

50 years

WHO PESTICIDE EVALUATION SCHEME
50 YEARS OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



World Health
Organization

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50 WHOOPES

anniversary
50 YEARS OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

WHOPES

FOREWORD

By Lorenzo Savioli

Renewed interest by the international community and Member States in control of malaria vectors and the emergence of vector-borne diseases as a consequence of ecological changes and natural disasters in recent years have significantly increased the use of pesticides for vector control and personal protection. This in turn has further increased the role and responsibilities sought from the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) in supporting national programmes and other stakeholders in the selection and safe and judicious use of public health pesticides.

The limited capacity of countries where vector-borne disease are endemic to carry out safety and efficacy assessments of public health pesticides, from one side, and the time- and cost-saving investment seen by pesticide industry in using WHOPES recommendations and quality standards to facilitate registration and use of these products in disease endemic countries, has made WHOPES a global leader in standard setting and evaluation of public health pesticides.

Established in 1960 with the approval of the World Health Assembly, the Scheme has evolved during the past 50 years to better respond to the needs of Member States and other stakeholders. The reorganization of the Scheme in 1996 and its evolution since then have included improved communication, greater transparency, intensified collaboration with stakeholders and intensified support to countries.

The establishment with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of joint programmes on development of pesticide specifications (in 2001) and on sound management of pesticides (in 2007) are key strategic actions of the Scheme that have resulted in complementary, harmonized and coordinated guidance to Member States and other stakeholders in these areas. It is hoped that this collaboration will stimulate and ensure collaboration between agriculture and health sectors at national level to ensure optimized use of national resources for sound

management of pesticides. There is immense scope for further collaboration with other sectors, including the environment, industry and nongovernmental organizations.

Strengthening capacity of Member States for judicious use of public health pesticides and their life-cycle management, and increased harmonization of registration procedures and requirements as well as information exchange and work-sharing are priorities on the WHOPES agenda. This agenda includes capacity strengthening for monitoring and evaluation of vector and public health pest control operations based on principles of integrated vector management.

The Global Collaboration for Development of Pesticides for Public Health has provided a forum for coordination and collaboration among different partners and stakeholders, which has to be further expanded and strengthened.



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