

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
GLOBAL COLLABORATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF PESTICIDES
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

GCDPP

WHO/HQ, GENEVA
25–26 SEPTEMBER 2006



**World Health
Organization**

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25–26 September 2006**



Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases
WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES)

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Contents

		Page
1	Introduction	1
2	Secretariat report on developments since the previous GCDPP meeting	2
3	The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides – A framework for management of pesticides and future challenges	8
	3.1 Discussion	10
4	International initiatives on chemicals, and opportunities for creating synergies and coherence among sectors concerned with the sound management of pesticides	11
	4.1 Discussion	14
5	Country perspectives on management of public health pesticides	15
	5.1 Discussion	28
6	Stewardship and public health pesticides – Priority actions to support Member States on sound management of public health pesticides	30
	6.1 Discussion	31

7	Status report on current initiatives in developing alternative insecticides for public health use	32
7.1	Discussion	34
8	Conclusions and recommendations	37
Annex 1	Agenda	42
Annex 2	List of participants	46

1 Introduction

The fifth meeting of the Global Collaboration for Development of Pesticides for Public Health (GCDPP) was held at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25–26 September 2006.

Dr David Heymann, Acting Assistant Director-General of WHO Communicable Diseases (CDS) and Representative of the Director-General for Polio Eradication, opened the meeting, noting the role of GCDPP as a consultative group to the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) that gives advice, *inter alia*, on matters related to the development of insecticides and their safe and effective use in the field of public health. He welcomed the wide representation at the meeting of different institutions, especially industry.

The use of insecticides worldwide has increased significantly in recent years and rates of pesticide poisoning, either accidental or deliberate, are high, especially in developing countries. Given the growing interest in food safety and the recent discussions on the use of DDT in malaria vector control, the meeting at WHO was timely.

One of the major challenges facing the developing world is the lack of effective national regulatory frameworks and human and financial capacity to regulate the availability, sale and use of pesticides. This poor regulatory environment fosters the excessive and unsafe use of pesticides, leading to pollutants in food, drinking-water and the environment. Pesticide management has been identified as a priority activity for WHO, which is seeking ways to further strengthen its collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to better support Member States in this important issue.

Dr Heymann invited the meeting to provide its advice to WHOPES on key strategies and activities to support Member States in the sound management of public health pesticides, as

well as providing their recommendations on international tools, resources and opportunities that can be used for this purpose.

Dr Lorenzo Savioli, Director of the WHO Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), informed the meeting of the changes within CDS since the previous GCDPP meeting and of the establishment of a separate unit, Vector Ecology and Management (VEM), reflecting the priority that the Organization has given to this cross-cutting programme.

The meeting was convened in plenary sessions (see Annex 1) and was attended by 10 representatives of industry, four representatives of national and government-supported agencies, one representative from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, six representatives of regional and international organizations, six representatives of universities and research institutions, eight temporary advisers, as well as members of the WHO Secretariat (see Annex 2). Dr Mir Mulla was appointed as Chairman, Dr A. Adalla as Vice-Chair, and Dr Michael Macdonald and Mr Gamini Manuweera as rapporteurs.

2 Secretariat report on developments since the previous GCDPP meeting

Dr Morteza Zaim, Scientist in charge of WHOPES and Secretary of the GCDPP, provided a brief report on activities carried out by the programme since the previous meeting of the GCDPP in June 2004, in as far as they relate to the two main objectives of WHOPES. These 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, strategies and guidelines for the safe and effective use of pesticides in public health, and assist and monitor their implementation by Member States.

WHOPES, a programme established by WHO in 1960, functions in close collaboration with national disease control programmes, registration authorities, industry and research institutions, as well as other WHO programmes, notably the Programme on Chemical Safety (PCS) and the Global Malaria Programme (GMP). WHOPES is a four-phase testing and

evaluation programme that assesses the safety, efficacy and operational acceptability of pesticide products for use in public health. It is supported by two panels of experts and advisory committees: the WHOPES Working Group, which meets once a year to review the result of efficacy trials, and the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS), which also meets once a year, in June, to develop pesticide specifications.

Since the previous GCDPP meeting, WHOPES has completed the testing and evaluation of six pesticide products: four mosquito larvicides and two products for space spraying. The reports of the WHOPES Working Group Meetings have been widely distributed among registration authorities and national disease control programmes, as well as industry. These reports contain a critical review of the existing literature as well as studies carried out by WHOPES, providing justification for WHO recommendations and facilitating the registration and use of such products by national authorities.

WHO has given high priority in the past couple of years to the development of alternative products and technologies. In collaboration with the GMP, WHOPES has held numerous meetings with industry on development of new compounds, optimization of existing tools and creation of new application technologies. The result of this effort is that WHOPES is busier than ever, and the total number of products in the pipeline includes eight long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LNs), two insecticide kits for long-lasting treatment of mosquito nets, five products for mosquito larviciding, one product for space spraying and two products for indoor residual spraying. It is therefore urgent that the Scheme expands its network of collaborating centres for the field testing and evaluation of pesticide products, and GCDPP guidance is sought on this matter.

Since 2002, WHO and FAO have established a joint panel of experts and have harmonized their procedures and requirements for development of pesticide specifications. The

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