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**Report of the Second Meeting
Of the Global Collaboration for
Development of Pesticides for Public Health
(GCDPP)**

WHO/HQ, Geneva
6-7 April 2000

World Health Organization
Communicable Disease Control, Prevention and
Eradication
WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The second meeting of the Global Collaboration for Development of Pesticides for Public Health (GCDPP) was held at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva, 6 –7 April 2000. The report of the first meeting (document CTD/WHOPES/GCDPP/98.1) held 14-15 October 1998 at WHO/HQ, Geneva, is available from the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) and on the internet at www.who.ch/ctd/whopes.

The GCDPP represents a unique collaboration of the commercial and public sectors brought together under the auspices of WHOPES to address the increasing challenges of vector-borne disease control. This second meeting of the GCDPP included commercial sector representatives from the major manufacturers of pesticides and application equipment, as well as marketers of consumer household insect control products (13). From the public sector, the participants included representatives from academic research institutions (7), national and government supported agencies (9), regional and international organizations (4) concerned with vector-borne disease control programmes and the rational use of pesticides. Three WHO Regional Offices were also represented at the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Dr. David Heymann, Executive Director, Communicable Diseases (CDS), who highlighted that while prevention through vector control is an integral part of disease management, some of the traditional tools may become unavailable or ineffective and more options are needed. While there is a phase out of some important pesticides, there are few replacements in development. Moreover, some new pesticides reach pre-registration phase but never make it to registration. Dr. Heymann stressed that this GCDPP meeting facilitates the

vital process of bringing together the public and private sectors in order to develop and make more accessible tools for vector control

Dr. Maria Neira, Director, Communicable Disease Control, Prevention and Eradication (CPE), stressed the importance of GCDPP being a mix of representatives from different sectors and their very large responsibility, in particular with malaria control. The meeting has a crucial role to identify specific areas of collaboration in the development and safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Dr. Lorenzo Savioli, Coordinator, Strategy Development and Monitoring for Parasitic Diseases and Vector Control (PVC) pointed out that vector-borne diseases are still major public health problems worldwide. Malaria, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, dengue, Chagas Disease and African trypanosomiasis affect health and well being of millions of people, in many countries. He also discussed collaboration, public-private partnerships and the importance of this meeting.

Dr Savioli noted that there is a dearth of available tools for vector control. The recent malaria upsurge in South Africa where the programme reverted to DDT due to vector resistance to pyrethroid insecticides is an example. On the one hand WHO does not want to lose tools just for the sake of change, but on the other we should not misuse the tools we have right now.

We must see the meeting in context. WHO has renewed strength and commitment to vector control. In the 1950's and 1960's, chemical control had been the focus. Later interest shifted to genetic approaches and now to molecular. But, to be realistic, one is forced back to pesticides. WHO must provide

advice and act as a think tank for vector control, to provide guidance on priorities and to give advice to research institutions.

Time is running out for dealing with many crucial issues in vector control. Coupled with emerging resistance and the phase out of important pesticides, there is a crisis in medical entomology training and a huge gap in experienced, high quality vector control specialists. Our pool of human resources is dwindling rapidly.

In summary, during the opening addresses, a number of key issues pertaining to the judicious use and availability of insecticides were raised, issues pertinent to the future success of vector-borne disease control and the discussions of the meeting. These included:

- Chemical control still constitutes the most important element in the integrated approach to vector control.
- The arsenal of cost-effective insecticides for vector control is depleting. This is mainly due to resistance of major vectors and pests of public health importance to insecticides; abandonment of certain insecticides for reasons of safety or withdrawal by industry at the time of re-registration of the product; and the shortage (low number) of new compounds under development for vector control.
- Decentralisation of health services is posing new challenges in organization and functioning of vector control operations, including the selection, purchase, procurement and use of insecticides, as well as monitoring of insecticide uses.

The following questions were raised:

- Are the existing strategies and tools adequate to control the major vector-borne diseases?
- The international community has agreed to phase out DDT. Do we have cost-effective alternatives for malaria vector control? Can we replace DDT with other insecticides, but use them more judiciously to cut the overall cost without reducing effectiveness of the programmes? Are there good examples of the latter?
- Is there a need to review and document the cost-effectiveness of vector control interventions?
- Where do we stand with integrated vector control and integrated vector management? Is there a need to develop practical guidelines for programme managers to be able to plan, implement and evaluate integrated vector management activities?
- Do we have the trained professionals at country level and in positions where they should plan and implement integrated vector management activities?
- How should we promote adoption of multisectoral approach for decision-making on pesticide management at national level?
- How should we ensure the availability of quality insecticide products?
- Community participation in vector control has to be

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