

ANNEX VI

INTERIM GUIDELINES ON METHYL BROMIDE PROJECTS

1. Initial work in Article 5 countries should begin with a small number of demonstration projects. The report of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) identifies the alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and techniques (including integrated pest management) which may be useful without significant further research. It is suggested that the initial demonstration projects be limited to these and also to the short-term research priorities in the report.

2. Demonstrations should begin by identifying all the promising alternatives for a specific target crop or use in a specific region, consistent with the recommendations of the MBTOC report. Alternatives should include those that have been considered for adoption in the region, and the promising alternatives being used in similar situations in other countries. In the controlled setting, most likely an existing respected agricultural research and demonstration facility, these alternatives could be adapted to local conditions, applied, and evaluated. In order to produce results which might lead to widespread adoption of alternatives which prove successful, these demonstrations should be on plots sufficiently large to employ locally-used practices and equipment, while small enough to allow evaluation of a number of different alternatives. To the extent not redundant with other already proven technologies, testing of alternatives for stored commodities would also be eligible.

3. For crops, in a subsequent crop cycle, one or two of the most successful alternatives could be applied in nearby working farm settings where methyl bromide is currently being used. These applications would be relatively small, with the aim of demonstrating the effectiveness and efficiency of the alternative(s) in a commercial agricultural production setting.

4. Initial demonstration projects should focus on the widespread crop uses, to ensure the widest possible relevance of the results. In order to ensure this, it is suggested that initial projects should be limited to Article 5 countries which have important crops for which substantial amounts of methyl bromide are used for soil fumigation, and in countries and on important crops where the use of methyl bromide for soil fumigation is growing rapidly. It is hoped that by focusing in on crops on which the use of methyl bromide is widespread, that the results would be applicable to a large number of countries.

Incremental Cost

5. In the initial phase of projects of the type being proposed, crops would be raised for the purposes of adapting and evaluating alternatives, and would not produce crops of commercial value. In the second phase of such projects, likely savings from the use of alternatives are likely to be insignificant because of the scale of the demonstrations. Moreover, while it is expected that suppliers of alternatives may in some cases provide the alternatives at reduced or zero cost, the

extent of such contributions cannot be known at this time. For these reasons, it is proposed that for an initial round of projects, incremental cost be considered as being equal to full project cost. The initial projects would be expected to produce highly useful information to help determine incremental cost for subsequent methyl bromide projects.

6. The Executive Committee should allocate a total of US \$100,000 of project preparation funds to the implementing agencies for their 1997 work programme, and requests that they come forward with a initial coordinated group of projects that ensures work in each region, and does not exceed US \$2-3 million, for consideration by the Executive Committee in the context of the upcoming work programme. These interim guidelines should be reviewed at the Twenty-second Meeting of the Executive Committee.