



REPORT

Virtual Meeting
7 July 2011

Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments July 2011



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Orientation Refresher for GoToTraining¹

Before beginning the meeting, the IPPC Secretariat gave a brief overview/refresher of the virtual meeting software connection program Go-To-Meeting (GTM) via the training tool GoToTraining and also noted the etiquette and ground rules for participants to follow during the meeting.

1.2 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat²

The IPPC Secretariat welcomed the participants to the meeting. In attendance were seven of the ten Panel members (Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)), the two IPPC Secretariat Leads for the Panel, and a Consultant for technical support. The other three panel members, including the steward, were unable to attend due to problems with the internet connection. The Secretariat will aim to resolve these technical issues before the next virtual meeting so that all members are able to participate.

The Secretariat noted the rational aim of the meeting was to have a discussion about whether to continue working on the sulfuryl flouride (SF) phytosanitary treatments and to make recommendations to the Standards Committee (SC) on how to move forward in view of recent evidence that SF is a potent Green House Gas (GWG).

The Panel reviewed the agenda (see appendix 1 to this report) and documents list (see appendix 2 to this report). The Panel added document 2011_TPPT_Jul_09 to the documents list and to agenda item 2.

1.3 Introductions³

The meeting participants introduced themselves and agreed to update their contact information on the IPP if necessary (see appendix 3 to this report).

2. FOCUSED CONVERSATION ON HUNT 2009 ARTICLE

The panel discussed whether to continue working on the sulfuryl flouride (SF) phytosanitary treatments⁴. The steward had recently found a news article⁵ (Hunt 2009) which stated that SF is potentially 4800 times more potent than CO₂ as a GHG. The panel is aware of the Global Warming (GW) potential of the SF molecule, but its overall contribution in the atmosphere to GW appears to be uncertain. And, given its low concentrations in the atmosphere relative to CO₂, its contribution to GW is small.

The panel did not find any articles challenging Hunt 2009, but noted that this is all new research. The panel reviewed Mühle et al. 2009⁶ and recognized that there are a number of uncertainties regarding the atmospheric fate of SF (particularly the rate at which the molecule is removed from, or drops out of, the atmosphere) which are still unresolved. These uncertainties will likely lead to further research and a re-evaluation of SF's atmospheric impact as a GHG.

¹ 2011_TPPT_Jul_04

² 2011_TPPT_Jul_01, 2011_TPPT_Jul_02

³ 2011_TPPT_Jul_03

⁴ Sulfuryl fluoride fumigation of wood packaging material (2007-101); Methyl isothiocyanate and sulfuryl fluoride (Ecotwin mixture) fumigation for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, Coleoptera: Cerambycidae, and Coleoptera: Scolytinae of wood packaging material (2007-102)

⁵ 2011_TPPT_Jul_05

⁶ 2011_TPPT_Jul_07

The TPPT noted that SF is approved by the European Community (via Dir 91/414 or its replacement) and a number of other countries, and continues to be manufactured. The TPPT intends, therefore, in the absence of a definitive consensus regarding the GW potential of this fumigant, to continue to evaluate (and assess) phytosanitary treatment submissions based on this active ingredient, on the basis that there is an urgent need for alternative treatments to methyl bromide.

The panel understood that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be evaluating the GHG potential of SF in 2012 and the TPPT will follow the lead provided by the IPCC (and any other relevant information which comes to light) in terms of future decisions it will make regarding SF.

The TPPT is also aware of the U.S. EPA's decision to commence a "phased-down withdrawal" of SF from use in "food storage and processing facilities" due to one of its breakdown products, fluoride, as a potential residue problem.

The panel concluded to continue the work on the two SF treatments until there is sound scientific evidence that addresses the uncertainties noted by the panel.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SC

The SC is invited to:

1. Recommend that the TPPT continue work on SF treatments until there is sound scientific evidence that addresses the uncertainties noted by the panel.
2. Request the IPPC Secretariat to send a letter to the IPCC and to the NPPOs of Germany and Japan (submitters of SF treatments) as notification that the TPPT is investigating the issue of concerns about SF and its atmospheric impacts.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The TPPT had no additional business to discuss at this meeting.

5. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FOR NEXT TPPT VIRTUAL MEETING

If approved by the SC, the IPPC Secretariat will send letters to the IPCC and NPPOs of Germany and Japan.

6. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The TPPT agreed the next virtual meeting will take place in August 2011. The IPPC Secretariat will select a date, but all members agreed to the time (12:00 to 14:00 Rome, Italy time) for that meeting.

The agenda items for the next TPPT virtual meeting will be the footnote for irradiation treatments in ISPM 28:2007, as the IPPC Secretariat received additional comments on the footnote during CPM-6 (2011). Also, the TPPT will review a draft of a TPPT guidance document on criteria used by the TPPT to evaluate different types of treatments (from summary reports).

The TPPT members will also adopt the July 2011 meeting report via email before the August 2011 meeting.

In evaluating the effectiveness of the virtual meeting, the TPPT in general were very positive about the experience. The communication was effective, the meeting ran more smoothly than expected, it was a good alternative to face-to-face meetings, and the panel was able to accomplish simple tasks from remote locations. However, the panel noted that virtual meetings may not be effective for complex tasks such as drafting a treatment. One panel member noted that the dynamics of a face-to-face meeting may allow a more thorough review, discussion and development of treatments and other

documents. The panel also noted that three members were not in attendance due to connection problems and that not all members who were able to connect could easily and significantly contribute to the discussion (i.e. were dependent only on the 'chat (text) feature' of GTM to engage). Another member also requested to have all the telephone connection information well in advance of the meeting and not just a few hours before. The IPPC Secretariat noted this and will make sure to provide this information at least three business days before the next meeting.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

2011 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL ON**PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS****7 July 2011****GoToTraining****AGENDA**

AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1. Opening of the meeting		
1.1 Orientation Refresher for GoToTraining	2011_TPPT_Jul_04	DUBON
1.2 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	2011_TPPT_Jul_01 2011_TPPT_Jul_02 2011_TPPT_Jul_03	ZETTLER
1.3 Introductions		ZETTLER
2. Focused Conversation on Hunt 2009 Article	2011_TPPT_Jul_05 2011_TPPT_Jul_06 2011_TPPT_Jul_07 2011_TPPT_Jul_08 2011_TPPT_Jul_09	ZETTLER
3. Recommendations to the SC		ZETTLER
4. Other business		ZETTLER
5. Follow-up Actions for next TPPT Virtual Meeting		ZETTLER
6. Close of the meeting		ZETTLER

Appendix 2 – Documents List

2011 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL ON**PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS****7 July 2011****GoToTraining****DOCUMENTS LIST**

DOCUMENT NUMBER	AGEND A ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY/PRESENTED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
2011_TPPT_Jul_01	01	Agenda	2011-07-02
2011_TPPT_Jul_02	01	Documents list	2011-07-02
2011_TPPT_Jul_03	01	Participants list	2011-07-02
2011_TPPT_Jul_04	01	Virtual meeting information	2011-07-02
2011_TPPT_Jul_05	02	Hunt 2009. New greenhouse gas discovered: Sulfuryl fluoride, 4800x worse than CO ₂	2011-06-28
2011_TPPT_Jul_06	02	Papadimitriou et al. 2009. Experimental and Theoretical Study of the Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Warming	2011-06-28
2011_TPPT_Jul_07	02	Muhle et al. 2009. Sulfuryl fluoride in the global atmosphere	2011-06-28
2011_TPPT_Jul_08	02	Sulbaek Andersen et al 2008. Atmospheric Chemistry of Sulfuryl Fluoride: Reaction with OH Radicals, Cl Atoms and O ₃ , Atmospheric Lifetime, IR Spectrum, and Global Warming Potential	2011-07-02
2011_TPPT_Jul_09	02	EFSA 2010. Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance sulfuryl fluoride	2011-07-07

Appendix 3 – Participants List

2011 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL ON**PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS****7 July 2011****GoToTraining****PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Participant role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address	Term expires
Member	Ms Alice BAXTER Assistant Director, Directorate Plant Health Department of Agriculture Private Bag X258 Pretoria 0001 SOUTH AFRICA Tel: +27 12 3196114	nppoza@daff.gov.za ; dph@daff.gov.za	2013 – 1st Term
Member	Mr Ray CANNON Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton York YO41 1LZ UNITED KINGDOM Tel: +44 (0)1904 462218	r.cannon@csl.gov.uk ;	2013 – 1st Term
Member	Mr Andrew JESSUP Senior Research Horticulturist NSW Department of Primary Industries Locked Bag 26, GOSFORD NSW 2250 AUSTRALIA Tel: +02 4348 1965	andrew.jessup@industry.nsw.gov.au ;	2014 – 1st Term
Member	Mr Mohammad Katbeh BADER Head of Phytosanitary Department Ministry of Agriculture P.O. Box 11732, Area code 662 Amman JORDAN Tel: +962 6 5686151 Mob: +962 6 79 5895691	katbehbader@moa.gov.jo ;	2013 – 1st Term

Participant role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address	Term expires
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Member	Mr Eduardo WILLINK Estación Experimental Agroindustrial Obispo Colombres, P.O.Box 9, Las Talitas (4101) Tucumán ARGENTINA Tel: +54 381-4276561 ext. 154	ewillink@eeaoc.org.ar ; ewillink@arnet.com.ar ;	2013 – 1st Term
Member	Mr Scott WOOD Center for Plant Health Science Technology Plant Protection and Quarantine Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service U.S. Department of Agriculture 1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 400 Raleigh, NC 27606-5202 USA Tel: +1 919 855 7451	Scott.Wood@aphis.usda.gov ;	2013 – 1st Term
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Larry ZETTLER 920 Rahn Station Rd Rincon, GA 31326 USA Tel: (1) 912 754 9907 Mob: (1) 912 547 9677	Larry.Zettler@fao.org ;	NA
IPPC Secretariat	Stephanie DUBON FAO Plant Protection Service (AGPP) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome ITALY Tel: +39 06 5705 3806	Stephanie.Dubon@fao.org ;	NA

Participant role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address	Term expires
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