

STIMBR PGP PROGRAMME

Quarterly Progress Report

July to September 2012

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.

Notable progress during the first quarter of 2012/13 was achieved with:

- The development of an experimental matrix that will be used in all fumigant research to systematically produce consistent and comparable data sets was approved. The sequential testing regime progresses from dose-mortality testing with naked insects, followed by a series of other steps, and culminating in commercial-scale confirmatory tests. Problems with efficacy that occur during this sequential approach, regardless of cause, can be identified and hopefully corrected. This approach will be used for all research undertaken within this programme and for future fumigant research undertaken for the log industry (Objective 1 & 2)
- When completing a review (in Q3 of 2011/12), as part of the research programme, to support the case for rationalising methyl bromide rates, examination of the literature revealed that data supporting the treatment rates applied in New Zealand and elsewhere was scarce if not non-existent. Initial tests conducted during this quarter have indicated that methyl bromide rates may potentially be reduced by at least 40%. (Objective 4)

