhaps distinctly gendered (Aguilar-Støen et al. 2009). "Non-Kyrgyz" in these villages refers to ethnic Russians, Tatars and one Bashkir family. Russian and Tatar families were the first to establish gardens in these villages with material that their descendants say they mostly brought with them. While descendants report that that Tatar families helped Kyrgyz families establish gardens when Kyrgyz moved into what is now the village of Tamga from the valley above, the degree of plant exchange is unknown. Further research is needed to determine plant exchange and understand plant exchange networks.

Fifth, perceptions of environmental issues are important explanatory factors for fruit species diversity in home gardens. Fifty-two percent of the variation in mapped fruit species diversity was explained by households' reporting of problems with soil fertility, soil salinization, and pollination. All households reported problems with pest insects so it could not be modeled. The results contrast somewhat with Corselius and co-authors' (2003) who found that farmers who reported productivity impacts of crop disease were more likely to employ management techniques that resulted in increased diversity. Here,

diversity decreased based on farmer's perceptions of environmental problems, but then diversity, overall, was relatively high, so perhaps ecological challenges in the garden do influence diversity positively. Formal ecological research and more in-depth study of home gardeners' perceptions and management practices is necessary to better understand these dynamics. While 62% of households reported that diversity was important, this did not significantly explain actual fruit diversity. The lack of correspondence between attitude and behavior was also found by Coreselius and co-authors (2003) in a study seeking to understand Minnesota farmers' perceptions and cropping systems.

Sixth, home gardens in Kyrgyzstan, like in other former Soviet Republics, are not just for subsistence with 95% of respondents reporting sales of production (Lerman et al., 1994, Seeth et al. 1998, Pallot and Nefedova 2003, Lerman 2006, Lerman 2008). Researchers from Wisconsin (Coreselius et al. 2003) to Bangladesh (Kabir and Webb 2009) have found that increased specialization and commercialization often leads to less diverse cropping systems. However, the link between economic returns of certain crops with species selection by home gardeners may not exert as strong of an influence in Kyrgyzstan as has been established by researchers in other agroecosystems (Nautiyal et al. 1998, High and Shackleton 2000). Kyrgyz home gardens are not in any kind of transitional phase between subsistence and commercialization (Kabir and Webb 2009), but rather the socio-economic-political decision making environment for households then, and now, included both the need for supplemental food production and the option for market selling (see Lerman et al. 1994, Sharashkin 2008). The majority of home garden in Kyrgyzstan were established with dual goals of subsistence and sales, primarily tended by recently settled

nomadic pastoralists. The link between market pressures and cultivated plant diversity warrants much more intensive research as Kyrgyzstan struggles to develop their agricultural sector while dealing with high rates of household food insecurity (Dhur 2009).

## Conclusion

Home gardens in Kyrgyzstan are living artifacts of Soviet collectivization and Kyrgyz adaptation to sedentarization that currently play an important role in food provision for households, household income, for *in situ* conservation of agrobiodiversity, and Kyrgyzstan's agricultural economy. Total edible species diversity and average edible species diversity per home garden was higher than expected and is at levels similar to other home garden studies conducted in radically different socio-economic-political-ecological systems with much longer agrarian histories than the recently settled nomadic pastoralists of Kyrgyzstan. Households that receive plants from relatives and neighbors and also self-propagate have higher fruit species diversity, though the reasons for this are not well understood, but may be related to gendered and ethnicity based exchange networks of plant materials and historical legacies of migration, settlement and collectivization. Factors important to explaining home garden diversity in other parts of the world, in many cases, do not seem to apply to or behave differently when applied to Kyrgyz home gardens, and perhaps to home gardens in other republics of the FSU. These include home garden age, home garden area, and access to additional land due to the way in which home gardens were established as part of collectivization and recent land reforms following the collapse of the FSU. It does not appear that home gardeners



consciously make planting decisions in regard to diversity to improve harvest security, but do consider food and income needs.

Methods for collecting information about species diversity in home gardens need to be carefully considered as households in this research reported 50% fewer fruit and vegetable species and over 50% fewer varieties of apples than they actually maintained in their gardens. Commercially important species and varieties were more likely to be reported by households when interviewed. Crop wild relatives, some of which are IUCN listed were rarely reported by households, but were documented when gardens were mapped with households. For apples and apricots, crop wild relatives are collected and seeds planted in home gardens for use as rootstock and households later graft cultivated varieties onto them. How deliberate the selection criteria are, is unknown, but further research into *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives via rootstocks promises to be interesting. Ethnoecological study of home gardens in Kyrgyzstan and other republics of the FSU merits further research, especially for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives, planting exchange networks, and ecological studies of cropping systems that can improve food security in the region.

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Table 1. Characteristics of households and household member who primarily tends the home garden in Tosor and Tamga, northeastern Kyrgyzstan (N=21).

	Mean	Std. Error	Range	Largest Source %
<b>Household size</b>	4.70	0.41	1-8	
No. minors	1.90	0.28	0-4	
Multi-generational (1=yes)	0.38	0.11	-	
Home village (1=yes)	0.86	0.08	-	
<b>Head of household</b>				
Age (years)	51.5	2.95	28-87	
Gender (1=female)	0.33	0.11	-	
Education (years)	13.2	0.50	7-16	
Employment (1=yes)	0.48	0.03	-	
Ethnicity (1=non-Kyrgyz)	0.33	0.11		
<b>Home gardener</b>				
Age (years)	42.0	2.48	20-65	
Gender (1=female)	0.38	0.11	-	
Education (years)	13.0	0.48	11-16	
Employment (1=yes)	0.44	0.03	-	
<b>Sources of Income</b> (proportion of households)				
Agriculture	1.00	0.00	-	42.9
Salary	0.43	0.11	-	23.8
Livestock	0.86	0.08	-	19.0
Business	0.38	0.11	-	9.5
Pension	0.43	0.11	-	4.8
Wage (N=20)	0.15	0.08	-	0.0
Other	0.05	0.05	-	0.0



Table 2. Characteristics of households interviewed in Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyzstan (N=21).

	Mean	Std. Error	Range
Household size	4.70	0.41	1-8
No. minors (under 18)	1.90	0.28	0-4
Home garden established (years) (N=20)	32.5	4.02	7-92
Home garden inherited (1=yes) (N=20)	0.40	0.11	-
Home garden (ha.)	0.17	0.02	0.07-0.30
<b>No. additional plots owned</b>	1.57	0.19	0-3
Irrigated (ha., N=17)	1.52	0.17	0.77-3.40
Non-irrigated (ha., N=2)	0.65	0.05	0.60-0.70
Orchard (ha., N=12)	0.09	0.04	0.006-0.50
Rented irrigated (ha., N=3)	1.37	1.27	0.10-3.90

Table 3. Livestock holdings of households, Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyzstan (N= 21).

	Mean	Std. Error	Range
Cows	2.5	0.40	0-6
Horses	0.6	0.19	0-3
Sheep	8.0	1.82	0-30
Goats	2.4	0.71	0-10
Pigs	0.7	0.41	0-6
Poultry	20.7	2.29	5-42

Table 4. Perceptions of environmental issues and management practices in home gardens, Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyzstan: proportions of households (binary data).

	Mean	Std. Error	Most Serious %
<b>Environmental Problems (N=21)</b>			N=21
(1=Problem)			
Pests	1.00	0.00	33.3
Soil fertility	0.80	0.01	19.1
Soil salinization	0.19	0.01	14.3
Light	0.33	0.11	14.3
Water	0.24	0.01	9.5
Pollination	0.29	0.10	0.00
<b>Management Practices (N=20)</b>			
(1=Use / Practice)			
Manure	0.90	0.01	-
Chemical Fertilizers	0.25	0.10	-
Pesticides	0.00	0.00	-
Herbicides	0.10	0.10	-
Agronomic services	0.40	0.11	-
Veterinary services	0.95	0.05	-
Rotation	0.95	0.05	-
Prioritize species diversity (N=16)	0.62	0.13	-
<b>Changes in Garden Post-Soviet</b>			
(1=Increased) (N=20)			
Increased species diversity	0.45	0.11	-
Increased varietal diversity	0.50	0.12	-
Planted more trees	0.70	0.11	-
Planted more area in vegetables	0.45	0.11	-

Table 5. Edible plant diversity, yields and sales as reported by households, and as mapped, in home gardens, Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyzstan.

	N	Mean	Std. Error	Range
<b>Plant Species Mapped</b>	10	23.9	2.40	18-43
Fruit/Nut species	20	9.0	0.83	2-20
Apple Varieties	20	9.7	0.95	2-20
Vegetable species	10	12.6	1.42	9-23
<b>Plant Species Reported</b>	20	11.9	1.30	3-21
Fruit/Nut species	21	6.4	0.63	2-13
Species sold	21	3.1	0.40	0-7
Fruit/Nut varieties	21	10	1.16	4-26
Apple varieties	21	4.1	0.44	2-8
Fruit/Nut yield (kg)	21	1929.9	357.30	145-7718
Fruit/Nut yield sold (kg)	21	1293.6	250.35	0-4600
Vegetable species	20	5.5	0.73	1-11
Species sold	20	0.6	0.22	0-3
Vegetable varieties	20	6.4	1.0	1-18
Vegetable yield (kg)	20	681.7	95.6	75-2110
Vegetable yield sold (kg)	20	160.1	92.47	0-1810
<b>Sell Home Garden Production (1=yes)</b>	20	0.95	0.05	-
<b>Number of Markets</b>	20	1.3	0.80	0-4
Home (1=yes)	20	0.65	0.11	-
Market (1=yes)	19	0.42	0.12	-
Distance to market (km)	18	70.6	31.93	0-400
<b>Problems Transporting (1=yes)</b>	19	0.27	0.02	0-1

Table 6. Sources of plant material for fruit and vegetable species in home gardens as reported by households, Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyzstan.

	Number of Species				Proportion	
	N	Mean	SE	Range	Mean	SE
<b>Total Species</b>	20	11.9	1.30	3-21	-	-
Market	20	5.8	0.72	3-14	0.59	0.07
Received	20	3.9	0.83	0-13	0.28	0.06
Relatives	20	2.3	0.65	0-8	0.14	0.04
Neighbors	20	1.7	0.65	1-13	0.14	0.05
Own	20	2.2	0.8	0-10	0.13	0.05
<b>Fruit Species</b>	21	11.9	1.30	3-21	-	-
Market	21	3.9	0.38	2-9	0.70	0.07
Received	21	2.6	0.66	0-10	0.33	0.08
Relatives	21	1.4	0.51	0-8	0.18	0.07
Neighbors	21	1.1	0.42	0-8	0.14	0.05
Own	21	0.2	0.17	0-3	0.02	0.02
<b>Vegetable Species</b>	20	5.5	0.73	1-11	-	-
Market	20	1.9	0.52	0-8	0.41	0.09
Received	20	1.35	0.45	0-7	0.30	0.09
Relatives	20	0.8	0.38	0-6	0.10	0.05
Neighbors	20	0.6	0.27	0-5	0.20	0.08
Own	20	2.1	0.77	0-10	0.25	0.08

Table 7. Regression models of number of edible fruit species in home gardens as reported by households and as mapped in gardens (N=20) \*\*\* p < 0.001; \*\* p < 0.01; \* p < 0.05.

Variables	Mapped Coefficient (t value)	Reported Coefficient (t value)
(Constant)	11.354 (10.883)***	10.011 (8.527)***
Proportion plant species received and self-propagated	3.625 (3.680)**	3.210 (3.914)***
Proportion plant species sold	-	-3.942 (-3.708)**
Number of plots cultivated	-0.861 (-1.824)	-0.817 (-2.116)
Home garden area	-11.867 (-2.287)*	-
Home garden age	-	-0.051 (-2.165)*
Income from agriculture (1 = largest source for household)	-2.053 (-2.631)*	-
Model (step-wise) R <sup>2</sup>	0.736	0.757
F - ratio	9.782	11.682
P value	0.001	< 0.001

Table 8. Regression models of number of edible fruit species in home gardens as mapped in gardens with respect to environmental issues (N=19) \*\*\* p < 0.001; \*\* p < 0.01; \* p < 0.05.

Variables	Mapped Coefficient (t value)
(Constant)	14.895 (7.996)***
Soil Salinization	-6.109 (-3.543)**
Soil Fertility	-4.382 (-2.427)*
Pollination	-2.577 (-1.719)
Model (step-wise) R <sup>2</sup>	0.524
F - ratio	5.499
P value	0.009

## CHAPTER IV

### HOME GARDENS CONSERVE HYMENOPTERA DURING APPLE BLOOM, ISSYK-KUL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

#### Abstract

Pollination dependent fruit trees play an important role in the agricultural based economy of Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries, yet little is know about the status of pollinator communities. Contributions from Central Asia have been noticeably absent in recent research detecting pollinator declines and pollination limitation in agricultural systems. I surveyed the Hymenoptera in apple and apricot dominated home gardens and orchards in northern Kyrgyzstan over two years, investigating how species richness and abundance of total Hymenoptera, solitary bees, social bees, and wasps was related to overstory cover, overstory bloom, vegetation cover, average ground cover height, and agroecosystem management. Average height of vegetation was the best predictor of Hymenoptera richness and abundance, bee abundance and richness, as well as solitary bee abundance and richness. Vegetative ground cover best predicted wasp abundance and diversity and bumblebee richness and abundance. There were no significant differences in Hymenopteran community composition between home gardens and orchards. The results suggest that organic, high elevation home gardens and orchards of the arid Issyk-Kul region, as currently managed, support abundant and diverse pollinator communities, with few differences in community composition between management types.

Key words: Apple, Home garden, Hymenoptera, Kyrgyzstan, Pollinator community, Solitary bees.

## Introduction

Wild pollinators are important for crop pollination, but habitat destruction and land use intensification, especially in agricultural landscapes, can threaten pollinator communities and their ability to provide crop pollination services (Steffan-Dewenter and Westphal 2008). Globally, wild pollinators are in decline for a number of reasons including habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use, and disease (Banaszak 1992; Buchmann and Nabhan 1996; Kearns and Inouye 1997; Kevan 1999; Kearns 2001; Goulson 2003; Billeter et al. 2008). However, Steffan-Dewenter and Westphal (2008) noted a gap in pollinator research from subtropical and temperate regions and contrasting results concerning the effects of different agricultural management strategies on pollinator communities and pollination services (Kevan 1999; Winfree et al. 2008). Contributions from Central Asia have been noticeably absent in recent research detecting pollinator declines and pollination limitation, even though the mountains of Central Asia are a global biodiversity hotspot (Davis et al. 1995). Very little is known about the ecology of agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic and there is a paucity of information concerning insect community composition in Kyrgyzstan, especially in home gardens (Chelpakova and Milko 2004).

Home gardens in the Kyrgyz Republic contribute as much as 50% of agricultural value added and marketed surplus for the Kyrgyz Republic, and provide households, despite

their small size (average 0.1 ha), with a sizable portion of their income (World Bank Kyrgyz Republic 2005). Home gardens are typically described as small-scale agroforestry systems with a mixture of trees, shrubs, herbs and other cultivated crops in the area, surrounding a household maintained and managed by those in the household (Fernandes and Nair 1986). In 2006, fruit and berry production in Kyrgyzstan was over 186,600 tons, with nearly 62% of that yield being grown in home gardens (National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic 2008). Apples from home gardens provided households in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan with nearly 10% of their annual revenue (Ostashko and Currey 2007). Earning income from the sale of home garden production is not a new trend, and this pattern of production is not unique among countries of the Former Soviet Union (Seeth et al. 1998; Lerman and Stanchin 2004). For example, Seeth and co-authors (1998) found that 90 % of fruit and berries in Russia were grown in home gardens and small private plots, and households in Turkmenistan earned 36% of their income from home gardens (Lerman and Stanshin 2004).

Although very little is known about the ecology of agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic, even less is known about the growing conditions in home gardens and the entomofauna of Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is an arid and mountainous country with the Pamir and Tien Shan mountains comprising 90 % of the territory with elevations ranging from 132 – 7,439 m, and, without more detailed information, it seems similar to many counties of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region (Ministry of Environmental Protection, 1998, Eastwood et al., 2009). In many countries of the HKH region, apple is the main cash crop in high-elevation mountain agriculture, providing as much as 60-80% of total



household income for small farmers (Partap and Partap 2002). These authors identified inadequate pollination as the major cause of recent declines in apple productivity in the HKH region, citing declining populations of native pollinators as an important limiting factor to apple yields. Determining the status of pollinator communities is difficult for Kyrgyzstan because of poor entomological knowledge in agroecosystems in the region.

The dominant tree species in home gardens of northern Kyrgyzstan are apple (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.), apricot (*Armeniaca vulgaris* Lam.), pear (*Pyrus communis* L.); shrubs include currant (*Ribes* spp. L.) and raspberry (*Rubus* spp. L.) and a variety of vegetables, herbs, and grasses are present in home gardens. Apple cultivars are predominately self-sterile but can also be variably self-fertile or self-fertile (in Pratt 1988). In general, apple flowers must be insect (or hand) pollinated to obtain fruits (McGregor 1976; Partap and Partap 2002). Pollinators of apple flowers are known to include honeybees, bumble bees, solitary bees and some flies (Scott-Dupree and Winston 1987; Kearns 2001; Partap and Partap 2002). In the Kyrgyz Republic, we lack published research on pollinator communities and insect communities in home garden systems (Chelpakova and Milko, 2004). The lack of information on the entomofauna of Kyrgyzstan is an especially notable gap in knowledge, given the number of economically important, insect pollinator-dependent agricultural species whose wild relatives are native to the region. Crop wild relatives in Kyrgyzstan include the main progenitor of cultivated apple, *M. sieversii* (Lebed.) M.Roem.; *M. niedzwetzkyana* Dieck., another wild relative of the domesticated apple; the wild apricot, *Armeniaca vulgaris* Lam., the wild pear *Pyrus korshinskyi* Litv., and the almonds, *Amygdalus bucharica* Korsh. and *A. ledebouriana* Schlecht., among

others (Ministry of Environmental Protection 1998; Dzhangaliev et al. 2003; Forsline et al. 2003; Eastwood et al. 2009; IUCN 2009).

Home gardens, low-intensity agro-forestry plots, and abandoned temperate orchard meadows all tend to have high levels of biodiversity, and are known to be important for the conservation of not only agrobiodiversity (Altieri 2004), but also birds (Mas and Dietsch 2004; Perfecto et al. 2005; Dietsch et al. 2007) and insects (Klein et al. 2003; Perfecto et al. 2003; Steffan-Dewenter 2003; Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003; Armbrrecht et al. 2005; Gardener and Ascher 2006; Winfree et al. 2008). The latter reported that orchard meadows in Central Europe are one of the most species rich habitat types and that bees and wasps are good indicator species. Bees are good indicators of floral diversity and wasps of insect and spider diversity (Kevan 1999; Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003).

Given the lack of information about insect communities in Kyrgyzstan, the importance of apple production and home garden yields to livelihoods of the rural poor in Kyrgyzstan, and the disturbing findings of Partap and Partap (2002) documenting declining pollinator populations in high-elevation apple systems, I have attempted to document and describe the fauna of Hymenoptera that inhabit apple and apricot-dominated home gardens and orchards during apple bloom. The objectives of this survey were to document and characterize the diversity and abundance of bee and wasp species during bloom, and then use that information to compare the communities of bees and wasps between home gardens and orchards using different taxonomic and ecological variables and

categorizations of the hymenoptera fauna and agroecosystems. My goal was to begin documenting the bee and wasp communities in Kyrgyzstan, to detect if potential pollinator populations are limited at the local scale, and to provide management recommendations for apple cultivation for Kyrgyz households.

## Methods

### Study Area

Data were collected in two villages with two different types of apple management systems: home gardens and orchards in Tosor (42°09'N, 77°26'E) and Tamga (42°08'N, 77°32'E), Issyk-kul Oblast, Jeti-Oguz Rayon, Kyrgyz Republic. The two villages are 12 km apart on the shore of Lake Issyk-kul [(1608 m shoreline) in Ter-Ghazaryan and Heinen 2006, ECONET 2008]. The Issyk-kul Basin is part of the Tien Shan mountain range with elevations that reach 3500 m, and it supports nearly 40% of known insect species in Kyrgyzstan (Chelpakova and Milko 2004; Ter-Ghazaryan and Heinen 2006; ECONET 2008). The villages are part of the Issyk-kul UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. For more information on the non-agricultural ecosystems of the region, see Krever et al. (1998) and Carpenter et al. (2001).

In 2006 in Tosor, the majority of households were ethnic Kyrgyz and there were 346 home gardens (totaling 104 ha.) averaging 0.3 ha. with 19.5 ha. of established orchards and 64.0 ha. of newly planted orchards surrounding the village (Jailov 2006). Tamga, in 2006, had more home gardens, 846 totaling ~85 ha., but they were smaller in size, at 0.1 ha, and managed by a mixture of ethnic Kyrgyz and Russians: 52.2 ha. of established

orchards and 33.0 ha. of newly planted orchards (Jailov 2006). In both villages, most home gardens were established in the 1960's and 1970's but some as early as the late 1800s (Currey, unpublished interviews). The older orchards were established at various times, from 1950 to 1988 (Jailov 2006). All plots studied used organic methods. Orchards were dominated by apple, lacked a shrub layer, and the understory herbs and grasses were mostly unmanaged.

In 2005, I studied bees and wasps in six home gardens and one orchard plot in Tosor. In 2006, I sampled four of the previously selected home gardens and the orchard plot. I added four home gardens and four orchards in Tamga and three orchards in Tosor, for a total of eight home garden plots and eight orchard plots. Locations of plots were determined with GPS (eTrex®, Garmin, 2004). Home gardens were selected through a stratified random sample: edge of the village and village interior. The established orchards that were sampled were collectively managed during Soviet times and have since been divided among householders.

#### Data Collection

In 2006 for each home garden and orchard, a 100 m<sup>2</sup> plot was randomly established at least 2.5 m from the edge of the garden. This plot was sampled with 30 minute sweep netting intervals with one consistent collector within the 100 m<sup>2</sup> plots a minimum of three times during apple bloom (May 2 – May 13). Sweep netting was concentrated around fruit trees, which were in bloom at the times, with particular attention to flower visitors. Temperature, percent relative humidity, and average wind speed during a three minute

interval were measured at the beginning and end of each sampling period (Kestrel<sup>®</sup> 3000 Pocket Weather<sup>™</sup> Meter). Insects were only collected on sunny, partly sunny or bright overcast days with light breezes (wind speeds no greater than 1.6 m s<sup>-1</sup>).

In 2005, home gardens were sweep netted three to four times during apple bloom (May 9 – May 25) while the orchard plot was sampled with one hour sampling intervals. As in 2006, temperature, percent relative humidity, and average wind temperature during a three minute interval were measured at the beginning and end of each sampling period.

All insects were identified to species (with few exceptions) by Dmitry Milko, Department of Entomology, Institute for Biology and Pedology (IBB), National Academy of Sciences, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Original specimens were deposited mainly in the collection at the Department of Entomology, IBB, with additional specimens in Currey's personal collection.

### Vegetation

All home gardens were of known area and all tree and shrub individuals were completely mapped in 2005 and updated in 2006. Within each garden and orchard, vegetation was mapped once in each plot between May 5 and May 12 in a randomized 100 m<sup>2</sup> plot to determine percentage cover of all vegetation and vegetation in flower, number of trees, species of trees, number of stems for each tree and diameter at breast height (dbh), from which basal area was calculated. Within the 100 m<sup>2</sup> plot, a 25 m<sup>2</sup> subplot was established to estimate the percent cover of vegetation, shrubs, herbs and/or shrubs in flower, litter,

woody debris, dried manure and bare ground. The mean heights of vegetation and shrubs were also recorded.

### Data Analysis

Insect and vegetation data for each of the 16 sites were pooled for analyses after I equalized the number of samples per site to three by removing three samples with incomplete weather data and randomly reducing samples of the remaining sites (2006). The 2005 data set was used only to document the Hymenoptera of the area, to compare the number of species between years, and to determine the estimated species richness. All additional analyses used 2006 data. Data were tested for normality and transformed when necessary using the following transformations: vegetative ground cover was logit transformed; counts of wasp individuals were lognormal-transformed,  $\ln(x+1)$ ; counts of bees were square root transformed and counts of wasp species were transformed as square roots  $(x + 0.5)$  (Sokal and Rohlf 1995).

### Species Richness

I produced sample-based rarefaction curves of species abundance by richness for years (2005, 2006), villages (2006: Tosor, Tamga), and for each management type (2006: Home Garden, Orchard). Recognizing that observed species in a community is a biased estimate of that species richness of that community, (Colwell and Coddington 1994; Chazdon et al. 1998; Coddington and Colwell 2002; Longino et al. 2002; Armbrrecht et al. 2005), I also used the non-parametric incidence-based coverage estimator (ICE) (Colwell and Coddington 1994; Chazdon et al. 1998). These were calculated to

determine sampling efficiency ( $S_{\text{obs}}$  (Mao Tao) /  $S_{\text{est}}$  (ICE)) (Colwell 2006; Watling and Donnelly 2008) and to characterize the species richness of the area, using estimators due to the small sample sizes in this study and many rare species ( $N=16$ ; Chazdon et al. 1998). Rarefaction curves and estimators were obtained using Estimate S8.0 (Colwell 2006). I compared sample-based rarefaction curves by visual inspection of 95% confidence intervals (Colwell et al. 2004). ICE values for years, villages and management type were compared with one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA).

To investigate how the abundance and diversity of different groups of species are related to habitat characteristics, and to make this study comparable with published research (Klein et al. 2003; Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003; Winfree et al. 2008), I used stepwise multiple-regression analyses with backward selection after testing for correlations between the five habitat variables (probability=0.15): % overstory cover, % overstory in flower, % herbaceous cover, average height of ground cover. The dependent variables, the species groups, are as follows: all Hymenoptera individuals and species; bee individuals and species; solitary bee individuals and species; social bee individuals and species; bumble bee individuals and species; and wasp individuals and species. Like Klein and co-authors (2003), the habitat factor with the best fit in each model is shown in a separate linear regression model with the dependent variable.

### Species Composition

I compared species composition of the wild bee and wasp communities in home gardens and orchards and between localities (villages) using Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM;

PAST Program for Windows, Hammer, Harper and Ryan 2001) I used Morisita's index for abundance data to calculate the similarity matrices (distance measure) upon which ANOSIM tests and nMDS plots are based, since it provides a robust way to test community overlap by comparing species abundances between pairs of sites (McIntyre and Hostetler 2001; PAST 2008). Social bees, solitary bees, wasps were analyzed separately. I repeated the same analysis for home gardens and orchards between villages. I also used ANOSIM to determine if home gardens and orchards were compositionally similar with respect to habitat variables. Non-metric multidimensional scaling (nMDS) was used to visually display the results of the ANOSIMs.

Except where otherwise noted, statistical analyses were performed with SYSTAT v. 12. Arithmetic means  $\pm 1$  standard errors of the mean are presented in the text and error bars in graphs.

## Results

### Vegetation

There were  $5.3 \pm 0.4$  fruit trees per 100 m<sup>2</sup>, but the mean number of fruit trees differed significantly between home gardens and orchards, with  $4.4 \pm 0.3$  trees in orchards and  $6.4 \pm 0.6$  trees squeezed into home gardens (Mann-Whitney U= 9.00,  $\chi^2$  approximation = 6.381; p = 0.011; df = 1) (Table 1). However, I found no significant differences between agroecosystem types in total basal area ( $0.15 \pm 0.02$ ,  $F_{1,14} = 2.313$ ; p = 0.151; n = 16), overstory cover ( $47.8 \pm 4.5$  %;  $F_{1,14} = 0.877$ ; p = 0.365; n = 16) or percentage flower cover in the overstory ( $21.9 \pm 3.8$  %;  $F_{1,14} = 0.949$ ; p = 0.346; n = 16) during bloom.



Apple trees dominated the overstory of orchard plots ( $96.9 \pm 3.1$  %) but home garden plots had a significantly more diverse overstory ( $74.8 \pm 3.6$  %) (Mann-Whitney  $U = 54.5$ ,  $\chi^2$  approximation = 6.4,  $p = 0.012$ ,  $df = 1$ ). Vegetation cover (herbs and grasses) was quite variable in home gardens ( $69.2 \pm 14.8$  %) and although much lower than in orchards ( $90.8 \pm 2.1$  %), the differences were not statistically significant (Mann-Whitney  $U = 38.00$ ,  $\chi^2$  approximation = 0.397;  $p = 0.529$ ;  $df = 1$ ). Overall, there were less than  $0.02 \text{ m}^2$  ( $\pm 0.010$ ) of vegetation in flower in the  $25 \text{ m}^2$  subplots, or less than 0.001% of the subplot area and no significant differences between home gardens and orchards (Mann-Whitney  $U = 29.50$ ,  $\chi^2$  approximation = 0.071;  $p = 0.789$ ;  $df = 1$ ). Vegetation height did not significantly differ between home gardens and orchards ( $14.2 \pm 3.16$  cm;  $F_{1,14} = 0.030$ ;  $p = 0.866$ ;  $n = 16$ ). Overall, agroecosystem composition did not vary between home gardens and orchards (Global  $R = -0.033$ ;  $p = 0.529$ ) or between locality (villages) (Global  $R = 0.035$ ;  $p = 0.396$ ).

#### Hymenoptera Species Richness and Abundance

I collected 765 Hymenoptera individuals (279 in May 2005, 486 May 2006) belonging to 56 bee and 13 wasp species (18 species unique in 2005, 19 in 2006, 31 species common to both years) (Appendix 3). However, after having equalized the number of samples per site and removed samples with missing environmental data, subsequent analyses were based on the following: 652 bees and wasps (171 in May 2005, 481 May 2006) belonging to 53 bee and 13 wasp species (16 species unique in 2005, 23 in 2006, 27 species common to both years) (Appendix 3).

In 2006, the average number of species in orchards was higher than home gardens, as can be seen in rarefaction curves based on both sampling units and number of individual bees and wasps (Fig. 1). The village of Tamga, with its smaller home garden plots and younger orchards, had slightly higher average species richness than Tosor when comparing sample-based rarefaction curves for Hymenoptera fauna (Fig. 1). Average bee and wasp species richness in home gardens was higher in first year of the study than in 2006 (Fig. 1).

The Incidence-based coverage estimator (ICE) (sampling efficiency) value for diversity for the two villages and both apple management systems in 2006 was  $80.4 \pm 3.84$  (std. dev.) species. (ICE) mean values (Colwell 2006) for Hymenoptera were statistically different between years for home gardens ( $F_{1,12} = 12.37$ ;  $p = 0.004$ ; 2005 =  $76.83 \pm 6.55$ ; 2006 =  $51.90 \pm 3.73$ ) and marginally different between home gardens ( $51.90 \pm 3.73$ ) and orchards ( $64.89 \pm 5.11$ ) in 2006 ( $F_{1,14} = 4.217$ ;  $p = 0.059$ ). No differences were detected between villages with an overall ICE mean value of  $58.80 \pm 3.48$  ( $F_{1,14} = 0.043$ ;  $p = 0.838$ ). Using the non-parametric ICE to estimate sampling efficiency, I found that home gardens in 2006 ( $51.7\% \pm 5.82$ ) had higher sampling efficiency than orchards ( $43.3\% \pm 4.34$ ), and overall sampling efficiency averaged  $47.5\% \pm 3.67$ .

In step-wise multiple-regression analyses with the habitat variables of percent overstory cover, overstory in flower, herb cover, and average height of vegetation, I tested which were important to bees and wasps. These variables were not significantly correlated with each other (Pearson correlation matrix; Bartlett  $\chi^2_6 = 6.81$ ;  $p = 0.338$ ). Overall abundance

of Hymenoptera significantly decreased as the average height of ground cover increased (Table 2; Fig. 2). The number of bee individuals also decreased as ground cover vegetation height increased (Fig. 2), but the percentage vegetative ground cover was also important to bee individuals (Table 2). Together, the height of vegetation and percent vegetative ground cover explained 66% of the variability in the number of bee individuals encountered in home gardens and orchards in the two villages of Tosor and Tamga in Issyk-Kul Oblast (Table 2). When modeled separately, only the height of vegetation explained a significant portion of the variance in the number of bee individuals (Fig. 2). None of the independent habitat variables explained a significant portion of the variance in the number of Hymenoptera species or the number of bee species (Table 2).

The richness and abundance of solitary bees, social bees (*A. mellifera* and *Bombus* spp. separately), and wasps were analyzed separately. None of the independent variables explained a significant portion of the variation in social bee abundance, nor the abundance of *A. mellifera*, when analyzed separately (backwards stepwise multiple-regression with enter/remove probability=0.15). However, nearly 47% of the variability in the number of individuals of social *Bombus* spp. was significantly explained by the percentage of overstory cover and the percentage of vegetative ground cover (Table 2). The number of solitary bees was affected by a different habitat factor: height of ground cover vegetation (Table 2). The number of solitary bee individuals and also solitary bee species decreased as the height of ground cover vegetation increased and the height of ground cover explained 52% and 27%, respectively, of the variation in solitary bee

individuals and species (Table 2; Fig. 3). The number of social bee species was positively correlated with the percentage of ground cover vegetation (Fig. 4). When analyzed separately, it was the number of species of *Bombus* spp., rather than *A. mellifera* that were driving this relationship and 33% of the variation in number of *Bombus* spp. was explained by the percentage of ground cover vegetation (Table 2; Fig. 4). Unlike the number of *Bombus* spp. individuals and species, and the number of all bee individuals, the number of wasps and wasp species were both negatively correlated with the percentage of vegetative ground cover and not significantly related to the height of ground cover vegetation. The percentage of vegetative ground cover explained approximately 33% of both the number of wasp individuals and species (Table 2; Fig. 5). Simple linear regressions showed that only the habitat factors of average ground cover height, percentage of vegetative ground cover, and percentage of overstory cover were significantly related to Hymenoptera abundance and richness (Table 2). The overall number of Hymenopteran individuals (Fig. 2), number of bee individuals (Fig. 2), number of solitary bee individuals and species (Fig. 3) significantly decreased as the height of the ground cover vegetation increased, and these results indicate that social bees and wasps are not related to ground cover height (Table 2). The abundance of wasps significantly decreased as the percentage ground cover increased (Fig. 5), while the number of species of bumblebees significantly increased as the percentage of vegetative ground cover increased (Fig. 4). Only the number of bumble bee individuals was positively related to overstory cover (Fig. 6). Overstory cover explained 30% of the variability in the number of bumble bees encountered in home gardens and orchards.

## Species Composition

In 2006, I recorded six species of social bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae; 165 individuals), 34 species of solitary bees (Hymenoptera: Andrenidae, Apidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae; 282 individuals) and 10 species of wasps (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae, Ichneumonidae, Vespidae; 34 individuals) (Appendix 1). Five species accounted for over 55% of the total individuals collected (in descending order): *Apis* (s. str.) *mellifera* L., *Anthrophora acervorum* L., *Andrena* (*Melandrena*) *cineraria* L., *Andrena* (*Melandrena*) *limata* F. Smith, and *Bombus* (s. str.) *terrestris* L. The most numerous species was *A. mellifera* (20%) in home gardens and orchards alike. Of the species captured, 27 were represented by only 1 or 2 individuals, with 10 species found in only home gardens and 8 in orchards only (Appendix 1).

Overall, species composition of Hymenoptera fauna did not vary by local land use (home garden/orchard; ANOSIM; Global  $R = 0.071$ ,  $p = 0.167$ ), but composition did vary between villages (ANOSIM; Global  $R = 0.359$ ,  $p = 0.022$ ) (Fig. 7). When examined separately, the community compositions of social bees, and also that of wasps, were found to be similar in both home gardens and orchards (Global  $R_{\text{social}} = -0.020$ ,  $p = 0.533$ ; Global  $R_{\text{wasp}} = 0.094$ ,  $p = 0.086$ ); nor were there differences between localities, or villages (Global  $R_{\text{social}} = -0.001$ ,  $p = 0.468$ ; Global  $R_{\text{wasp}} = -0.096$ ,  $p = 0.720$ ). However, the difference in community composition of solitary bees between home gardens and orchards was marginally significant (Global  $R = 0.122$ ,  $p = 0.052$ ), as was the composition between villages (Global  $R = 0.287$ ,  $p = 0.054$ ) (Fig. 7).

## Discussion and Conclusions

In this study, apple tree dominated home gardens and orchards at high elevations in northern Kyrgyzstan were found to support abundant and diverse pollinator communities during apple bloom, with few differences in community composition between the agro-ecosystem types. My results contrast with Partap and Partap's (2002) detection and documentation of the alarming loss of pollinators and pollinator services in the neighboring Himalayan region in high elevation fruit orchards, although the presence of pollinators does not necessarily mean they are providing pollinator services for fruit trees. Nonetheless, my results show that intensively managed, high elevation home gardens and orchards support abundant and diverse populations of bees and wasps, and especially solitary bees, during apple flowering.

Despite their economic importance, there is a lack of information about the native pollinators of many orchard crops (including apple), pollinator abundance, and diversity (Kevan 1999), especially in Central Asia. Without the benefit of previous studies of pollinator diversity and abundance in the region, studies from other regions using similar methods were considered to gauge the abundance and richness of pollinator and parasitoids in Kyrgyz agro-ecosystems. Klein and co-authors (2003) classified agro-ecosystems that had 20+ species as "species rich." In a similar temperate agro-ecosystem in Central Europe, though at lower elevations, Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke (2003) found 40 species of above-ground nesting bees and wasps at 45 different sites and they considered this is a "very high" number as compared to other similar studies. In other orchards, 32 species (Gardner and Ascher 2006) and 100 species of bees with capture

rates from 2.5 – 5.8 bees per hour (Scott-Dupree and Winston 1987) were documented. Additionally, Scott-Dupree and Winston (1987) collected 29 species of bees from orchards that were near intact natural habitat, the most similar of the ecosystem types they sampled to those in this study. In a study in a similarly arid environment and in residential areas, 1871 individuals belonging to 54 different species of bees were collected from 36 sites, sampled twice during the year (McIntyre and Hostetler 2001). With an average capture rate of 19.7 ( $\pm$  1.46) bees and wasps per hour, the 40 species of bees and 10 wasps collected from 16 sites in this study in 2006 and, if 2005 data are considered, the 56 bees and 13 wasps collected support the designation of these agro-ecosystems as species rich. It is possible that diversity is actually higher in these systems, given that sampling efficiency, overall, was rather low at approximately 48%. Using the ICE value for diversity, which takes into account species not encountered during sampling, for the two villages and both apple management systems in 2006, there are an estimated  $80.4 \pm 3.84$  (std. dev.) species in these agro-ecosystems.

Using ANOSIM, I found that species richness and abundance of Hymenoptera, overall, were high with significant differences in the community composition of bees and wasps by locality but not by local land-use/ agro-ecosystem type (Fig. 7). Differences in Hymenoptera by locality indicates that landscape-level factors are more important to bee community composition than local land-use management in this study. The community composition of social bees and wasps did not differ between locality or between home gardens and orchards. There were differences in the community composition of solitary bees between home gardens and orchards (Fig. 7). However, these differences could not

be directly attributed to vegetation characteristics because, overall, there were no significant differences between home gardens and orchards as determined using ANOSIM. Though, examination of habitat characteristics separately showed there was significantly higher overstory richness and a higher number of overstory trees in home gardens, but no significant differences in basal area, overstory cover, percentage overstory in bloom, or ground cover in bloom (Table 1). Not finding significant differences in vegetation characteristics between home gardens and orchards was an unexpected finding given the radical differences in management between home gardens and orchards, but corresponds with Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke's (2003) findings of unexpectedly weak links between management and bee and wasp diversity.

Based on my observations, home gardens in this area have more complicated architecture, greater heterogeneity, and are much more intensively managed than the orchard plots, but many of these differences were either not detectable using the methods employed in this study, or these differences simply do not directly affect bees and wasps (Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003). For example, the perimeter of home gardens (average size  $0.21 \pm 0.04$  ha.) are composed of dense hedgerows and/or living fences of managed and unmanaged trees such as wild apricots (*A. vulgaris*), poplars (*Populus*), elms (*Ulmus*), and/or willows (*Salix*). Field margins and hedgerows are associated with increased insect abundance and diversity in agro-ecosystems, due to enhanced pollen and nectar sources and/or nesting sites, and may help explain why Hymenopteran diversity and abundance were high in this study (Kwaiser and Hendrix 2008; Woodcock et al. 2006; Pywell et al. 2006; Öckinger and Smith 2007; Carvell et al. 2007; Ekroos et al.



2008). Orchards ( $18.60 \pm 3.22$  ha.) also have the same type of perimeter but not the mosaic structure of home gardens, which is known to be important for insects (Perfecto and Vandermeer 2002; in Klein et al. 2003; Armbrrecht et al. 2005), given the larger size of the orchards. However, hedgerows and margins were not sampled in this study.

Other factors that are known to promote bee diversity either do not vary as a result of management between home gardens and orchards, or simply do not apply during apple bloom. This study occurred, by design, during apple bloom in apple tree dominated agro-ecosystems, when trees were just beginning to leaf-out; it is possible the affects of management are simply not detectable that early in the growing season. Additionally, though home gardens are more intensively managed than orchards, these management practices do not include regular pruning in either orchards or home gardens (personal observation) meaning there are abundant nesting sites for both social and solitary wood and cavity nesters in dead wood (Michener 2000; Klein et al. 2003; Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003; Osborne et al. 2008). Orchards tend to be walled, but the walls are weathered adobe, providing abundant nesting sites for solitary bees. The majority of solitary species collected during this research are primarily soil nesters but alternatively nest in banks or the similar weathered adobe (Michener 2000; McIntyre and Hostetler 2001; Gardner and Ascher 2006). Home gardens are also often walled-in with adobe, or, if not, homes and small barns are almost exclusively adobe, simulating exposed banks, and bees nesting in the walls are tolerated (personal observation).

Though repeated over two years, I did not sample any time other than during bloom. Perhaps there are differences in the community composition of both vegetation and insects not associated with apple pollination that were not detected. While other studies have found that social bees are attracted to floral clusters and solitary bees more attracted to blossom cover of herbaceous plants (Klein 2003; Potts et al. 2003; Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003; Winfree et al. 2008) this type of analysis is simply not possible, because of the lack of alternative nectar sources. Apples bloom in clusters and, other than apples, there were very few alternative nectar and pollinator sources available during apple bloom in either home gardens or orchards, other than trace occurrences of *Taraxacum* spp., dandelions, just beginning to flower. The availability of floral resources throughout the growing season, a factor important to bee community structure (Steffan-Dewenter and Leschke 2003), was not studied.

A habitat factor that was measured in this study, and found to be important for Hymenoptera abundance and diversity in another insect study, was the height of vegetation (Kruess and Tschardtke 2002). The overall number of individuals, number of bee individuals, number of solitary bee individuals and number of solitary bee species significantly decreased as the height of the ground cover vegetation increased while the abundance of social bees and wasps were not related to ground cover height (Table 2; Figs. 2, 3). While Kruess and Tschardtke (2002) also found that mean vegetation height best predicted the abundance and number of species of non-parasitic, solitary bees and wasps, the direction of the relationship was opposite from this study (increasing with height of vegetation). Perhaps the immaturity of annual vegetation associated with the

early sampling dates in this study may be a factor, or the need to measure not just the height of ground cover vegetation, but all variation in foliage height diversity (MacArthur and MacArthur 1961). The abundance of wasps was related to a different variable; wasp abundance and species diversity significantly decreased as the percentage ground cover increased (Fig. 5).

I found that locality was important to the overall community composition of Hymenoptera (Fig. 7). Perhaps Hymenoptera in this area are dependent on landscape-level environmental variables (Steffan-Dewenter 2003; Schmidt et al. 2005; Klein et al. 2007; Rundölf et al. 2008; Winfree et al., 2008) or are responding to differences in habitat connectivity and/or habitat area (Steffan-Dewenter 2003). The high quality habitat of the agro-ecosystems may help explain why there were no strong differences in Hymenoptera community composition between home gardens and orchards (local management) (Rundölf et al. 2008; in Steffan-Dewenter and Westphal 2008). Both home gardens and orchards in this study have a number of characteristics that are known to encourage diverse pollinator communities. Home gardens, more so than orchards, are architecturally complex; both have diverse margins and hedgerows; and both provide abundant nesting sites for pollinators. Both home gardens and orchards are organic, as pesticides have not been widely available in this area since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Changes that have been difficult for households (Seeth et al. 1998) have, indirectly, been a good thing for the pollinator fauna in Kyrgyzstan.

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Figure. 1. Sample-based (Mao Tau) rarefaction curves with 95% confidence intervals for Hymenoptera between (a) home gardens (squares) and orchards (triangles) in 2006; (b) locality, or village, (Tamga, squares; Tosor, triangles); and (c) years (2005, triangles; 2006, squares).

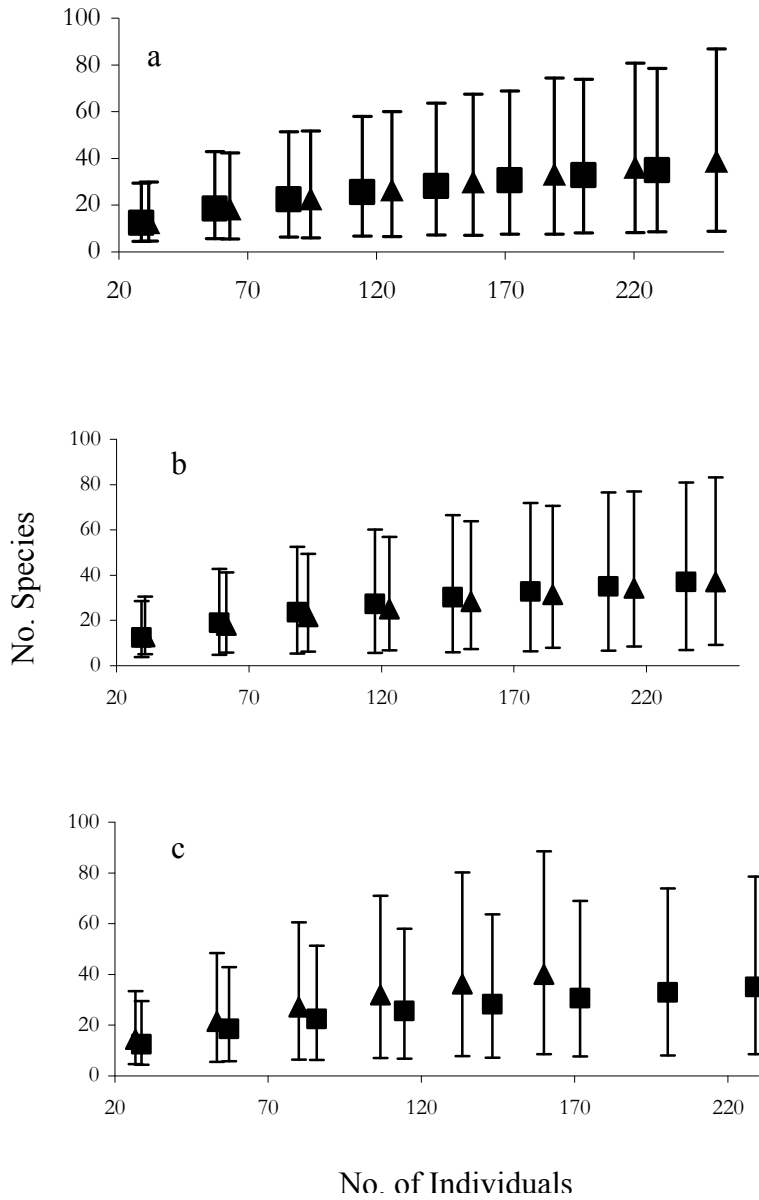


Figure. 2. Results of simple linear regressions showing the relationship between (a) the number of Hymenopteran individuals ( $F = 17.84$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ) and (b) the number of bee individuals ( $F = 13.00$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ) and the height of ground cover vegetation.

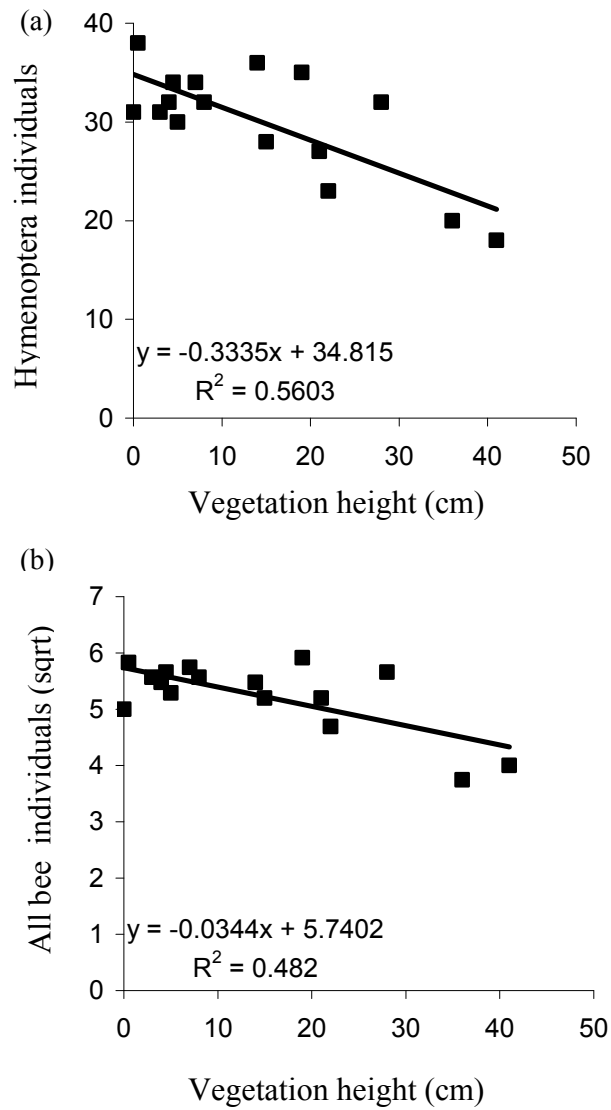


Figure. 3. Results of simple linear regressions showing the relationship between (a) the number of solitary bee individuals ( $F = 15.181$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ) and (b) the number of solitary bee species ( $F = 5.256$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.038$ ) and the height of ground cover vegetation.

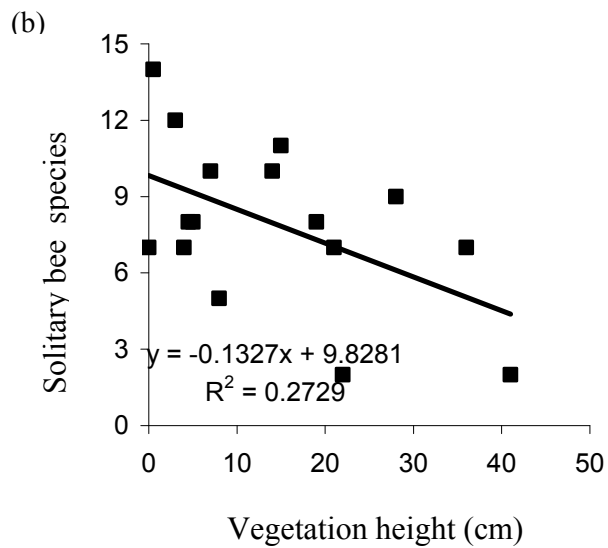
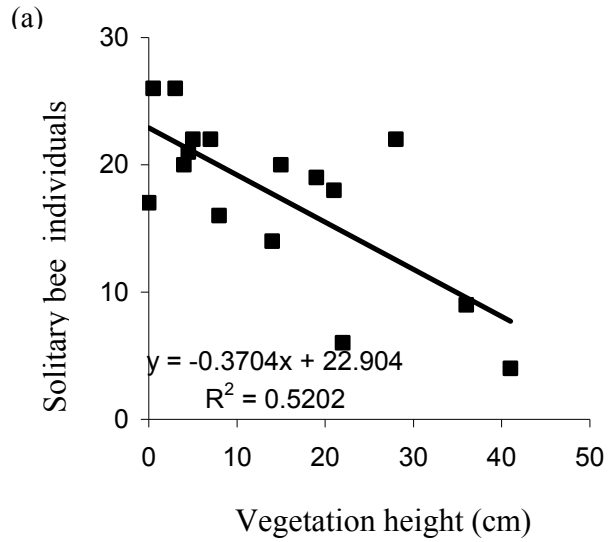


Figure. 4. Results of simple linear regressions showing the relationship between (a) the number of social bee species ( $F = 6.91$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ) and (b) the number of bumble bee species ( $F = 6.91$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ) and the percent vegetative ground cover (logit transformed).

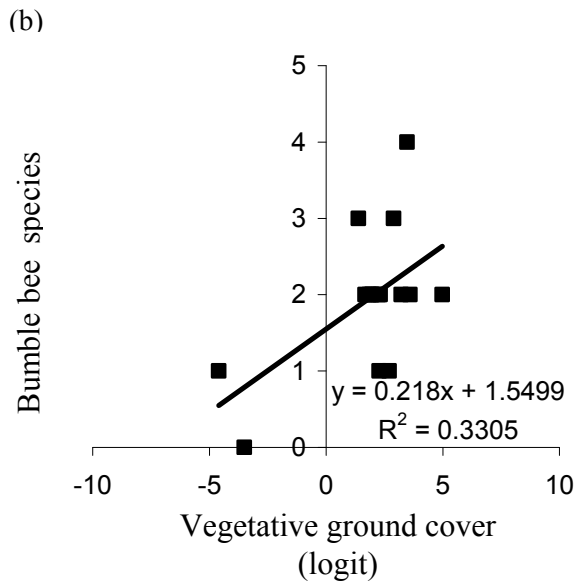
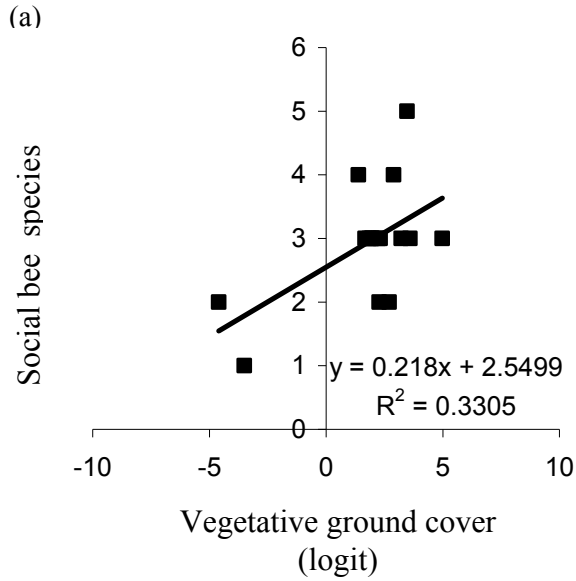


Figure. 5. Results of simple linear regressions showing the relationship between (a) the number of wasp individuals ( $F = 8.88$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ) and (b) the number of wasp species ( $F = 6.81$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.021$ ) and the percent vegetative ground cover (logit transformed).

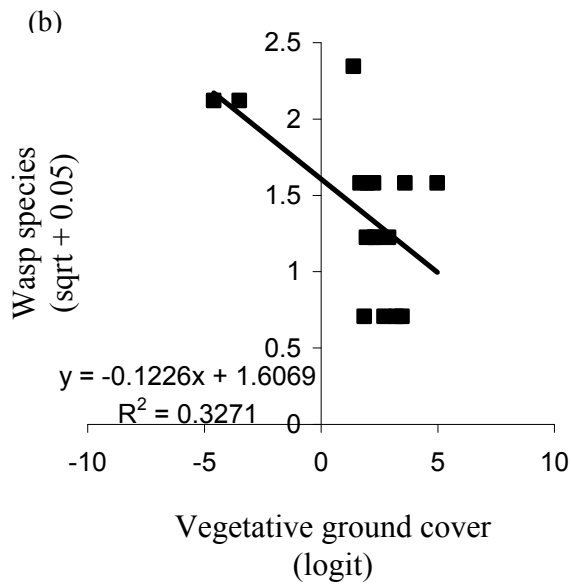
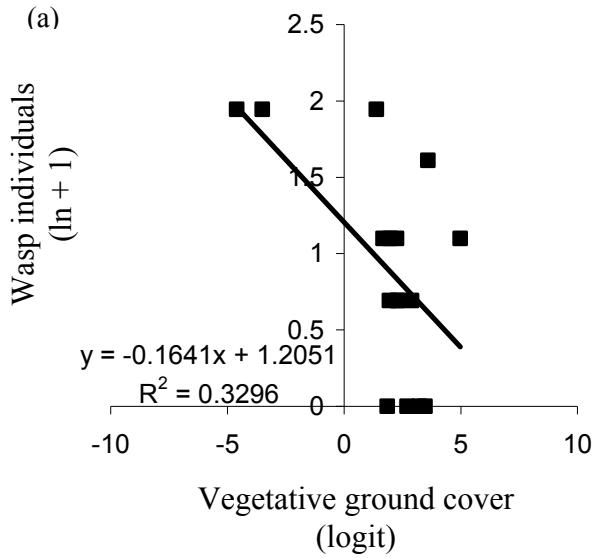


Figure. 6. Results of simple linear regression showing the relationship between the number of bumble bee individuals and the percent of overstory cover ( $F = 6.12$ ,  $N = 16$ ,  $P = 0.027$ ).

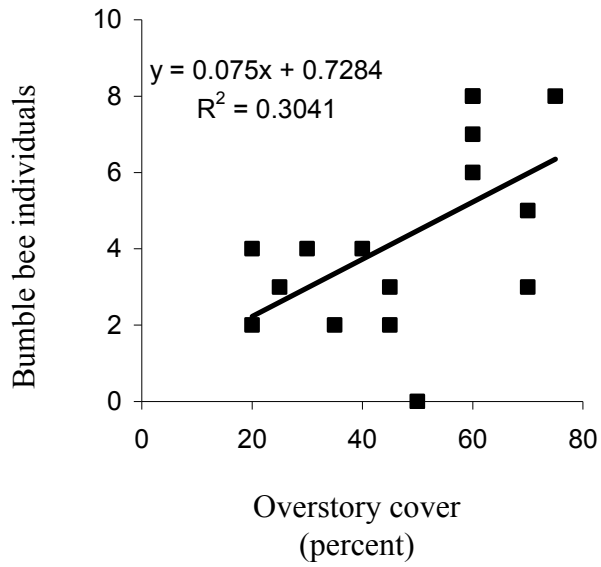
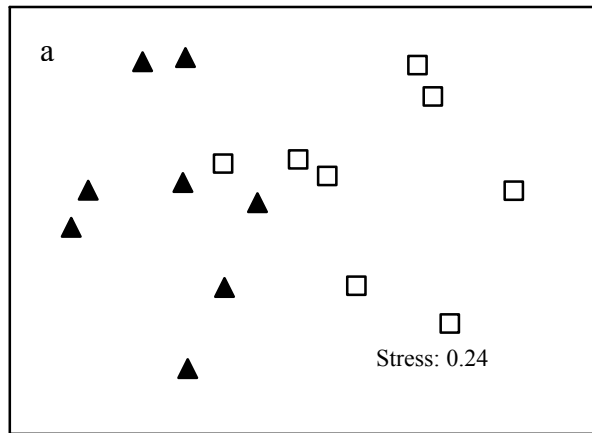
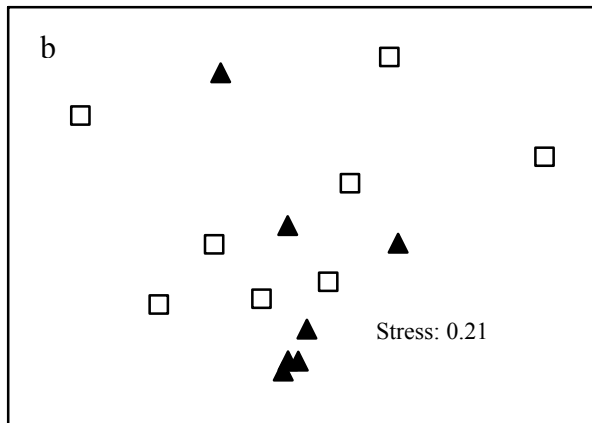




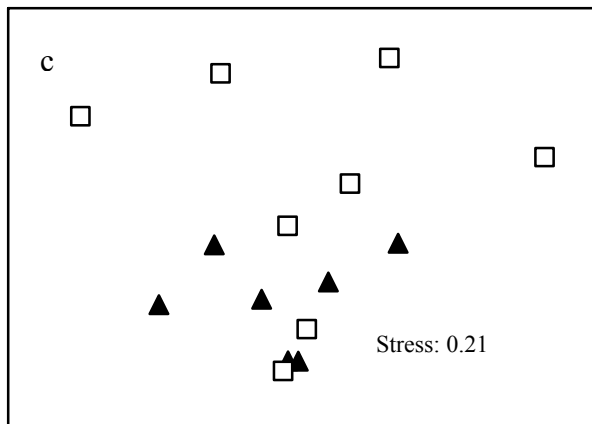
Figure. 7. NMDS plots of species community composition between: (a) Hymenoptera species and locality (village); (b) solitary bees and agro-ecosystem type: home gardens and orchards; and (c) solitary bees and locality (villages Tosor and Tamga, 12 km apart).



▲ Tosor      □ Tamga



▲ Orchard      □ Home garden



▲ Tosor      □ Tamga

Table 1. Characteristics of home gardens (N=8) and orchards (N=8) in two villages, Issyk-kul Region, Kyrgyzstan

	Total	Home Gardens	Orchards
Size (ha.)	-	0.21	18.60
(Std. Error)	-	0.037	3.220
Trees (total number)	5.31 0.395	6.25 0.590	4.38 0.263
Proportion Apple	0.86 0.515	0.75 0.832	0.97 0.313
Overstory Cover (%)	47.81 4.54	51.88 6.404	43.75 6.529
Overstory in Flower (%)	21.88 3.840	25.63 7.035	18.13 3.125
Basal Area of Trees (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.15 0.021	0.18 0.035	0.12 0.020
Vegetative Ground Cover (%)	80.03 7.728	69.22 14.776	90.84 2.051
Height of Ground Cover (cm)	14.25 3.164	13.69 5.683	14.81 3.243

Table 2. Results of stepwise multiple regression analyses for dependent variables and the independent variables of overstory cover, percent overstory in bloom, height of vegetation, and percent vegetative ground cover.

Dependent variables	Habitat Factor	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	Whole model $r^2$	Whole model P
All individuals	Vegetation height (cm)	-4.22	0.001	0.560	0.001
All species	Vegetation height (cm)	-1.99	0.067	0.220	ns
All bee individuals	Vegetation height (cm)	-4.54	0.001	0.659	0.001
	Vegetative ground cover (%)	2.60	0.022		
Bee species	Vegetation height (cm)	-2.05	0.060	0.231	ns
Social bee individuals	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. mellifera</i> individuals	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bombus</i> spp. individuals	Overstory cover (%)	2.68	0.019	0.467	0.017
	Vegetative ground cover (%)	1.99	0.068		
Social bee species	Vegetative ground cover (%)	2.63	0.020	0.331	0.020
<i>Bombus</i> spp. species	Vegetative ground cover (%)	2.63	0.020	0.331	0.020
Solitary bee individuals	Vegetation height (cm)	-3.90	0.002	0.520	0.002
Solitary bee species	Vegetation height (cm)	-2.29	0.038	0.273	0.038
Wasp individuals	Vegetative ground cover (%)	-2.62	0.020	0.330	0.020
Wasp species	Vegetative ground cover (%)	-2.61	0.021	0.327	0.021

## CHAPTER V

### NEW HYMENOPTERA RECORDS FROM APPLE AGROECOSYSTEMS, ISSYK-KUL BASIN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Key Words: Central Asia, Hymenoptera, Kyrgyz Republic, Orchard

Twelve new occurrences of Hymenopterans from seven families (eight genera) are documented from Issyk-kul Province (IK), north-eastern Kyrgyz Republic (KR) by listing each species in turn, noting the gender and number of specimens collected, locations and dates of collection, and details of the species' distribution. Six species are new records for Kyrgyzstan and six are new records for IK. Specimens were collected in homegardens and orchards in Tosor and Tamga villages, on the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul, Djeti-Oguz, IK, KR in May, 2005 and 2006 (Krever et al. 1998, Carpenter et al. 2001, Surappaeva & Milko 2006, ECONET 2008) using 30 minute sweep netting intervals within randomized 25 m<sup>2</sup> plots during apple (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) bloom (Currey, unpublished). Panfilov (1962), Shukurov and Tarbinsky (1996), Chelpakova and Milko (2004), Milko (2006), and Surappaeva and Milko (2006) provide the history and descriptions of the entomology of Kyrgyzstan and IK. Original specimens are deposited in the collection at the Department of Entomology, Institute for Biology and Pedology, National Academy of Sciences, Bishkek, KR (IBB) with additional specimens in Currey's collection (FIU).

Order Hymenoptera

Family Ichneumonidae

*Buathra evidens* (Kokujev, 1909)

1♂, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 10.174-N; LON 77 26.738-E, 1623 m, 25.v.2005, AO (FIU).

Middle Asian endemic species described from the Alai Mountains and the Alai-Pamir region in southernmost Kyrgyzstan, along the Tajikistan border (Shukurov & Tarbinsky 1996), but recorded for the first time in northern Kyrgyzstan.

Family Vespidae

Subfamily Eumeninae

*Antepipona orbitalis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1839) ssp. *ballioni* (F. Morawitz, 1867)

1♂, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tamga, LAT 42 09.350-N; LON 77 32.697-E, 1675 m, 12.v.2006, AO (IBB).

Widely distributed in the Palaearctic Region with the subspecies *ballioni* reported from eastern Turkey, Crimea, Caucasus, Volga Region, Kazakhstan, northern Kyrgyzstan, western Siberia and Irkutsk Province, Russia (Shukurov & Tarbinsky 1996). It is registered in IK for the first time.

*Eumenes mongolicus* F. Morawitz, 1889

1♂, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 08.014-N; LON 77 32.064-E, 1698 m, 05.v.2006, AO (IBB).

Current distribution includes south-eastern Siberia, Mongolia and northern China (Kurzenko 1995). This is the first record in Kyrgyzstan, extending the known distribution of this rare species to the west.

#### Family Sphecidae

*Crossocerus (Blepharipus) megacephalus* (Rossi, 1790) (= *leucostomus* auct. non L., = *zaidamensis* Radoszkowski, 1887, = *leucostomoides* Richards, 1935)

1 ♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 08.014-N; LON 77 32.064-E, 1698 m, 18.v.2005, AO (IBB).

Known from Tunisia, Europe, Turkey, Tadjikistan, Kazakhstan, the Altai, Irkutsk and Amur provinces (Russia) and Mongolia (Kazenas 2001), but this is the first record for Kyrgyzstan.

#### Family Andrenidae

*Andrena (Melandrena) nitida* (Müller, 1776) (= *pubescens* Olivier, 1789)

1 ♂, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 08.014-N; LON 77 32.064-E, 1698 m, 16.v.2005, AO (FIU).

A widely distributed species known in the Palaearctic Region from Northern Africa and Iraq to Finland and Siberia, but is new for the Kyrgyz Cadastre (Shukurov & Tarbinsky 1996).

*Andrena (Micrandrena) subopaca* Nylander, 1848

1♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 08.014-N; LON 77 32.064-E, 1698 m, 13.v.2005, AO (FIU); 1♀ Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, Tokoon Alyshova's Garden, 1650 m, 11.v.2005, AO (FIU).

There is no record of this trans-Palaeartic polytrophic bee species in Kyrgyzstan until these two specimens.

*Andrena (Plastandrena) bimaculata* (Kirby, 1802)

1♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tamga, LAT 42 09.350-N; LON 77 32.697-E, 1675 m, 12.v.2006, AO (FIU).

This species is widely distributed in the Western Palaeartic from England and Finland to Northern Africa, Iraq and the Urals, but is the first record for Kyrgyzstan.

*Andrena (Tarsandrena) ehnbegi* F. Morawitz, 1888

1♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Terskei Alatau Mountain Range., 5 km S Barskaun village, 1850 m, 5.vii.1999 (IBB); 6♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 10.174-N; LON 77 26.738-E, 1623 m, 12-17.v.2005, AO (FIU); 5♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 10.322-N; LON 77 26.349-E, 1623 m, 13.v.2006, AO (FIU).

This sporadically distributed species was recorded in Bashkortostan, Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan, southern Siberia, Mongolia and the Russian Far East. There is a single indication for Kyrgyzstan, but without information as to where it was collected (Osytsnjuk 1995). Given this lack of information for the single previous record and that these are the first specimens of this species in the collection at the Kyrgyz National

Academy of Sciences, we note these specimens as the first records for northern Kyrgyzstan.

*Andrena (Zonandrena) chrysopyga* Schenck, 1853

1 ♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 09.680-N; LON 77 27.687-E, 1617 m, 10.v.2006, AO (FIU).

A west-Palaeartic species widely spread in temperate regions, including the Western Tien Shan, registered in Kyrgyzstan for the first time extending the known range of this species to the east (Beskokotov 1996).

Family Halictidae

*Sphcodes pellucidus* F.Smith, 1845

1 ♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, Asankul Namazbekov's Garden, 1622 m, 25.v.2005, AO (FIU).

Widely distributed parasitic species in Europe, the territory of the former Soviet Union and the northern Caucasus, but registered in Kyrgyzstan for the first time (Michener 2000).

Family Megachilidae

*Hoplitis (Megalosmia) fulva* (Eversmann, 1852) (= *grandis* Morawitz, 1873)

1 ♂, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 10.174-N; LON 77 26.738-E, 1623 m, 17.v.2005, AO (IBB);



A sporadically spread species, the large colonial *H. fulva* is known in arid lowlands from south-eastern Europe to Turkey, Armenia and Kazakhstan to Chinese Dzhungar and south-eastern Sichuan (Popov 1962). It is listed as rare and endangered in two regional Red Lists (see Meldebekov 2006), but was omitted from the Kyrgyz Cadastre (Shukurov & Tarbinsky 1996), even though it was reported for north-eastern Kyrgyzstan (Popov 1962). This is a new record for IK.

#### Family Anthophoridae

*Anthophora fulvitarsis* Brulle, 1832

1♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tosor, LAT 42 10.322-N; LON 77 26.349-E, 1623 m, 11.v.2006, AO (FIU); 1♀, Issyk-Kul Province, Djети-Oguz, Tamga, LAT 42 09.350-N; LON 77 32.697-E, 1675 m, 12.v.2006, AO (IBB).

Ancient Mediterranean thermophilic species distributed from the Iberian Peninsula to Northern Xinjiang and Eastern Kazakhstan. This species is registered in IK for the first time and was registered only once before in the Alexander Mountain Range, north-western Kyrgyzstan (Milko & Makogonova 1999).

#### Summary

We report 12 species of Hymenoptera that are new records for Kyrgyzstan (6 species) or within Kyrgyzstan (6 species).

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## CHAPTER VI

### HOME GARDEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IMPROVES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### Abstract

In 2007, an international development organization in partnership with a microfinance institution implemented a home garden development initiative blending ethnoecological and agroecological approaches using low technology-low input techniques appropriate for local agroecosystems to improve horticultural and home garden management practices. Its aim was to improve the effectiveness of these practices and increase the income earning potential of low-income households in northeastern Kyrgyzstan. In late 2007, pre-initiative and in late 2008, post-initiative, a cohort of 602 households, both participants in the development initiative and non-participants, were surveyed from eight villages to evaluate adoption rates and changes in income. Both pre- and post-surveys showed that home gardens are important sources of income for households. Results indicated that there were significant rates of adoption for nearly all techniques among both participants and non-participants indicating diffusion of knowledge beyond the direct beneficiaries, the participants. However, direct participants had higher rates of adoption than non-participants of management practices that impact long-term yield, and thus income, sustainability and stability such as composting, thinning of fruits, grafting and seedling establishment. The research team found a direct link between the adoption of management techniques and increased income. Targeting home gardens for

agricultural development initiatives based on prior ethnoecological research and agroecological principles improves management practices and household income.

Key Words:

Agricultural Extension, Agroecology, Ethnoecology, Home garden, Kyrgyz Republic

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Agricultural Extension and Home Gardens

Agricultural extension targeting small-scale farmers can increase incomes and agricultural yields for rural households in developing countries, thereby improving food security for many poor families (Altieri, 2002, Hazell et al., 2007, Kompanion, 2008, Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009). Small-scale farms, or home gardens, contribute significantly to agricultural production throughout the former Soviet Union (FSU) accounting for between 25-60% of the total agricultural output in countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, and Moldova (Seeth et al., 1998, Lerman, 2006, Lerman, 2008, Sharashkin, 2008). Home gardens are small agro-forestry systems with a mixture of cultivated trees, shrubs, and herbs in the area surrounding a household maintained and managed by those in the household (Fernandes and Nair, 1986). Home gardening and subsistence agriculture in Russia played an important role in mitigating poverty, income generation, and food consumption in the years following the collapse of the FSU (Seeth et al., 1998, Pallot and Nefedova, 2003). In Kyrgyzstan, a country of more than 5.2 million with a 40% poverty rate in 2006 (ADB, 2008), home gardens in 2007 accounted for 22% of the total agriculture output (in tons) and 27% in Kyrgyz som value (NSC

2008). There are more than 725,000 home gardens in Kyrgyzstan, averaging 0.14 ha, which produce apple, apricot, pear, plum, currant, potato, tomato, cucumber, onion, garlic, and other temperate crops (World Bank, 2005, Currey, 2007, NCS 2008). In 2007, 77% of Kyrgyzstan's fruits and berries, 28% of potatoes, 52% of vegetables and 9% of grains were grown in home gardens (NSC 2008). Despite these yields, and the fact that over 90% of rural households realize yields from their home gardens, food insecurity continues to be a serious issue in Kyrgyzstan with 34% of population food insecure as of September 2008 (Dhur, 2009).

Despite their small size, home gardens in former Soviet Republics produce more than subsistence needs; many produce market products (Lerman, 2008, Lerman, 2006, Pallot and Nefedova 2003, Seeth et al., 1998, Lerman et al., 1994). From 1966-1987, in the Soviet Union, 20-30% of yields from home gardens were sold while the rest was consumed by the household, gifted, or fed to livestock (Lerman et al., 1994). As Seeth and co-authors (1998) found in Russia, increasing yields from small-scale agricultural plots, such as home gardens, provided a buffer for households against food insecurity and rural poverty; there is great potential for rapidly increasing self-sufficiency of households and creating sources of income in Kyrgyzstan. First steps suggested to improve incomes for home gardeners include: (1) more marketing and improved market linkages for home garden production (Lerman, 2006, Pallot and Nefedova, 2003, Wegren, 2004, Lerman et al., 1994); (2) increased plot size (Lerman, 2006); and (3) access to credit (Lerman, 2006, Wegren, 2004).

Capital intensive technologies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, such as the development of new varieties, irrigation expansion and chemical inputs are out of reach for many small farmers or have negative environmental effects (Tilman, 1999, Altieri, 2002, Naylor and Falcon, 2008, Norris, 2008). As world population grows and the impacts of climate change on agriculture become more apparent, there is a greater need to feed the hungry equitably by improving production yields sustainably without contributing to land degradation (Lobell et al., 2008). Small-scale farmers such as home gardeners in Kyrgyzstan, whose food security and livelihoods depend on their own agricultural production, are receptive to agricultural extension and other agricultural development activities that provide access to capital and information that complements their knowledge base (Altieri, 2002, Swinton and Quiroz, 2003). Targeting home gardens in Kyrgyzstan and other republics of the former Soviet Union with low external input technology (LEIT) agricultural production based on agroecological principles is a valuable way to improve agricultural practices and increase the efficiency of available lands (Altieri, 2002, Pretty et al., 2003). This has the potential to provide both food security for the household and supplemental income.

Low external input technology is an important concept for development initiatives targeting poor farmers in rural areas. According to Robert Tripp (2006), LEIT is a range of technologies used in basic agricultural extension and information dissemination that “feature the use of local inputs and resources, consider long-run environmental consequences as well as short-run production gains” and targets adaptation at the farmer-level as opposed to top-down recommendations. The elimination of external inputs, such



as pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and their substitution with organic and mineral fertilizers is a focus of LEIT. Low external input technology techniques are not entirely restricted to resources available on the farm; many LEIT farmers use biopreparations to control pests and seeds and tools, which are purchased off of the farm (Tripp, 2006). However, the focus of LEIT is on integrating improved agricultural techniques into current practice to increase the sustainability of agriculture for farmers. To deliver extension effectively, farmers must be provided with information, technology and incentives for adoption in a timely manner. One of the challenges of applying the LEIT agricultural extension model to home gardens is reaching hundreds of thousands of home gardens in a cost-effective manner. Though more labor and knowledge intensive than traditional extension services, LEIT but can be integrated into different agricultural development models. (Picciotto and Anderson, 1997, Sharma, 2002, Anderson and Feder, 2004). However, the most critical challenge is ensuring the most appropriate techniques are selected to focus development initiatives upon and that these techniques are identified based on an understanding of local knowledge, current land management practices, localized environmental conditions, the economic role of agricultural production for households and market pressures (Nazarea, 1999, Altieri, 2002).

This paper examines adoption of LEIT techniques delivered through extension and family income improvement among small-scale farmers, home gardeners, during one such agricultural development initiative in the Kyrgyz Republic. LEIT techniques were selected using integrated ethnoecological and agroecological development approaches (Nazarea 1999, Altieri, 2002) and for appropriateness to small home gardens (average

size 0.1 ha. in Kyrgyzstan) and the lack of disposable income for inputs (Dhur, 2009). Targeting home gardens with the goal of increasing agricultural production enables rural Kyrgyz farmers to improve their food security and also provides additional income for household needs. Due to the importance of home gardens to Kyrgyzstan's agricultural sector and the value of home gardens as a first response to improving food security, home gardens have great potential as a focus for agricultural development initiatives.

This paper evaluates the economic benefits and adoption of horticultural methods that have the potential to improve agricultural production in the long-term for home gardeners. I describe the role of home gardens in Kyrgyz agriculture and the ethnoecological and agroecological development approaches using LEIT as implemented by Mercy Corps and Kompanion through the 2007-2008 "Gardens and Plastics" home garden development initiative. Based on two extensive surveys (602 interview respondents; pre- and post- implementation), I report and compare adoption rates of critical horticultural practices and income from home gardens and other agricultural activities among participants and non-participants and demonstrate that the adoption rates of both project participants and non-participants improved, indicating a diffusion of information within the community. Improved management techniques are known to be associated with higher incomes and this is evaluated in targeted communities. I show that placing a focus on small-scale agriculture has profound impacts on incomes and adoption of improved practices in home gardens diffuses to other households in the community with essential, complementary activities such as community mobilization, marketing, and access to credit critical to the success of agricultural extension initiatives.

## 1.2 Home Garden Production in Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz Republic suffered swift economic collapse after the fall of the Soviet Union and it has been slow to recover in the intervening 18 years (Pomfret, 1995). The country is predominately mountainous and hosts a complex terrain with a variety of natural ecosystems (Shkurov et al., 2007). The population of Kyrgyzstan is well educated; the adult literacy rate is 99.3% (ADB, 2008). Unemployment was approximately 8.3% in 2006, the highest in the former Soviet countries of Central Asia (ADB, 2008). The population is approximately 65% rural and many rely on agriculture for their livelihood (ADB, 2008). Kyrgyzstan has an area of nearly 20 million ha, of that approximately 1.4 million ha, or seven percent, of the total is suitable for agriculture (this includes arable land, fallows and hayfields) (Shkurov et al., 2007) and over 40% is degraded (Kyrgyzstan Delegation, 2007). The agricultural sector employs 65% of total workers (however, the Asian Development Bank estimates agricultural employment at 48%) and contributes one-third of GDP added value (GKR, 2006). Kyrgyzstan's 726,632 home gardens contributed 22% of the total agricultural production in 2007 (NSC, 2008), a smaller contribution than the 60% contribution in Uzbekistan in 2007 (Lerman, 2008) and the 54% of total agricultural output (in ruble value) from home gardens in Russia in 2002 (Wegren, 2004), but still a substantial source of production. Despite its large contribution to national GDP, there are only 101,200 hectares of home gardens in Kyrgyzstan, or 9% of the area under cultivation in 2007 (NSC, 2008).

Agricultural development has had a short and unique history. During the process of collectivization beginning in the 1930s, the traditionally semi-nomadic people of

Kyrgyzstan were permanently settled, which resulted in widespread poverty for herders unused to agriculture (Schmidt and Sagynbekova, 2008). After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, all collective assets were divided and distributed to former employees of state and collective farms, who suddenly found themselves individual farmers. Many farmers employed on collectives had specialty training and had only performed one aspect of work on the farm. Rural Kyrgyz citizens were left with small plots of land, but little or no experience in planning crops, caring for their farm, or marketing and selling any excess produce (Messerli et al., 2006, 458).

Across the Soviet Union, individuals grew their own food and supplemented their income with small home garden plots (Lerman et al., 1994, Pallot and Nefedova, 2003), which have a long history in Russia and remain widespread across the former Soviet Union, despite being constrained during the Soviet period (Seeth et al., 1998). The original impetus for the establishment of home gardens in the former Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan included, was to ensure that rural residents produced their own food at the household level to help cope with shortages without having to develop food distribution networks that were established for supplying cities with food (Lerman et al., 1994, Pallot and Nefedova, 2003). Throughout the Soviet period, policies vacillated between support and opposition of home gardens, finally becoming more permissive under Premiers Brezhnev and Gorbachev as part of wider agricultural and economic reforms undertaken by the state (Wegren, 2004). However, home gardens have always been subsidized by collective farms. These subsidies included inputs and services (Lerman et al., 1994, Van Atta, 1998). Each country of the former Soviet Union crafted different land reform and

distribution policies resulting in differences in the predominance of collective farms, private farms, and household plots, or home gardens (Lerman, 2006). In Kyrgyzstan, privatization of land has provided more than 725,000 rural households the opportunity to operate a home garden either for family consumption or sale (NSC, 2008).

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Development Initiative Description

The Gardens and Plastics (GAP) home garden development initiative was a community mobilization and technical assistance project aiming to improve household income through improved apple crop production and marketing of that production. GAP activities focused on organic fruit production, yield and home garden improvement, community mobilization, and marketing (Kompanion, 2008). GAP was implemented by Mercy Corps Kyrgyzstan and the Development Initiatives and Technical Support Unit staff of Kompanion, a community development microfinance institution founded by Mercy Corps in 2004. From August 2007 to February 2009, the project sought to improve apple yields and incomes with a participatory education strategy including agricultural and business skill development as well as improving market linkages. The development initiative used group methods, social learning, farmer participation and farmer led extension in addition to improving access to credit and facilitating market linkages.

Open enrollment was offered for one thousand spaces and interested households were registered (“participants”) although multiple individuals from each household could

attend trainings. Participants provided informed consent for interviews, access to their gardens and additional information concerning yields and sales of fruits. Participants were divided into 42 groups of approximately 24 people each according to geographic proximity, who regularly attended trainings on agricultural practices led by an agronomist. Groups gathered with a staff agronomist in participants' gardens and utilized a participatory education method in which participants were encouraged to experiment with the practices being taught and discuss the practice together and with their neighbors. A single agronomist and a community mobilizer remained with each group for the duration of the initiative and conducted each training with the group. Trainings were scheduled such that the practices taught in the seminar could be immediately applied to the individuals' home garden. No inputs were provided to households, but, as an incentive for households to invest in their future home garden production, participant households were offered a discounted loan rate, though this was not advertised prior to the voluntary registration period.

The selection of management practices were based on ethnoecological, agroecological and LEIT approaches (Altieri, 1995, Nazarea 1999, Tripp, 2006). Selected management practices were those that were already being used by households (Table 4; Appendix 4), thus respecting traditional and local knowledge, but recognizing that not all techniques used by rural home gardeners were effective and that modifications to these practices in accordance with agroecological principles could improve the productivity of home garden agroecosystems (Altieri, 2002, Altieri, 2004). For example, nearly all households pruned fruit trees, but not aggressively enough to be effective for fruit quality (color)

improvement, to prevent branch breakage when heavy with fruits, or for good intercrop yields due to low light availability. Composting and thinning of fruits were practiced by only some households, but this indicated that households would be receptive to testing the practices. Currey also conducted in-depth socio-economic, ecological, entomological, and ethnoecological research in these communities with broad community participation over a three year period before the development initiative began, ensuring household needs were taken into full consideration (Currey, unpublished data).

Management techniques included those that enhanced biomass and nutrient availability and cycling, soil organic matter for improved plant growth and beneficial biological interactions including species and varietal diversity of insects, animals, and plants (Altieri, 2002) (Appendix 4). Other techniques optimize solar radiation, water and nutrient use. Trainings focused on seven LEIT management practices pertinent to apple tree cultivation in home gardens due to the importance of apple sales for income and the importance of home gardens for *in situ* conservation of apple varieties (Dzhangaliev et al., 2003, Currey, 2007). Management practices included those that: 1) impact short-term yield improvements while also enhancing beneficial biological interactions and optimizing solar radiation (pruning, thinning and biological pest control); 2) improve long term sustainability of soil quality by improving biomass and nutrient availability (organic fertilizer use and composting), a significant issue for smallholder farms (Swinton and Quiroz, 2003, Zingore et al., 2009); and 3) ensure future yields while maintaining agrobiodiversity (grafting and sapling selection and establishment) (Tripp, 2006). Additional training topics that are not analyzed here included: pollination; winter

care of fruit trees; yield prognosis; harvesting, sorting, and grading; storage; home budgeting; marketing skills; and negotiation skills. Cross-cutting themes for all trainings included water, soil, and agrobiodiversity conservation and management.

An assumption made in the design of the initiative, which is supported by published studies, is that poorer, small-scale farmers are more likely to adopt low-input techniques that draw on locally available resources and skills (Altieri, 1995, Altieri, 2002, Swinton and Quiroz, 2003, Tripp, 2006) and that providing additional information that complements home gardeners' knowledge base improves natural resource management practices (Swinton and Quiroz, 2003). This is more likely when there are strong community structures, either existing or created through mobilization activities, which can support land stewardship and facilitate the diffusion of practice and knowledge within and among communities (Swinton and Quiroz, 2003).

## 2.2 Study Site

The Gardens and Plastics home garden development initiative was implemented in eight villages along the southern shore of Lake Issyk-kul in northeast Kyrgyzstan. Lake Issyk-kul, the second largest high elevation lake in the world, is located at 1,650 meters above sea level and is surrounded by the Tien Shan mountains with peaks ranging from 4,000 to 5,200 meters (Ter-Ghazaryan and Heinen, 2006). The Issyk-kul basin consists of three cities, 400 inhabited areas, and 420,000 people (Kojekov, 2008). Participants were from villages in Ton and Djeti-Oguz regions: Tort-Kul, Kyzyl-Too, Karakoo, Kara-Talaa, Tosor, Tamga, Barskoon and Darkhan. The majority of households in these villages are



ethnic Kyrgyz. The villages have an average size of 1,043 households and households consist of five people, on average. The average size of studied home gardens is 0.2 ha, similar in size to home gardens in Turkmenistan (0.2 ha) and Uzbekistan (0.17 ha), but smaller than Russian home gardens (0.4 ha) (Wegren, 2004, Lerman and Stanchin, 2004, Lerman, 2008). Gardens in this region were founded in the 1960s and 70s for the most part, although there were some founded in the early 1900's (Currey, unpublished interviews). Households grow apple, apricot, pear and plum trees; currant and raspberry shrubs; and also vegetables, such as potato, tomato, cabbage, cucumber, squash and carrots as well as herbs and grasses. In each of the studied villages, 90-100% of residents engage in some form of agriculture. Other formal employment opportunities are limited and include teaching, government positions, and industry (including a gold mine). Reported agricultural challenges include reduced soil fertility and lack of crop rotation (Kojekov, 2008).

### 2.3 Household Surveys

A stratified (by village and among participants and non-participants) random sample of 650 households in the targeted villages were interviewed with a structured questionnaire. Analyses include 602 households, of which 335 were non-participants and 267 were participants that were interviewed in 2007 and 2008. "Participants" are residents who enrolled in the GAP horticultural development initiative during open enrollment; "non-participants" are other residents in the communities where GAP was implemented, but did not enroll. Questions pertained to household demographics, income, sources of income, as well as agricultural, horticultural, business, and conservation practices. The

pre-implementation surveys were conducted in December 2007 and January 2008 and the post-implementation surveys were conducted in December 2008. Ten village residents, primarily math and science teachers, were trained and interviewed respondents in their own communities. Demographic differences between participants and non-participants were tested using two-sample t-tests for comparing means and two-sample z-tests for comparing proportions.

#### 2.4 Land Management and Horticultural Practices

To compare extent of use of the seven different horticultural and land management practices between participants and non-participants both before (2007) and after (2008) trainings, I performed two-sample z-tests for equality of two proportions using pooled estimates for each of the seven management practices, separately. This analysis gives identical results to the chi-squared test statistic for 2 x 2 contingency tables for independence of population proportions (Agresti and Finlay, 1997). I tested the effectiveness of horticultural extension for participants and non-participants separately using the McNemar test for symmetry to compare dependent proportions to examine adoption of each of the seven management practices between 2007 and 2008 (Agresti and Finlay, 1997). The McNemar test takes into account that samples for these analyses are dependent since the same households that were randomly selected in 2007 were re-interviewed in 2008.

## 2.5 Income and Management Practices

To compare participant and non-participant households in 2007 and after trainings in 2008, I used two-sample t-tests on the following income variables, separately: total income; income from the sale of apples; income from home gardens; income from other agricultural lands (not home gardens); income from livestock activities (sum of income from: livestock, meat, milk, wool, eggs, small animals and poultry) and formal employment (sum of salaries and wages). I used paired t-tests for each of the six income categories to determine if there were significant changes among participants and non-participants between 2007 and 2008 in income. Additionally, I compared the proportion of households living below the poverty line between participants and non-participants both before and after the development initiative using two-sample z-tests for equality of two proportions using pooled estimates. I also tested participants and non-participants separately to determine if there were changes in the proportion of households living above and below the official poverty line for Kyrgyzstan using the McNemar test for symmetry to compare dependent proportions between 2007 and 2008 (Agresti and Finlay, 1997). Though actual data are reported in Tables 3 and 4, income data were square root transformed and strong outliers greater than three standard deviations from the mean were removed for statistical analyses (McCune and Grace, 2002). The majority of outliers were unique households with income earning opportunities unlike the rest of households such as employment at a foreign-owned mine, leasing agreements for harvesting fruits on government owned orchards, substantially larger land holdings, or very successful small business, all of which are not the norm in these communities.

To determine if adoption of each of the different land management practices was associated with increases in income from home gardens and the sale of apples, I performed simple linear regression analyses using square-root transformed income variables with outliers removed as the response variables. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 16 (SPSS Inc., 2007) and SYSTAT version 12 (SYSTAT Inc., 2008). Means are reported in the text as mean  $\pm$  one standard deviation.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Household Characteristics

Surveyed households comprised 4.9 members, on average, with an average of  $2.0 \pm 1.4$  minors per household (Table 1). Respondents were equally likely to be male or female (49% female), were predominately married (83%) and had an average age of  $46.5 \pm 13.7$  years (Table 1). There were no significant demographic differences between respondents from households that voluntarily enrolled in the agricultural development initiative and those who did not, other than age (two-sample t-test  $p = 0.020$ ). Respondents from households that participated in the development initiative were slightly younger ( $45.1 \pm 12.30$ ) than those who did not ( $47.6 \pm 14.56$ ).

#### 3.1.2 Changes in income sources

The average total income for all households surveyed in 2007 was  $64,058.52 \pm 64,588.88$  Kyrgyz som (\$1 USD = 37.75 KGS) and increased to  $67,928.10 \pm 64,785.57$  in 2008 (\$1 USD = 36.11 KGS) (CIA, 2009). As of December 2007, the poverty line in Kyrgyzstan was 11,557.7 KGS per capita per year (NSC, 2008b). Like other research concerning

home gardens, agricultural extension and poverty (Seeth et. al., 1998, Swinton and Quiroz, 2003, Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009), more than half ( $0.58 \pm 0.49$ ) of respondents were below the poverty line. As in Russia, households earn income from numerous different sources and this diversification of income sources was found to have increased in importance since transition (Seeth et al., 1998). There were differences between those who participated in the development initiative (Participants; Table 2) and those who did not (Non-participants; Table 3), so further results will be reported separately for both groups.

In 2007, pre-initiative, 78% of participants earned income from their home gardens and home gardens were only second to salary (33%) for average contribution to total income (17%) (Table 2). This is a higher frequency than the 66% that Seeth and co-authors (1998) documented in Russia, the 60% in Ukraine and Moldova (Lerman, 2006), and approximately the same as in Belarus (Lerman, 2006) but less than in Nicaragua (70%) (Mendez et al., 2001). The frequencies of other sources of income for participants in 2007 are as follows: pensions and social benefits (50% of households); salaries (50%); livestock (45%); agricultural income other than home gardens (40%); animal products such as wool, milk, and eggs (33%); businesses (23%); wages (22%); support from relatives and gifts (20%); and small animals, such as poultry and rabbits (3%). For non-participants, home gardens were slightly less important in 2007 with 73% of non-participant households earning, on average, 13% of income from their home gardens (Table 3). Pensions and other social benefits (50%) and salaries (48%) were the other most frequent sources of income for households followed by: livestock (44%); other

agricultural land (36%); businesses (27%); wages (26%); animal products (25%); relatives and gifts (20%); and small animals and poultry (6%). Since participation in the development initiative was voluntary and determined through an open registration process, it is logical that more participant households would have had income earnings from home gardens and fewer with formal employment.

The prevalence of different income sources changed from 2007 to 2008 among both participants and non-participants. Most notably, a smaller number of participant households earned income from their home gardens (43%), but the average contribution of home gardens to total income among all participant households remained unchanged (18%) (Table 2). This may be due to other aspects of the development initiative that encouraged households to consider their food needs when deciding whether or not to sell their production and also a major hail storm that affected three of the eight communities just prior to apricot harvest severely damaging the apricot, pear and apple crops, which are important home garden cash crops. However, those who sold their production earned more, on average, in 2008 than in 2007. The frequencies of other sources of income for participants in 2008 were similar to 2007: pensions and social benefits (55% of households); livestock (53%); salaries (43%); agricultural income other than home gardens (38%); animal products such as wool, milk, and eggs (32%); wages (24%); businesses (15%); support from relatives and gifts (24%); and small animals, such as poultry and rabbits (6%). For non-participants in 2008, home gardens were also slightly less prevalent as a source of income in 2008 (66%), but households earned, on average, a higher percentage of their income from home gardens than in 2007 (17%) (Table 3).

Pensions and other social benefits (53%) and livestock (49%) were the other most frequent sources of income for households. The prevalence of salaried jobs decreased slightly (43%), perhaps explaining why more non-participant households earned income from home gardens, reinforcing the role of home gardens as a safety net for households (Pallot and Nefedova, 2003, Seeth et al., 1998). Thirty-five percent of households earned income from agricultural land other than home gardens; 28% from the sale of milk and other animal products; 25% received support from friends and relatives; and 24% earned wages. There was a 15% drop in the number of non-participant households earning income from small businesses (12%) and small animals and poultry were a source of income for only 4% of households since most households raise them for their own consumption.

### 3.1.3 Changes in income

For total household income and each of the five different sources of income, there were few differences between participants and non-participants pre-intervention (Tables 2 and 3). In 2007, total household income did not differ significantly between participant ( $62,294.2 \pm 61,346.62$ ) and non-participant households ( $65,464.7 \pm 67,118.76$ ) (two-sample t-test; ns), nor were there significant differences in the proportion of participants and non-participants living below the poverty line (participants:  $0.57 \pm 0.50$ ; non-participants  $0.59 \pm 0.49$ ; z-test; ns). Income from livestock (livestock, meat, milk, eggs and other animal products, as well as poultry), employment income (salaries and wages), income from home gardens, and income from other agricultural lands did not differ significantly between participants and non-participants in 2007 (two-sample t-test; ns).

On average, interviewed households in 2007 earned 41% of their income from formal employment (salaries and wages), similar to the 37% reported for Uzbek households (Lerman, 2008), 18% from livestock, and 21% from home gardens and larger scale agriculture, combined. The only difference was that participants earned significantly more income from the sales of apples ( $5,133.0 \pm 7,654.38$ ) than non-participants ( $3,522.2 \pm 6,328.77$ ) before the agricultural development initiative (two-sample test;  $t_{df=596} = 3.64$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) (Tables 2 and 3). Following the development initiative in the eight communities in 2008, there were no significant differences in total income, income from apples, home gardens, other agricultural lands, livestock, formal employment or proportion of households living below the poverty line between participant and non-participant households (Tables 2 and 3).

There were, however, some critical differences in income among participant and non-participant households before and after implementation of the agricultural development initiative. For participants, total income and income from four of five sources significantly increased from 2007 to 2008 (home gardens; paired t-test,  $t_{df=253} = 11.04$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; apples,  $t_{df=258} = 7.77$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; livestock,  $t_{df=253} = 3.41$ ,  $p = 0.001$  and formal employment,  $t_{df=252} = 21.96$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 2). For non-participants, total household income (paired t-test; ;  $t_{df=317} = 31.59$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and income from formal employment (paired t-test; ;  $t_{df=318} = 20.67$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) significantly decreased, while the other four sources increased (home gardens,  $t_{df=326} = 9.44$ , apple sales,  $t_{df=330} = 10.01$ , large-scale agriculture,  $t_{df=328} = 10.02$ , and livestock,  $t_{df=323} = 4.25$ ; all paired t-test; all  $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 3). Participant households' total income significantly increased by 10,660.5 KGS,



or 17%, (paired t-test;  $t_{df=253} = 26.86$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) while non-participant household's total income decreased significantly by 1542.8 KGS, or 2% (paired t-test;  $t_{df=317} = 31.59$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Income from formal employment had the same trend; participant households' income from employment increased by 11% (2,612.4 KGS; paired t-test;  $t_{df=252} = 21.96$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) while non-participants' decreased by 23% (6671.9 KGS; paired t-test;  $t_{df=318} = 20.67$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). When outliers were controlled for, income from larger-scale agriculture also decreased slightly for participants (1%, or 36 KGS; paired t-test;  $t_{df=258} = 8.42$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) while non-participants' income from other agriculture increased significantly (20%, 573.1 KGS; paired t-test;  $t_{df=328} = 10.02$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

#### 3.1.4 Home garden and apple sale income

Home gardens and apple sales, the focus of development initiative activities, were important sources of income for both participant and non-participant households in both 2007 and 2008. For participants, home gardens accounted for, on average 17% of total income, and while income from home gardens significantly increased following the development initiative (2518.6 KGS; 24%; paired t-test;  $t_{df=253} = 11.04$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), the contribution of home gardens to total income remained nearly the same at 18%. This is a much lower proportion of home gardens contributing to total income than documented in other newly independent republics. In Uzbekistan, home gardens accounted for 26% of total income (Lerman, 2008), in Turkmenistan, 36% (Lerman and Stanchin, 2004) and in the Ukraine in 1997, 53% (Van Atta, 1998). Larger scale agriculture accounted for only 8% of total income in both 2007 and 2008. This could be due to the distance of larger plots from the villages; they are located on the outskirts of the villages and transport is

limited. Seeth and co-authors (1998) found that distance was an important limiting factor to income from agricultural production. Theft of agricultural production is well known and a serious issue for growers. Larger plots in this region are overwhelmingly planted in potato for use by the family and fetch much lower prices than high-market value fruit from home gardens. In contrast, home gardens became more important for non-participant households as income from formal employment decreased, accounting for 13% of total income in 2007 and increasing to 17% in 2008. Non-participants also earned significantly more income from home gardens following activities associated with the development initiative (2373.5 KGS; 28% increase; paired t-test;  $t_{df=326} = 9.44$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Larger scale agriculture was similarly less important for non-participant households both before (6% of total income) and after development activities in 2008 (6%).

Income from sales of apples grown in home gardens was more important than larger-scale agriculture for participants in both 2007 and 2008 and non-participants in 2008, following development initiative activities (Tables 2 and 3). Both participants and non-participants earned significantly more income from the sales of their apples between 2007 and 2008 (paired t-test;  $p < 0.001$  for both participants and non-participants). The development initiative focused on finding buyers for fruits in all sectors of the market, marketing communities' fruits, establishing collective bargaining groups within each village and also encouraging intra-village communication for a better bargaining position with buyers. A result of these efforts was the communities' establishment of an association of home gardeners who facilitated the sale of 2000 tons of fruit in 2008 with a

market value of approximately \$1.3 million (Kompanion, 2008b). These sales included not only those formally registered for the development initiative (participants), but also other households in the communities (non-participants).

### 3.2. Adoption of Management Practices: Participants and Non-Participants

Households make decisions whether or not to adopt practices and the extent to which practices will be used in their home gardens (Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009). For each of the seven land management and horticultural practices examined, there was considerable variability among participants and non-participants in the portion of households who performed these practices before the development initiative and, like other studies have found, variable rates of adoption post-development initiative (Mazimavi and Twomlow, 2009) (Tables 4 and 5). Final evaluation of households showed that, on average, households used  $4.14 \pm 1.78$  of the seven practices, or 59%, and participants adopted significantly more practices ( $4.51 \pm 1.65$ ) than non-participants ( $3.85 \pm 1.83$ ) (Mann-Whitney U;  $\chi^2$  approximation = 19.90;  $p < 0.001$ ). Pruning and use of organic fertilizers, almost exclusively manure, were the most wide-spread practices for both participants and non-participants both pre- and post-intervention. Pre-intervention, the following practices were performed by over 50% of participants: pruning (85%), organic fertilizer (82%), and grafting (67%). Non-participants were similar: 81% used organic fertilizers, pruned (80%), and grafted (63%). There were only slight differences in the proportion of households applying the seven different management practices between those who chose to enroll in the project (participants) and those who did not (non-participants) pre-intervention; significantly more participant households thinned

fruit trees (8%; z-test  $p = 0.046$ ) and used beneficial insects or other biological methods for pest control (7%; z-test  $p = 0.031$ ) (Table 4). Post-intervention, these differences increased. The extent of use of different management practices was significantly higher for participants than non-participants for: grafting (9%;  $p = 0.019$ ); thinning (11%;  $p = 0.006$ ), as was also the case before the trainings; and composting (20%;  $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 4). Significantly fewer non-participant households purchased saplings than participants (-9%; z-test  $p = 0.016$ ). Over 40% of participants (more than 400 households) chose to take microloans for the purchase of saplings and predatory wasps, perhaps explaining this difference, though the authors do not have information about the percent of non-participants who may have also used credit for sapling purchase. It is plausible that there were differences between participants and non-participants post-intervention in the extent of pruning (6%;  $p = 0.051$ ) and the use of beneficial insects and other biological control of pests (8%;  $p = 0.058$ ) (Table 4). The use of manure and other organic fertilizers continued to be widespread post-intervention and there were no significant differences between participants and non-participants (participants 5% greater;  $p = 0.077$ ).

Rates of adoption increased significantly for both participants and non-participants, but not for all management practices and there were differences in which practices participant and non-participant households adopted (Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009) (Tables 4 and 5). Often, farmers do not adopt practices due to insufficient information, risk aversion, size of plots, lack of both input availability and access to credit (Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009). Also, the appropriateness of the practice for the household in ecological/socio/cultural context is an important factor in deciding to adopt or not adopt a

practice (Nazarea 1999, Swinton and Quiroz, 2003, Senthilkumar et al., 2008). Post-intervention, five of the six practices were performed by over 50% of participants: pruning (91%; 6% increase; McNemar  $p = 0.024$ ), organic fertilizer use (88%; 6% increase; McNemar  $p = 0.042$ ), grafting (72%; 5% increase; ns), composting (67%; 35% increase; McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ), and thinning (57%; 20% increase; McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 4 and 5). The use of biological agents for pest control, primarily *Trichogramma* wasps, purchased from the Karakol Biological Control Laboratory, increased from 20% pre- to 36% post-intervention (McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ). There were significant, positive differences among participant households between 2007 and 2008 for all practices, except for grafting (5% increase; McNemar  $p = 0.149$ ) and the purchase of seedlings, which decreased by 2% (McNemar  $p = 0.783$ ) (Tables 4 and 5). However, 20% of participants who had not grafted in 2007, grafted in 2008 and 50% continued the practice (Table 5). Twenty-two percent of participants purchased seedlings in 2008 who had not the previous year and 18.7% who had, purchased more (Table 5).

Among non-participants, a larger portion of households performed six of the seven practices, but there were only three of the six practices employed by more than 50% of households: pruning (85%; 5% increase; McNemar  $p = 0.036$ ), organic fertilizer use (83%; 2% increase), and grafting (63%; no change; McNemar  $p = 1.000$ ). Though there was a 20% increase among participants post-intervention for composting (47%; McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ), a 17% increase in thinning (46%; McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ), and a 15% increase in the use of beneficial insects (28%; McNemar  $p < 0.001$ ), overall prevalence of practices were much lower than among participants (Tables 4 and 5). There were no

significant differences in the proportion of participants using organic fertilizers (McNemar  $p = 0.318$ ) or grafting between 2007 and 2008. There was a significant decrease among participants investing in their future yields as indicated by a 9% decrease in the purchase of saplings (McNemar  $p = 0.014$ ) and no change in the proportion of participants grafting Tables 4 and 5).

Participant households had improved access to information, regular contact with staff agronomists, improved access to credit and input suppliers such as the biological control laboratory, as well as the support of their small group; these are all factors that encourage adoption of management practices (Tripp, 2006, Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009).

Because of this, they may have been less risk-averse and more open to adoption than non-participant households, as Mazvimavi and Twomlow (2009) describe them, spontaneous adopters: those who were not the direct participants in the development initiatives but tested some of the techniques that they saw or learned from participants or casual participation in training seminars. This points to one of the challenges for evaluating development initiatives that focus on agricultural extension, LEIT or not. The goal of many development initiatives is to encourage diffusion of information beyond the focal group and many activities, such as establishing market linkages, benefit more than the focal group. This makes it very difficult to establish true control groups, as is the case for this research (Tripp, 2006). However, examining the differences between the groups through a cohort study is one way to control for the issue of trying to determine if households would have adopted the practice had it not been for the development initiative and takes into consideration criticisms of adopter/non-adopter studies (Tripp, 2006).

Using this approach, a critical finding is a lower proportion of non-participant households adopted practices that are essential for long term sustainability of home gardens including those associated with soil quality such as composting and investing in future yields through grafting and sapling establishment. For short term yields, non-participants were also at a disadvantage as fewer of them thinned, which helps control biennial fruit bearing ensuring yield, for food and income, each year rather than in alternating years. While re-assessment of households in these communities in at least another five years is necessary to further examine adoption and diffusion (or abandonment) (Tripp, 2006), the fact that the development initiative did not subsidize households with free inputs, like some initiatives have (Mazvimavi and Twomlow, 2009), the use of LEIT methods, as well as the high rates of diffusion, I believe households will continue these practices. However, participant households are already in a better position for ensuring future yields than non-participants based on the significant differences between them in trees pruned, grafted, and planted. Additionally, more detailed research is needed to determine the effectiveness in technique for the different management practices of participant and non-participant households, and not adoption, alone. Practices that were already in use were targeted for the development initiative due to issues with technique. For example, households were thinning and pruning, but not aggressively enough for optimal effectiveness of thinning to control biennial bearing and improved light penetration from pruning. Households were grafting before the development initiative, but dead-heading trees and using manure to seal tree wounds, reducing the success of the grafts. However, adoption rates are a good indicator of diffusion of knowledge from development initiative staff to the participants and from participants to non-participants.

### 3.3 Horticultural Practices and Income

Each horticultural practice, except for the purchase of saplings, was modeled separately because of strong multicollinearity to determine how much of the variability in income from home gardens and apple sales was explained by the performance of management practices in 2008, following the development initiative. Whether or not a household participated in the development initiative did not significantly explain variation in income from home gardens ( $r^2 = 0.004$ ,  $p = 0.118$ ) or apple sales ( $r^2 = 0.006$ ,  $p = 0.072$ ), most likely the result of other components of the development initiative not analyzed here. Other components of the initiative that impact income from home gardens are those associated with marketing and the number of new buyers who purchased both apricots and apples from households in the community, for participants and non-participants alike. For each individual home gardener with their 0.2 ha of land, the lack of direct contact with buyers (consumer cooperative, exporters, and food processors) is a major obstacle for improving income for home gardeners (Wegren, 2004). Market and distribution networks increase the portion of production that households sell, thus improving income (Lerman, 2008). It is likely that participants and non-participants alike benefited from the introduction of new buyers the development initiative facilitated. Due to these reasons and the significant increases in the use of management techniques that were the subject of demonstrations and trainings among participants and non-participants alike, participant and non-participant households were not separately analyzed for their relationship on income.



The number of different practices adopted (proportion adoption of package of management practices) did significantly explain the variation in income from home gardens ( $r^2 = 0.011$ ,  $p = 0.010$ ) and apple sales ( $r^2 = 0.017$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ), but only 1-2% for each income variable (Table 6). Pruning ( $r^2 = 0.039$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), grafting ( $r^2 = 0.017$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ) thinning, ( $r^2 = 0.049$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), use of manure and other organic fertilizers ( $r^2 = 0.044$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and the use of beneficial insects and other biological methods of control ( $r^2 = 0.010$ ,  $p = 0.016$ ) significantly explained variation in income from home gardens. Thinning was the only variable negatively correlated with income from home gardens (Pearson  $r = -0.222$ ; Bartlett Chi-Square;  $df = 1$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). Loss of income due to thinning was expected as the goal of thinning is to decrease the resource burden on the tree during the critical period of bud formation for the following year's yield. The benefit of this is to ensure yields each year rather than having the trees bear biennially, though further research is required to determine if households benefit economically from this. Specifically for apples, the main focus of horticultural trainings, pruning ( $r^2 = 0.050$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), grafting ( $r^2 = 0.008$ ,  $p = 0.029$ ), organic fertilizer use ( $r^2 = 0.014$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ), use of beneficial insects ( $r^2 = 0.009$ ,  $p = 0.024$ ), and composting ( $r^2 = 0.008$ ,  $p = 0.035$ ) explained significant portions of the variability in income from apple sales, though only pruning and use of manure explained more than 1% of the variability in income from apple sales. Grafting was not expected to affect current year income from apple sales or home gardens as it involves the removal of branches from trees and the grafts will not bear fruit for at least another five years. Perhaps the relationship between grafting and income is due to other characteristics of the household that led to that household adopting

the practice or related to the removal of branches in preparation for grafting, more resembling pruning.

There is a direct link between adoption of pruning, grafting, organic fertilizer use, biological control of pests, and composting and income from apple sales and home gardens, but there is not a direct link between being a participant in the development initiative and income from apple sales and home gardens. However, total household income for participants significantly increased by 17% between 2007 and 2008 (Table 2), while total household income for non-participants showed no significant change (-2%) (Table 3). Income from home gardens and apple sales, though the target of the development initiative, may not be the best indicator of overall household wellbeing, as participants were encouraged to retain fruit and vegetable yields for their own consumption to improve food security and save money. Many households sell produce that they grow in the fall at low prices when cash is needed, primarily for school clothing and tuition payments, and later buy the same produce when prices are higher. Participants attended trainings on household budgeting and also home storage improvement with the integrated theme of considering their own household consumption needs for planning storage arrangements and before deciding to sell produce.

#### 4. Conclusion

The study found that targeting individual households with LEIT management practices for their home gardens with complementary activities such as mobilization, marketing, household budgeting skill building, and improved access to credit is an effective strategy

for encouraging more households to adopt management practices that may increase long-term productivity of their home gardens based on agroecological principles and improve income. For those households that participated in the development initiative, there were significant rates of adoption for all practices except for grafting, which was already widespread. The study demonstrates a direct link between the adoption of these techniques and income improvement. It also found significant diffusion of knowledge from participants to non-participants with similar income improvements. Using a household approach targeting home gardens appears to affect change beyond the direct beneficiaries. However, there were some critical differences. Participants had higher rates of adoption of management practices that impact long-term yield, and thus income, sustainability and stability of ecological processes than non-participants. Specifically, fewer non-participants composted, thinned, grafted or planted new seedlings. Although there was diffusion from participants to non-participants, participants were more likely to adopt a larger portion of the introduced practices. Among participants and non-participants alike, the three practices that were least used by households before the initiative had the highest rates of adoption, but, were overall less prevalent: thinning, pest control and composting. Thinning and pest control have direct effects on stability and marketability of yields and, in the absence of other inputs, compost use is critical to maintaining soil fertility, so new methods for delivery of training should take this into consideration for future development initiatives.

The results show that home gardens are important sources of income for households in Kyrgyzstan, second only to formal salaried positions, and more important than larger

scale agriculture. Income from the sale of apples from home gardens alone provided households with 33% more income than they earned from larger scale agriculture. Income from home gardens and the sales of apples increased for both participants and non-participants. Though the results show a relationship between adoption of management practices and increased income from home gardens and apple sales, increased incomes for all households could also be due to the community mobilization and marketing components of the development initiative that improved the communities' ability to attract and work with buyers, resulting in more sales of high-value fruits, especially apples and apricots. However, participants' total income significantly increased and non-participants' decreased, though only by a small margin, suggesting benefits from aspects of the development initiative other than fruit production and sale. Considerable efforts were made to work with existing community structures and to establish new connections within and among communities through intensive work with small groups, usually neighbors, and exchanges, perhaps creating opportunities less available to non-participants. Targeting home gardens for agricultural development initiatives that include mobilization, marketing, and improved access to credit is an effective strategy for poverty reduction and households' adoption of low-technology management practices that influence home garden sustainability.

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Table 1. Characteristics of households in December 2008, both participants in agricultural development initiative (N=267) and non-participants (N=335), from eight villages, Issyk-kul region, northeastern Kyrgyzstan.

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Dev.</i>	<i>Range</i>
Household size	4.9	1.80	1-12
Minors	2.0	1.41	0-7
Income earners	2.1	0.94	0-6
Respondent			
Age (years)	46.5	13.65	14-96
Gender (1=female)	0.49	0.50	-
Family Status (1=married)	0.83	0.38	-

Table 2. Characteristics of household income pre- (2007) and post- (2008) development initiative agricultural trainings for participants (N=267), from eight villages, northeastern Kyrgyzstan. \$1 USD = 37.75 KGS in 2007; \$1 USD = 36.11 KGS in 2008.

Participants (PR)	2007 Pre-Agricultural Trainings			2008 Post-Agricultural Trainings		
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Range	Mean	Std. Dev.	Range
<b>Total Income (KGS)</b>	<b>62,294.2</b>	<b>61,346.62</b>	<b>0-372,000</b>	<b>72,954.7</b>	<b>68182.82</b>	<b>5,000-469,000</b>
Total Agriculture	15,245.9	22,266.69	0-218,000	18,733.9	31,242.18	0-340,000
Home gardens	10,568.6	17,564.76	0-200,000	13,087.5	19,822.81	0-180,000
Apple sales	5,133.0	7,654.38	0-72,000	6,386.7	9,486.05	0-50,000
Other agriculture	4,677.4	11,143.82	0-126,000	5,646.4	14,633.09	0-160,000
Total Livestock	12,289.6	22,258.94	0-212,600	13,705.8	17,757.23	0-100,000
Livestock/Animal Products	10,475.1	20,391.39	0-200,000	11,876.7	17,005.90	0-100,000
Milk/Wool/Eggs	1,791.6	6,017.80	0-63,000	1,565.0	3,778.93	0-24,000
Rabbits/Chickens	22.9	206.75	0-3,000	264.0	2,228.65	0-30,000
Total Formal Employment	23,303.7	44,242.87	0-264,000	25,916.0	54,121.27	0-450,000
Salary	20,441.2	42,195.04	0-264,000	21,457.4	53,869.18	0-450,000
Wages	2,862.4	14,721.57	0-210,000	4,458.6	13,703.43	0-100,000
Business	3,679.0	12,546.69	0-125,000	3,535.6	12,329.42	0-75,000
Pension/Social Benefits	6,554.7	9,151.70	0-48,000	8673.9	11,049.45	0-66,000
Relatives/Gifts	1,146.4	2,756.64	0-30,000	1,752.8	4,565.80	0-40,000

Table 3. Characteristics of household income pre- (2007) and post- (2008) development initiative agricultural trainings for non-participants (N=335), from eight villages, northeastern Kyrgyzstan. \$1 USD = 37.75 KGS in 2007; \$1 USD = 36.11 KGS in 2008.

Non-participants (NPR)	2007 Pre-Agricultural Trainings			2008 Post-Agricultural Trainings		
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Range	Mean	Std. Dev.	Range
<b>Total Income (KGS)</b>	<b>65,464.7</b>	<b>67,118.76</b>	<b>0-547,000</b>	<b>63,921.9</b>	<b>61,755.02</b>	<b>1,000-716,568</b>
Total Agriculture	12,007.9	15,608.15	0-95,000	14,719.4	20,087.05	0-150,000
Home gardens	8,315.6	11,657.19	0-90,000	10,689.1	15,803.37	0-150,000
Apple sales	3,522.2	6,328.77	0-60,000	6,284.3	12,413.94	0-150,000
Other agriculture	3,691.4	9,183.89	0-83,000	4,030.3	8,699.82	0-100,000
Total Livestock	10,773.1	19,255.15	0-154,500	10,423.7	13,505.29	0-70,000
Livestock/Animal Products	9,773.6	18,807.51	0-150,000	9024.7	12,769.48	0-70,000
Milk/Wool/Eggs	986.1	2,862.22	0-24,000	1,356.7	3,332.17	0-24,000
Rabbits/Chickens	13.43	146.72	0-2,000	42.4	246.76	0-3,000
Total Formal Employment	28,475.7	58,314.32	0-522,000	21,803.9	41,697.11	0-360,000
Salary	25,032.6	57,780.12	0-522,000	18,536.6	18,536.63	0-360,000
Wages	3,443.2	10,556.55	0-100,000	3,267.3	9,231.14	0-65,000
Business	4,569.6	15,325.82	0-200,000	4,761.2	30,077.58	0-500,000
Pension/Social Benefits	7,985.0	16,518.92	0-204,100	9068.8	11,724.65	0-64,800
Relatives/Gifts	1,116.1	2,221.91	0-10,000	3144.8	13,079.81	0-200,000

Table 4. Comparison of the proportions of households in the two groups, participants (N=267) and non-participants (N=335), using different management practices in 2007 (PR and NPR) and 2008 (PR and NPR). Two-sample tests for differences in means between groups (t-test and z-tests for proportions); degrees of freedom = 600 for all.

	2007					2008				
	Total	PR	NPR	z/t-value	p	Total	PR	NPR	z/t-value	p
<b>Total Practices</b>	3.47	3.65	3.33	2.59	0.010	4.14	4.51	3.85	4.65	<0.000
(Std. Dev.)	1.51	1.51	1.50			1.783	1.65	1.83		
Pruning	0.82	0.85	0.80	1.48	0.141	0.88	0.91	0.85	1.96	0.051
	0.384	0.361	0.401			0.329	0.292	0.354		
Grafting	0.65	0.67	0.63	0.96	0.338	0.67	0.72	0.63	2.37	0.019
	0.478	0.471	0.483			0.470	0.448	0.483		
Thinning	0.33	0.37	0.29	2.12	0.035	0.51	0.57	0.46	2.76	0.006
	0.469	0.484	0.454			0.500	0.496	0.499		
Organic Fertilizer	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.56	0.574	0.86	0.88	0.83	1.77	0.077
	0.389	0.382	0.396			0.352	0.321	0.374		
Bio-pest Control	0.16	0.21	0.13	2.57	0.010	0.32	0.36	0.28	1.89	0.058
	0.369	0.405	0.335			0.465	0.480	0.451		
Composting	0.29	0.32	0.27	1.25	0.211	0.56	0.67	0.47	4.90	<0.000
	0.455	0.467	0.445			0.497	0.471	0.500		
Buy Saplings	0.41	0.42	0.40	0.39	0.697	0.35	0.40	0.31	2.40	0.016
	0.492	0.494	0.491			0.478	0.492	0.463		

Table 5. Adoption of home garden management practices by participants (N=267) and non-participants (N=335) following development initiative using McNemar's test for symmetry for comparing dependent proportions. Percentage of households that adopted practices and those that continued practices from 2007 to 2008 reported.

	Participants				Non-Participants			
	Adopted (%)	Continued (%)	$\chi^2_{df=1}$	p	Adopted (%)	Continued (%)	$\chi^2_{df=1}$	p
Pruning	12.4	78.3	5.12	0.024	13.7	71.6	4.38	0.036
Grafting	20.3	52.1	2.09	0.149	17.3	45.9	<0.01	1.000
Thinning	28.8	28.1	27.81	<0.000	26.4	19.5	26.13	<0.000
Organic Fertilizer	14.6	73.8	4.13	0.042	13.4	69.9	1.00	0.317
Bio-pest Control	24.7	10.9	17.39	<0.000	21.8	6.6	28.77	<0.000
Composting	41.6	25.5	69.03	<0.000	29.6	17.9	35.57	<0.000
Buy Saplings	21.7	18.7	0.08	0.783	17.6	13.4	6.08	0.014

Table 6. Simple linear regression models predicting square-root transformed home garden and apple sales income for participant and non-participant households, combined, following home garden development initiative targeting low external-input technology techniques by horticultural/agricultural management practice.

	Home Garden Income				Apple Sales Income			
	t-statistic	F df=1,591	p-value	r <sup>2</sup>	t-statistic	F df=1,582	p-value	r <sup>2</sup>
Number of practices	2.57	6.60	0.010	0.011	3.20	10.22	0.001	0.017
Participant in horticultural development initiative	1.57	2.46	0.118	0.004	1.80	3.25	0.072	0.006
<b>Management Practices</b>								
Pruning	4.91	24.08	<0.000	0.039	5.56	30.91	<0.000	0.050
Grafting	1.00	9.93	0.002	0.017	2.19	4.78	0.029	0.008
Thinning	-5.53	30.61	<0.000	0.049	-1.65	2.72	0.099	0.005
Organic Fertilizer	5.20	27.06	<0.000	0.044	2.88	8.33	0.004	0.014
Bio-pest Control	2.42	5.85	0.016	0.010	2.26	5.10	0.024	0.009
Composting	1.17	2.76	0.097	0.005	2.11	4.47	0.035	0.008

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY

Smallholder farming systems, home gardens, are critical for the food security of households throughout the developing world. Human dominated landscapes are becoming more important for the conservation of biodiversity with agricultural expansion being a major driver of intact habitat conversion. Mitigating negative environmental effects associated with agricultural growth such as agrobiodiversity and biodiversity loss and the loss of ecosystem services, such as pollination is our challenge. Home gardens and other agroforestry systems can serve as reservoirs for biodiversity, not only for food crops, but also other organisms such as molluscs, insects and birds. However, as concerns about food security increase, the effects of climate change manifest themselves and calls for agricultural intensification come to fruition, conserving existing agroecosystems, home gardens, and the diversity of plants and other organisms within them face serious challenges. Agricultural ecosystems are human systems. Management decisions that impact biodiversity and the ecosystem effects of those decisions are based as much on economic necessity and cultural traditions as they are on ecological factors. These factors must all be simultaneously considered to address the conservation issues associated with agricultural intensification and to improve long-term growth in agricultural productivity in smallholder farming systems for hunger and poverty reduction.

My aim was to evaluate the importance of home garden agroecosystems in Kyrgyzstan for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and Hymenoptera using an ethnoecological approach to research and then to apply these findings to inform and improve management practices that have the potential to improve agricultural productivity while maintaining biodiversity. I reviewed the current status of research pertaining to home gardens and agrobiodiversity and how an ethnoecological approach to home garden research could improve our understanding of factors influencing biodiversity in human agricultural systems. I then applied this approach to study the agrobiodiversity and the Hymenoptera of home gardens. I assessed the edible plant species and Hymenoptera insect species in home gardens and evaluated the factors that contributed to the diversity of these organisms in home gardens, and, for Hymenoptera, in orchards, also. I also designed and evaluated an applied ethnoecological development initiative that sought to provide an economic incentive through improved incomes from the sales of agricultural production for the improvement of management practices that maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in home gardens. This research took place in Issyk-kul (Kyrgyz Republic), primarily in the villages of Tosor and Tamga, Djети-Oguz (Issyk-kul Man and Biosphere reserve).

The results show that temperate home gardens in Kyrgyzstan are diverse with an average of 24 edible plant species per home garden, more diverse even than some tropical home gardens, and that plant material received from others (relatives and neighbors) was an important factor in determining diversity status of cultivated plants. Different methods used to document cultivated species diversity yield different results; mapping home



gardens with members of the household revealed 40% more species than in an interview context. The relationship of explanatory variables to mapped fruit species diversity in Kyrgyz home gardens, especially the variables of home garden size, additional plots owned, and age of home garden, differed from similar studies in primarily tropical home garden agroecosystems.

Home gardens also support diverse and abundant Hymenoptera, many of which are pollinators of the cultivated crops grown in home gardens. I collected 765 Hymenoptera individuals belonging to 56 bee and 13 wasp species with 12 of these species being new species occurrences in Kyrgyzstan (six) or within Kyrgyzstan (six). Average height of vegetation was the best predictor of Hymenoptera richness and abundance, bee abundance and richness, as well as solitary bee abundance and richness. Vegetative ground cover best predicted wasp abundance and diversity and bumblebee richness and abundance. I found that there were no significant differences in Hymenopteran community composition between home gardens and orchards.

I provided empirical evidence that organic, high elevation home gardens and orchards of the arid Issyk-Kul region, as currently managed, support abundant and diverse pollinator communities and high levels of agrobiodiversity. Economic pressures to intensify cultivation in home gardens could impact management practices that currently promote the insect and cultivated plant diversity in Kyrgyz home gardens I documented. I investigated the effectiveness of low-external input technology (LEIT) agricultural extension for home garden management practice improvement that integrated improved

agricultural techniques into current practice to increase the sustainability of agriculture for home gardeners. Households were interviewed before and after the agricultural extension program. I demonstrated that there were significant rates of adoption for nearly all techniques, indicating diffusion of knowledge from the participants in agricultural extension and non-participants, the controls. However, direct participants had higher rates of adoption of management practices that impact long-term yield, and thus income, sustainability and stability such as composting, thinning of fruits, grafting and seedling establishment. I found a direct link between the adoption of management techniques and increased income. Targeting home gardens for agricultural development initiatives based on prior ethnoecological research and agroecological principles that also include mobilization, marketing, and improved access to credit improves management practices that can promote diversity and improve household income. Home gardens can and do play an important role in food and income provision while supporting diverse plant and insect communities.

Appendix 1: Selected crop wild relatives that occur in the Kyrgyz Republic, Central Asia, in the order they are mentioned in the text (MEP 1998, Dzhangaliev et al. 2003, Eastwood et al. 2009).

English common name	Family	Scientific name
Apple	Rosaceae	<i>Malus sieversii</i> (Lebed.) M.Roem
Apricot		<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i> Lam.
Pear		<i>Pyrus communis</i> L. <i>P. korshinskyi</i> Litv. <i>P. regelii</i> Rehd.
Cherry	Rosaceae	<i>Cerasus avium</i> (L.) Moench <i>Cerasus vulgaris</i> Mill.
Plum		<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Ehrh. <i>P. sogdiana</i> Vassilcz.
Raspberry		<i>Rubus</i> spp. L.
Currant & Gooseberry	Grossulariaceae	<i>Ribes</i> spp. L.
Grape	Vitaceae	<i>Vitis vinifera</i> L.
Almond	Rosaceae	<i>Amygdalus communis</i> L. <i>A. bucharica</i> Korsh. <i>A. petunnikovii</i> Litv.
Pistachio		<i>Pistacia vera</i> L.
Walnut		Juglandaceae

Appendix 2: List of Edible Fruits and Vegetables Cultivated in Home Gardens, Tosor and Tamga, Kyrgyz Republic.

Russian	Kyrgyz	English name	Scientific name [Family noted when species unknown]	% Home Garden (Map) (N=20)	% Home Garden (Report) (N=21)
<b>FRUIT</b>					
Yabloko	Alma	Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i> Mill.	100	100
Abrikos	Uruk	Apricot	<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i> Lam.	100	100
Grusha	Almurut	Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i> L.	90	86
Funduk	-	Hazelnut	<i>Corylus</i> L. [Betulaceae]	5	-
Chereshniya	Alcha	Sweet cherry	<i>Cerasus avium</i> (L.) Moench	75	52
Vishniya	Chiye	Sour cherry	<i>Cerasus vulgaris</i> Mill.	50	52
Sakura	-	Oshima-zakura cherry	<i>Cerasus serrulata</i> (Lindl.) Loudon	5	-
Gretskiy Orekh	Jangak	Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i> L.	55	43
Sleeva	Kara-uruk	Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i> L.	45	29
Tyorn	Japai kara-uruk	Wild plum	<i>Prunus</i> L. [Rosaceae]	15	-
Persik	Shabdaliy	Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Batsch	35	29
Chyornaya Smorodina	Kapa-Karagat	Currant (Black)	<i>Ribes nigrum</i> L.	95	76
Krasnaya Smorodina	Kyzyl-Karagat	Currant (Red)	<i>Ribes rubrum</i> L.	35	5
Belaya Smorodina	Ak-Karagat	Currant (Golden)	<i>Ribes aureum</i> Pursh	5	-
Krizhovnik	Barsildak	Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i> L.	15	10
Yoshta	-	Joshtaberry	<i>Ribes x nidigrolaria</i> Rub. Bauer & A. Bauer	5	-
Maleena	Maleena	Raspberry	<i>Rubus</i> L. [Rosaceae]	50	43
Barbaris	Boru-kapagat	Barberry	<i>Berberis</i> L. [Berberidaceae]	5	-
Vinograd	Juzum	Grape	<i>Vitis vinefera</i> L.	10	5
Klubnika	Buldurkon	Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i> [Rosaceae]	25	5
Kalina	-	Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> L. [Adoxaceae]	5	5
<b>VEGETABLE</b>					
				(N=10)	(N=20)
Chesnok	Sarimsak	Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	60	80
Luk	Piyaz	Onion	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	60	50
Jusai	Jusai	Jusai	<i>Allium</i> L. [Alliaceae]	50	-

Kapusta	Kapusta	Cabbage, Broccoli, Kholrabi	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L.	90	65
Pomidor	Pomidor	Tomato	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.	100	50
Rapis	-	Rape	<i>Brassica napus</i> L.	10	-
Ogurets	Badirang	Cucumber	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	100	45
Fasol	Fasol	Bean	<i>Phaseolus</i> L. [Fabaceae]	50	30
Bobi	Too buurchak	Faba bean	<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	20	10
Gorokh	Buurchak	Pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	30	5
Tikva	Ashkabak	Winter squash	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i> Duchesne	10	10
Patison, Kabachok	Patison/ Kabachok	Squash/ Zucchini	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L.	30	5
Perets	Kalempir	Pepper	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	10	5
Kukuruza	Jugoru, Konok	Corn	<i>Zea mays</i> L.	20	-
Ukrop	Ukrop	Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i> L.	40	5
Petrushka	-	Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i> (Mill.) Fuss	30	-
Kinza	-	Coriander	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	20	-
Bazelik	-	Basil	<i>Ocimum</i> L. [Lamiaceae]	10	-
Shavel	Kozukulak	Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.	20	-
Kartofel	Kartofel	Potato	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.	80	75
Morkov	Sabiz	Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i> L.	80	75
Svekla	Kyzylcha	Beet (Red, Sugar, Fodder)	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.	80	25
Rediska, Redka	Chamgir, Turp	Radish (Red, Black)	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	30	10
Khren	-	Horseradish	<i>A Armoracia rusticana</i> P. Gaertn., B. Mey. & Scherb.	70	-
Pasternak	-	Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L.	10	-
Salat	-	Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L.	30	-
Podsolnukh	Smimichke	Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.	20	-
Topuhnambur	-	Jerusalem artichoke	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i> L.	20	-
Sparsh	-	Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> L.	10	-
Khmel	Achitki	Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i> L.	50	5

Appendix 3. Hymenoptera collected in home gardens (HG) and orchards (O) in 2005 and 2006, Tosor and Tamga, Issyk-kul Oblast, Kyrgyz Republic.

		2005			2006			
		O	HG	Total	O	HG	Total	Total
Andrenidae	<i>Andrena (Chlorandrena)</i> sp. indet.		1	1	4	2	6	7
	<i>Andrena (Melanapis) fuscosa</i> Erichson, 1835		4	4	2		2	6
	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) cineraria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		3	3	25	20	45	48
	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) limata</i> F.Smith, 1853	1	12	13	31	10	41	54
	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) thoracica</i> (Fabricius, 1775)		6	6	12	22	34	40
	<i>Andrena (Plastandrena) bimaculata</i> (Kirby, 1802)					1	1	1
	<i>Andrena (Plastandrena) carbonaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)				4	3	7	7
	<i>Andrena (Taeniandrena) wilkella</i> (Kirby, 1802)	1		1	1	1	2	3
	<i>Andrena (Tarsandrena) ehnerbergi</i> F.Morawitz, 1888		3	3	4		4	7
	<i>Andrena (Zonandrena) chrysopyga</i> Schenk, 1853				1		1	1
	<i>Andrena (Zonandrena) flavipes</i> Panzer, 1799	3	20	23	17	12	29	52
	<i>Andrena</i> sp. aff. <i>nigritula</i> Cockerell, 1906		1	1		4	4	5
	Apidae	<i>Anthrophora acervorum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		17	17	16	29	45
<i>Anthrophora fluvitarsis</i> Brulle, 1832						2	2	2
<i>Anthrophora parietina</i> (Fabricius, 1893)			1	1	2	1	3	4
<i>Anthrophora</i> sp. indet.					1		1	1
<i>Anthrophora testaceipes</i> F.Morawitz, 1880					1		1	1
<i>Habropoda</i> sp. indet.						1	1	1
<i>Melecta</i> (s. str.) <i>duodecimmaculata</i> (Rossi, 1790)						1	1	1

	<i>Melecta</i> (s. str.) <i>luctuosa</i> (Spinola, 1770)				1		1	1
	<i>Nomada goodeniana</i> (Kirby, 1802)	2	1	3		1	1	4
	<i>Nomada lathburiana</i> (Kirby, 1802)				2		2	2
	<i>Nomada mutica</i> F.Morawitz, 1872		1	1				1
	<i>Paramegilla radoszkowskyi</i> (Fedtschenko, 1875)				3	1	4	4
	<i>Proxycopa</i> ( <i>Ancyclocopa</i> ) <i>nitidiventris</i> (F.Smith, 1878)				5	1	6	6
	<i>Proxycopa</i> (s. str.) <i>olivieri</i> (Lepeletier, 1841)		1	1	2	1	3	4
	<i>Proxycopa</i> (s. str.) <i>rufa</i> Friese, 1901					1	1	1
	<i>Xylocopa</i> (s. str.) <i>valga</i> Gerstaecker, 1872		1	1	8	12	20	21
	<i>Apis</i> (s. str.) <i>mellifera</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	22	22	51	45	96	118	
	<i>Bombus</i> (? <i>Agrobombus</i> ) <i>maculidorsis</i> (Skorikov, 1922)		1	1				1
	<i>Bombus</i> ( <i>Megabombus</i> ) <i>melanurus</i> Lepeletier, 1836				1		1	1
	<i>Bombus</i> (s. str.) <i>lucorum</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)		3	3	13	12	25	28
	<i>Bombus</i> (s. str.) <i>terrestris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	2	16	18	26	14	40	58
	<i>Bombus</i> ( <i>Subterraneobombus</i> ) <i>fragrans</i> (Pallus, 1771)				1		1	1
	<i>Bombus</i> ( <i>Thoracobombus</i> ) <i>muscorum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		2	2	2		2	4
Halictidae	<i>Halictus</i> ( <i>Monilapis</i> ) <i>compressus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802) ssp. <i>transvolgensis</i> Pensko, 1985				1	1	2	2
	<i>Halictus</i> ( <i>Tytthalictus</i> ) <i>maculatus</i> F.Smith, 1848		2	2				2
	<i>Halictus</i> ( <i>Tytthalictus</i> ) sp. indet.		1	1				1
	<i>Lasioglossum</i> ( <i>Dialctus</i> ) sp. aff. <i>leucopus</i> (Kirby, 1802)		1	1	2		2	3
	<i>Lasioglossum</i> ( <i>Evyllaesus</i> ) <i>albipes</i> (Fabricius, 1781)		1	1	1	1	2	3

	<i>Seladonia (Mucoreohalictus) pollinosa</i> (Sichel, 1860) ssp. <i>cariniventris</i> (F.Morawitz, 1876)			1		1	1
	<i>Halictus subauratus</i> (Rossi, 1792)	1	1				1
	<i>Sphcodes pellucidus</i> F.Smith, 1848	1	1				1
Megachilidae	<i>Chelostoma proximum</i> Schletterer, 1889	1	1				1
	<i>Coelioxys argentea</i> Lepeletier, 1841	4	4				4
	<i>Coelioxys rufescens</i> Lepeletier, 1825				2	2	2
	<i>Hoplitis (Megalosmia) fulva</i> (Eversmann, 1852)	1	1				1
	<i>Megachile (Chalicodoma) parietina</i> (Geoffroy, 1785) ssp. <i>nestorea</i> (Brulle, 1832)	1	1				1
	<i>Megachile</i> (s. str.) <i>centuncularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	1	1				1
	<i>Osmia (Chalcosmia) caerulescens</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	1	1				1
	<i>Osmia (Chalcosmia) leaiana</i> (Kirby, 1802)	1	1		1	1	2
	<i>Osmia</i> (s. str.) <i>rufa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	10	10	1	3	4	14
	<i>Stelis</i> (s. str.) <i>phaeoptera</i> (Kirby, 1802)	1	1				1
Chrysididae	<i>Chrysis chinensis</i> Mocsáry, 1912				1	1	1
Ichneumonidae	<i>Buathra evidens</i> (Kokujev, 1909)	1	1				1
	<i>Pimpla turionellae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)				1	1	1
Sphecidae	<i>Crossocerus (Blepharipus) megacephalus</i> (Rossi, 1790)	1	1				1
	<i>Ectemnius (Clytochrysus) lapidarius</i> (Panzer, 1804)	2	2				2
Vespidae	<i>Ancistrocerus antilope</i> (Panzer, 1798)	5	5	1	8	9	14
	<i>Antepipona orbitalis</i> (Herrich-Schöffer, 1839)				1	1	1
	<i>Dolichovespula</i> (s. str.) <i>sylvestris</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	2	2	1	1	2	4



<i>Eumenes mongolicus</i> F.Morawitz, 1889				1		1	1
<i>Polistes</i> (s. str.) <i>biglumis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)				3		3	3
<i>Polistes</i> (s. str.) <i>dominulus</i> (Christ, 1791)	2	2	1	4	5	7	
<i>Vespula</i> ( <i>Paravespula</i> ) <i>germanica</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	1	1	1	4	5	6	
<i>Vespula</i> ( <i>Paravespula</i> ) <i>rufa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	4	4	1	5	6	10	
Grand Total	11	160	171	252	229	481	652

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Appendix 4. Management practices targeted in home garden development initiative, Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan.

Management practice defined in context	Current practice in communities
<p><b>Pruning:</b> Removal of branches from fruit trees to encourage fruit set, air flow for disease prevention, and light penetration for fruit development in current year and for future yields</p>	<p>Not aggressive enough resulting in shading of developing fruits, breakage of branches when in fruit, and poor intercrop performance due to shading</p>
<p><b>Grafting:</b> Removing a branch or bud from a tree and introducing a branch (scion) or bud from a donor tree to refresh an older branch or replace the variety</p>	<p>Grafting widespread, but with limited success due to the removal of all branches leaving only the stump (shocking to the tree and no photosynthesis) and sealing cuts and grafts with manure and clay mixtures introducing diseases</p>
<p><b>Thinning:</b> Removal of young fruits from fruit trees, ideally one month following full bloom, to reduce insect infested and diseased apples, to grow fewer, but larger fruits, and to preserve trees' reserves for the formation of following year's fruit buds to prevent biennial bearing</p>	<p>Not widespread practice due to the reluctance of growers to remove fruits, and those that did practice, performed the practice later in the growing season and not aggressively enough to realize full benefits from the following year's yield</p>
<p><b>Organic fertilizers:</b> Manure (cow, sheep, goat, horse, and poultry) is the main organic fertilizer used to maintain soil fertility</p>	<p>Use is widespread but some issues were: (a) the use of fresh manure which can introduce harmful bacteria, weeds and scald vegetation and (b) over-use, which can lead to water contamination, over-growth of foliage and underdevelopment of fruit.</p>
<p><b>Compost:</b> Decomposed plant material and manure that can be used as an organic fertilizer.</p>	<p>Composting was not widespread. Organic matter wastes were either fed to animals or burned and ashes not returned to the garden.</p>
<p><b>Biological Insect Control:</b> The use of beneficial insects, primarily predatory wasps, or other home-brewed insect deterrents such as tobacco and garlic teas</p>	<p>Not widespread. There is a laboratory that raises predatory wasps that parasitize most fruit moth eggs, so this was the main focus of the development initiative due to their availability.</p>
<p><b>Saplings:</b> Planting new saplings to replace old trees or to establish new home gardens including spacing, site and planting hole preparation</p>	<p>Trees in gardens were older than productive life of 7-30 years and needed to be replaced (saplings) or refreshed (grafting and pruning)</p>

## VITA

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