

STIMBR PGP PROGRAMME

Quarterly Progress Report April to June 2013

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

1. Research to create a set of phosphine efficacy data and to provide for in-transit monitoring of phosphine
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 fourth quarter was achieved with:

- Bench testing being completed of a number of new substrates for use in methyl bromide destruction. Four of nine substances will be subjected to further testing to establish whether these will be progressed beyond Q1 of 2013/14. (Objective 4)
- The completion of research into non chemical risk management strategies to reduce the need for fumigant use. Data from this work stream will potentially be used to inform future market access negotiations for improved access conditions into key markets. This work also identified other nonchemical approaches which with further work could inform the handling of exports. (Objective 5).
- All equipment being installed and the chemical obtained so that work can progress with preliminary testing of the fumigant EDN.(Objective 2)

