

STIMBR PGP PROGRAMME

Quarterly Progress Report

September to December 2011

The Stakeholders In Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR) PGP programme is a multi-strand research programme that seeks to reduce methyl bromide to the atmosphere by 2020 and find alternative phytosanitary treatments. Work commenced in the following 5 areas:

1. Research to create efficacy data sets for alternatives to methyl bromide and to investigate in-transit monitoring of chemical fumigants
2. Investigate alternative fumigants (generally regarded as safe compounds)
3. Inform fumigation monitoring and modeling to provide assistance to fumigants and regulators
4. Investigate approaches to reduce methyl bromide emissions through destruction and/or recapture of methyl bromide so that it is not released to the atmosphere
5. Identify potential non chemical risk management strategies which can be used to reduce the need for fumigation.

Notable progress during the second quarter of 2011/12 was achieved with:

- The signing of the STIMBR PGP contract and the start of research programme. STIMBR and their science partners ensured that the PGP programme hit the ground running and that all achievement measures can be completed in the first financial year as planned.
- Work underway to test a new hypothesis for the destruction of methyl bromide. If successful this approach could provide a cost effective, residue free and sustainable method of removing the remaining methyl bromide at the end of fumigation. This would prevent methyl bromide being released to the atmosphere and allow users to meet the EPA's 2020 deadline that requires no methyl bromide is released to the atmosphere. (Objective 4)

