

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia has given approval to the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation (MJP) to create 'Eco-Ranger Clubs' in four target schools in the district of Samlaut, Battambang province.

This book is part of the 'Eco-Ranger Club' initiative and will teach children about integrated pest management (IPM) in crops and the positive impact on the environment. IPM is aimed at reducing pesticide use, which will benefit the environment and human health. Children are very good at understanding environmental issues like this and take the messages home to their parents.

Further books in the series are planned to teach the environmental benefits of reduced cultivation and burning in crop production, and also the value of preserving wildlife that live around the village.

Stop the buying of illegal timber and wildlife. Help preserve Samlaut Protected Area for all generations.

Stephan Bognar, Executive Director MJP



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Jorani and the green vegetable bugs

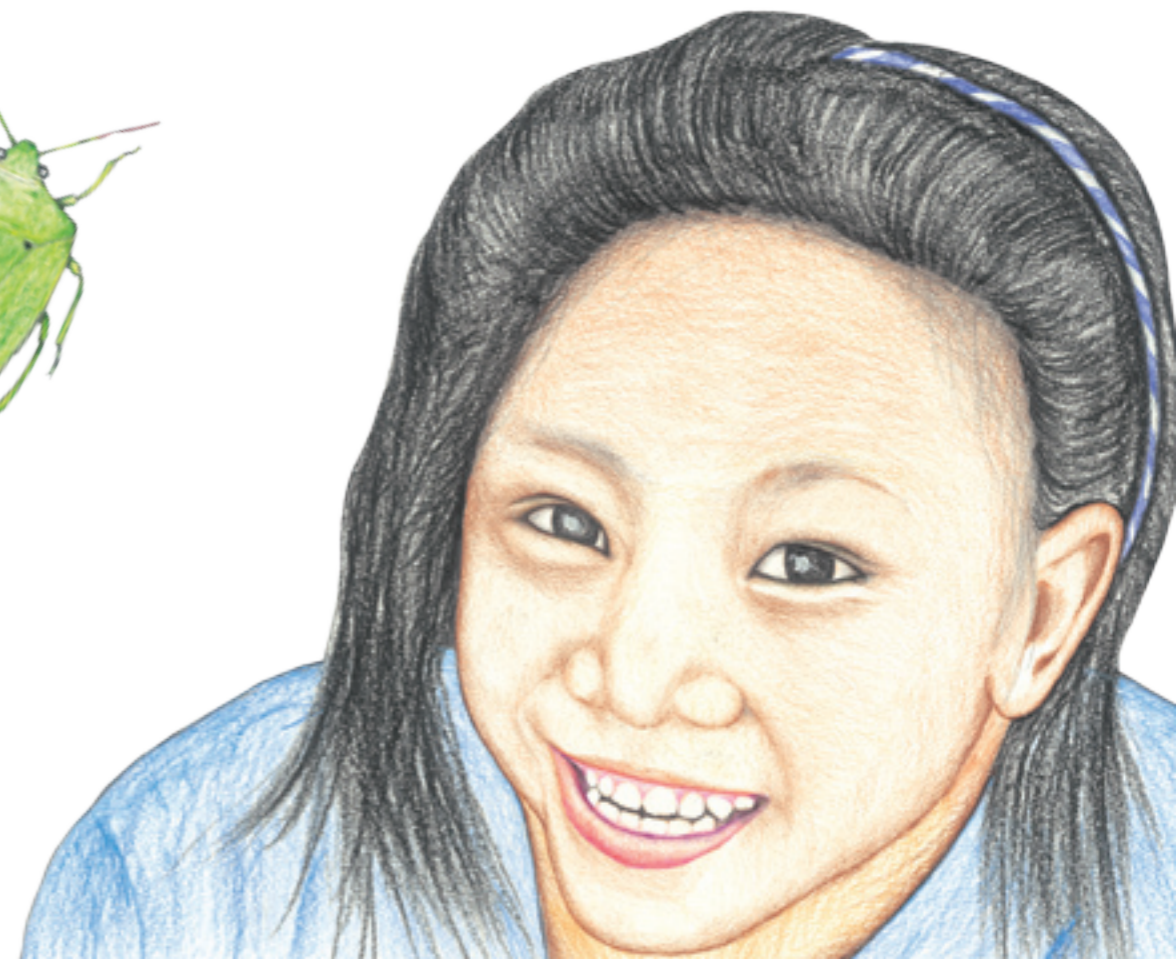


**Bob Martin
and
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Published by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

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Martin B. and White D. 2009. Jorani and the green vegetable bugs.
ACIAR Monograph No. 137, 48 pp.

ISBN 978 1 921531 51 4 (online)
ISBN 978 1 921531 04 0 (print)

Design by Cheryl Collins Design
Printing by Bluestar Print
Illustrations by Bob Martin



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2009

INTRODUCTION

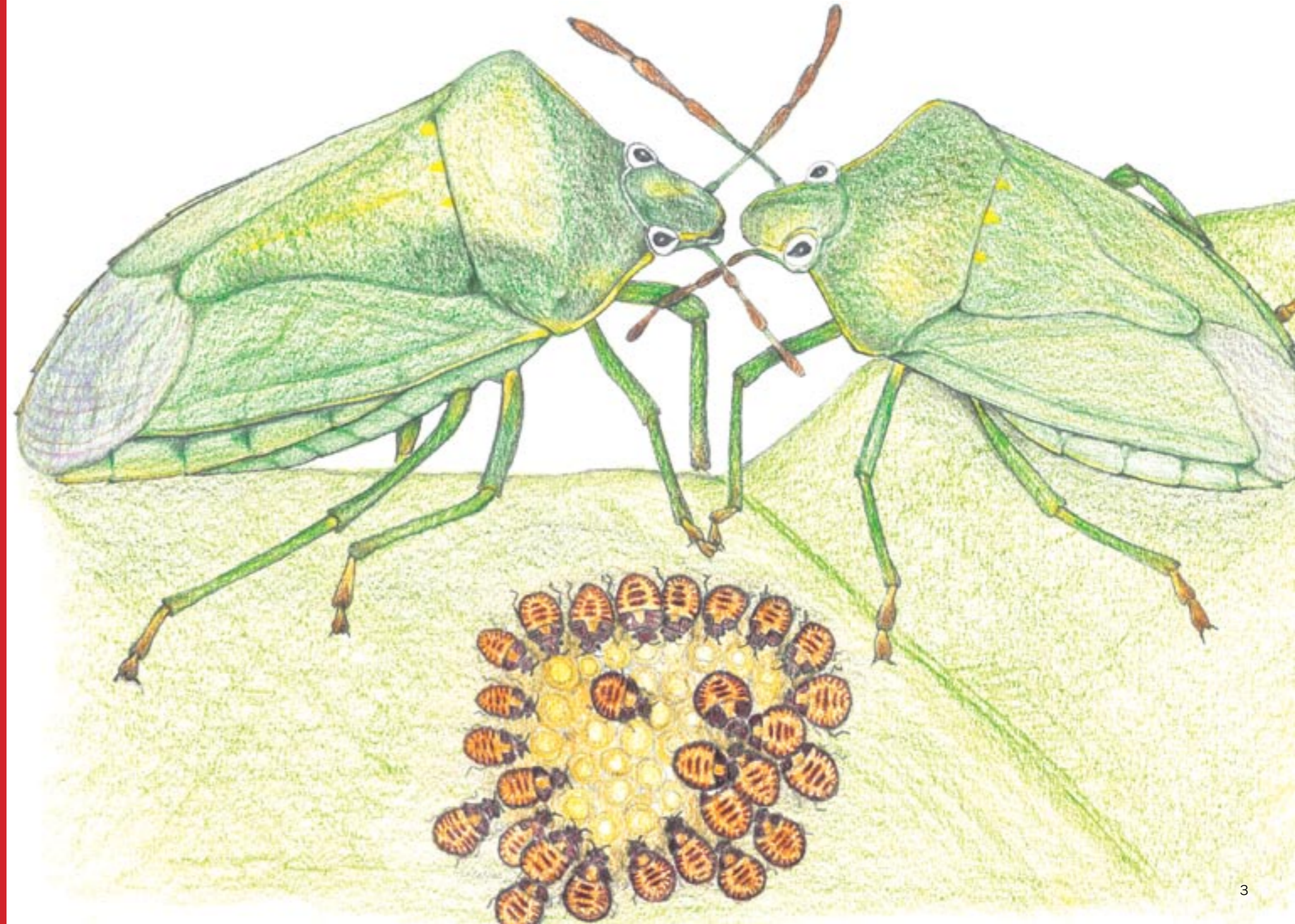
Many Cambodian farmers grow soybean crops. Problems occur when insect pests infest these crops. Among the worst pests are green vegetable bugs, which suck the sap from soybean pods.

Farmers often turn to pesticides, but they do not always use them safely because the labels are usually not written in the local language, Khmer. As a result, many farmers are unsure of how much chemical to use or how often they need to spray their crops. They also don't know what protective clothing to wear or what precautions to take to avoid contaminating themselves and the environment.

The problem is made worse because few farmers regularly tend their crops to check if the insects they can see are actually causing damage. Instead, they spray all insects. This can cause more harm than good if beneficial insects that eat crop pests are also killed.

This story, set in the village of Samlaut in north-western Cambodia, is about an alternative to excessive spraying of soybean and other crops. Called integrated pest management (IPM)*, it can reduce the need for pesticides to control insects in crops.

* See page 47 for more information on IPM.





'What have you found Sareth?' asked his older sister, Jorani.

Sareth showed Jorani and their friend Ratanak a little green bug he had found in their soybean crop. It was running around and around in a small plastic container. He held the container up so that everyone could get a good look.



'Ahh, this is a green vegetable bug!
I haven't seen many of these
since we changed the way we look
after our fields. Dad used to spray
to get rid of these bugs because
they would ruin our soybean crop
every year.'

'Does this mean our crop is going
to be ruined?'

