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**REPORT OF THE FOURTH WHOPES WORKING
GROUP MEETING**

**WHO/HQ, GENEVA
4-5 DECEMBER 2000**

REVIEW OF :

**IR3535; KBR3023; (RS)-METHOPRENE 20% EC,
PYRIPROXYFEN 0.5% GR; AND
LAMBDA-CYHALOTHRIN 2.5% CS**



**World Health Organization
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1. INTRODUCTION

The 4th WHOPES Working Group Meeting, the scientific committee to assist the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) in the review of the reports of testing/evaluation of pesticides in the Scheme, was held in WHO/HQ, Geneva, 4 to 5 December 2000.

The meeting was opened by Dr Lorenzo Savioli, Coordinator, Strategy Development and Monitoring for Parasitic Diseases and Vector Control (PVC). Dr Savioli briefly introduced the structure of the Programme on Communicable Disease Prevention, Eradication and Control (CPE) and that of PVC at the WHO headquarters. He highlighted that prevention through vector control is an integral part of vector-borne disease management and noted the renewed interest in vector control at global level. He informed the participants of the PVC's plans to hold a meeting with WHO Regional Offices in the near future, to revisit the strategic framework for the vector control related activities of the CPE.

Dr Morteza Zaim, Scientist in charge of WHOPES recalled that the first, second and third meetings of WHOPES Working Group have been held in 1997, 98 and 1999, and their reports have been issued as WHO documents and widely distributed. He informed that the present meeting was convened to review the reports of the testing and evaluation of two insect repellents, KBR 3023 (Bayer AG, Germany), IR3535 (Merck, Germany), two insect growth regulators (IGRs) for mosquito larval control, (RS)-methoprene 20% emulsifiable concentrate (EC) (Babolna Bioenvironmental Centre, Hungary), pyriproxyfen 0.5% granule (GR) (Sumitomo Chemical, Japan), as well as lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5% capsule suspension (CS) (Zeneca, UK).

Dr Zaim provided an overview of the Scheme and informed the participants of the role of WHOPES in collection, consolidation and dissemination of information on the use of pesticides for public health. He noted that the recommendations of WHOPES are expected to expedite the registration of pesticides by the Member States. National authorities are encouraged to minimize requirements for local testing of products that have given satisfactory results of trials for similar circumstances. However, Dr Zaim noted that the **WHOPES recommendations are based on the review of the data and information of the products of the above-mentioned manufacturers and do not necessarily apply to nominally similar products of other manufacturer(s), nor to those where the active ingredient is produced by other methods of synthesis.**

Dr Zaim also noted the close collaboration of the Scheme with the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS). Normally WHOPES field studies are carried out only when the human and environment safety of the product has been assessed by IPCS.

Dr Zaim also informed the participants of the meeting of the recent initiative of the Scheme, relating to alternative mechanisms to accelerate the discovery and development of public health pesticides. He briefed the participants on the meeting held in WHO/HQ, Geneva, 18 October 2000, with major manufacturers of public health pesticides and representatives of Malaria Consortium, USNIAID, the Wellcome Trust, the World Bank, in which the great significance of vector-borne diseases and constraints on their control by current methodologies were discussed. The meeting reviewed the future requirements for public health pesticides and unanimously recognized the urgent need to pursue development of alternative pesticide products for vector control, especially as it relates to malaria (treatment of mosquito nets and indoor residual spraying) and dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever (larviciding and adulticiding). The meeting emphasized

the unique role of WHOPES in coordinating activities related to development of alternative pesticide products for public health and recommended that WHO should visit and discuss with manufacturers of vector control products, under appropriate confidentiality agreements, potential new technologies and compounds for vector control. The meeting requested WHOPES to produce an inventory of potential compounds and technologies available for development and a range of actions for collaborative activities. The report of the meeting is available on WHO homepage on the Internet at >www.who.int/ctd/whopes<.

Once a product is found to meet the requirements of the Scheme, specifications are prepared and published. The specifications include a description of the pesticide concerned and the formulations suitable for use in public health, together with sections concerning their physical and chemical characteristics. If necessary, the maximum contents of impurities are also included in the specifications. Methods for measuring the characteristics of the products are also described. The specifications are part of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and are used in international trade and for quality control.

Dr Zaim informed the Group that a memorandum of understanding has been prepared with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to establish a Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications, by which joint FAO-WHO specifications will be developed for technical materials and technical concentrates. Following this new initiative, the WHO specifications for public health pesticides developed do not necessarily apply to nominally similar products of other manufacturers and WHOPES may extend the scope of the specifications to notionally similar products, if it has been satisfied that the additional products are equivalent to those which formed the basis of the evaluation and reference specification.

The meeting was attended by 8 scientists (see list of participants, Annex 2). Professor Arshad Ali, was appointed as Chairman, and Dr Carlo Costantini, as Rapporteur. The meeting was convened in plenary sessions for comprehensive discussion on aspects relating to the public health use of the above-mentioned products and divided into three small working groups to consider the results of the testing and evaluation of different products in detail. The reports of the safety assessments of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), WHOPES supervised trials and relevant published literature, as well as the reports submitted by the national disease and vector control programmes (see bibliography, Annex 1) were fully discussed and recommendations on the use of the above-mentioned products were made.

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