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Regional workshop on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide Amman-Jordan

Date: 15-17 January 2002.

Place: Marriott Hotel.

A regional workshop was held in Jordan from 15-17 January 2002.

The workshop was opening on Monday evening 14/1/2002, by the patronage of UNIDO representative (**Si Ahmed Sidi Mend**), General Director of NCARTT (**Dr. A.Fardous**) & General Director of GCEP (**Eng. Faris Al-Junidi**).

GCEP, NCARTT, UNIDO & MOA were sharing with delegations from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey in order to exchange our experiences in the field of Methyl Bromide project due to its negative effects on ozone layer and environmental situation.

***Tuesday 15 January 2002(Day 1):**

- Overview of the MeBr projects at UNIDO, Si Ahmed mention about demonstration projects, the most suitable technology and the cost differential in a given environment and in a particular country.
- An overview of the MeBr alternative project in Jordan which was discussed by Dr.Majid Fandi, he mentioned that Jordan Consumption of MeBr is about (350 tons/year), and the way finding methods to phase-out MeBr by the year 2005. Through the demonstration project the results showed that the soil steaming and biofumigation alternatives had a positive effect on reducing soil pathogens, but still they are below the effect of methyl bromide.

Soilless culture, however, may produce higher yield, but the developed system requires more experience to be applied.

- **Turkey**, they presented paper about alternatives to the use of MeBr as soil Fumigant in Protected Horticulture (Tomatoes & Cucumbers) and Ornamental (Carnations) Crops, they emphasized that the results of alternatives to the use of MeBr was better than the MeBr application in term of both technical and economic aspect.

They decided to phase out MeBr by year 2008.

- **Egypt**, they presented a report included a study of investigation and classification the quantitative extent of MeBr use in Egypt and to review the currently and possible MeBr alternatives suitable for implementation in Egypt that will enable Egypt to formulate investment projects for MeBr alternatives in the soil and post harvest treatment sectors.
- **Lebanon**, Dr. Mohamad Qubara presented a paper about the distribution of the demonstration sites and suitable chemical & non chemical alternatives to MeBr depending on local market (economical benefit) and its effect on soil born disease.
- **Syria**, Dr. Majd Jamal's study was about MeBr alternatives in plastic Tunnels in Syria (vegetable, cut flower), they found that single alternative is not valued to replace MeBr in all uses and situations. The alternatives adopted shall be included to be a part of IPM program.
- **In afternoon session, Dr. Majid** discuss the soil solarization in details (inputs, benefits, costs, disadvantages, time, etc....).
- **Eng. Moh'd Qasim (NCARTT)** talked about phasing-out of MeBr in Jordan(the aim of the project, alternatives that applied in Jordan, its results) also gave general remarks that should be taken in consideration.
- **Finally Eng. Suhair Abu Taleb** talked about the role of rural woman and Gendar in the Phase-Out of the use of MeBr in Jordan Valley.

***Wednesday 16 January 2002(Day 2):**

field visit was conducted to private farms using MeBr alternatives in Jordan Valley and to Sharhabil Agricultural station.

***Thursday 17 January 2002(Day 3):**

- A T.V. film has been shown by the Syria participants including the definition of alternatives used in Syria, other movie was shown about ozone layer depletion substances.
- Finally, a debate - with the presence of **Eng. Ghazi Odat (Head of Ozone Unit) & Dr.Majid Fundi (NCARTT)**— between technicians of the projects and participants was held that led to the following recommendations:

□ **Recommendations:**

- All of countries didn't decide when they can phase-out of MeBr but they are trying to phase-out it before 2015 for the demand of the universal market.
- Every country has its own condition and these depend directly to the farmers themselves to decide which alternatives is more suitable for them.
- Supporting the farmers union and exchange the experiences with private sectors.
- Planning to held other workshop for the next year in order to transfer such technologic.