

# REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE GLOBAL COLLABORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PESTICIDES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

# GCDPP

WHO/HQ, GENEVA  
24–25 APRIL 2008



**World Health  
Organization**

DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES  
WHO PESTICIDE EVALUATION SCHEME (WHOPES)



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The sixth meeting of the Global Collaboration for Development of Pesticides for Public Health (GCDPP) was held at the headquarters (HQ) of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland on 24–25 April 2008.

Dr Lorenzo Savioli, Director, Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), opened the meeting on behalf of Dr Hiroki Nakatani, Assistant Director-General of WHO HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases, noting the role of GCDPP as an advisory group to the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES). GCDPP gives advice, inter alia, on matters related to the development of insecticides and their safe, judicious and effective use in the field of public health. Participants were reminded the GCDPP meets every other year to discuss a main theme; this year the theme was pesticide registration, which required inter- and intra-sectoral collaboration. The wide representation at the meeting of different institutions, especially different associations of pesticide manufacturers, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was welcomed. The meeting was informed of the signing with FAO in March 2007 of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a joint programme on sound management of pesticides. The subject of the sixth GCDPP meeting was one of the tangible products of such collaboration.

Dr Savioli thanked the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMG) for its award to WHOPES to support capacity strengthening on sound management of public health pesticides, which has become a priority, particularly with the increased use of pesticides for vector-borne disease control in developing countries.

Dr Savioli invited the meeting to discuss the draft FAO/WHO guidelines on registration of pesticides and to advise WHO on the refinement of the guidelines so that they are pragmatic and useful for the main target groups (governments of Member

countries, particularly developing countries, and countries with economies in transition).

The meeting was convened in plenary sessions (Annex 1) and attended by 20 representatives of industry, 6 representatives of national and government-supported agencies, 1 representative from BMG; 5 representatives of regional and international organizations, 7 representatives of universities and research institutions and 7 temporary advisers as well as members of the WHO Secretariat (Annex 2). Mr Soo Hian Tan was appointed as Chairman and Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha and Mr Kevin Sweeney as rapporteurs.

## **2. SECRETARIAT REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS GCDPP MEETING**

Dr Morteza Zaim, Scientist in charge of WHOPES and Secretary of GCDPP, provided a brief report on activities carried out by the programme since the previous GCDPP meeting in September 2006 in as far as they relate to the two main objectives of the scheme, which are: (i) to facilitate the search for alternative pesticides and application technologies that are safe and cost-effective; and (ii) to develop and promote policies, standards and guidelines for safe and judicious application of pesticides and to assist and monitor their implementation by Member States.

Since the previous GCDPP meeting, WHOPES has tested and evaluated 10 pesticide products: three formulations of spinosad for mosquito larvicing; a product for indoor residual spraying (IRS); two products for long-lasting treatment of mosquito nets and for long-lasting insecticidal nets (LNs). The reports of WHOPES Working Group meetings provide critical reviews of existing literature as well as of studies organized and supervised by WHOPES. These reports are widely distributed among national control programmes, registration authorities and other stakeholders and are intended to facilitate the registration and use of such products by Member States.

Dr Zaim thanked the collaborating institutions, some of which were represented at the meeting, for their valuable support to the work of WHOPES in testing and evaluating public health pesticides in the past two years.

There are currently seven LNs under WHOPES testing and evaluation, four of which are new or improved formulations of existing products; the other three are undergoing large-scale testing and evaluation for the development of full WHO recommendations on their use. The list also includes a microencapsulated formulation of fenitrothion for IRS and a mosquito treatment kit undergoing large-scale testing and evaluation for full recommendations. In general, most insecticide products submitted to WHOPES for testing and evaluation in recent years have been for treatment of mosquito nets or factory treated nets. There has been a decline in the development of other insecticide products, especially for IRS. Use of DDT is increasing, and investment in development of alternative chemicals to replace this compound in IRS activities has been rather limited.

Development of quality standards for public health pesticides has constituted a major activity of WHO since 1953, when the first WHO specification for pesticides was published. Since the previous GCDPP meeting, 16 manufacturers have submitted data packaging and information on 21 products for development of WHO or joint FAO/WHO specifications. The submissions from generic manufacturers have been almost equal to those of the leading companies of CropLife International during the past seven years and since the establishment of the new procedure

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