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**Global Alliance for the development and  
deployment of alternatives to DDT  
for diseases vector control**

**First meeting of the core-team**  
Geneva, 04<sup>th</sup> -05<sup>th</sup> November 2010

# **Plan of action for the Thematic Group on Reducing Barriers for Bringing New Nonchemical methods into use**

Stockholm Convention Secretariat

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## Background

The scope of science for non-chemical products and approaches is very wide. The urgency to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT is not only driven by the need to reduce reliance on DDT in the context of the Stockholm Convention but also has to be considered in the context of short term and long term approaches to malaria vector control, e.g. to mitigate the problem of insecticide resistance. Many non-chemical approaches for controlling the malaria vector can be considered as medium to long-term solutions that will be added to the mix of interventions toward reducing the reliance on DDT but their implementation requires the participation of sectors beyond health and community groups.

Approaches based on environmental management include elimination of breeding grounds, manipulation of vector natural habitat, irrigation management, and house improvement. Other non-chemical-based alternatives include predation, microbial larvicides, fungi, genetic methods, botanicals and zoophylaxis. Apart from the conventional tools of vector control, efforts should be made to identify and promote possible non-chemical vector control tools used within the communities inherited from the traditional practices.

The fact that vector control interventions can often be combined for greater efficiency adds to the complexity of looking at alternatives to DDT. Some alternatives require substantial knowledge in order to be adapted to the local situation. While cases of successful implementation exist, some of these interventions are not always factored into the overall preventive interventions plan due to insufficient availability of information and the difficulty of assessing their potential impact on a large scale.. The promotion of the development and deployment of non-chemical products and methods should be conducted in the context of an integrated vector management approach, based on an understanding of the local environment to ensure sound decision-making on implementation.

## Vision

To contribute to the control of vector transmitted diseases through environmental friendly interventions with free of adverse effects of persistent organic pesticides on humans.

## Mission

To identify and reduce barriers to the use of new non chemical products and approaches in a socially acceptable and sustainable manner, bringing scientists, national programme managers, field workers and communities together to generate evidence for the formulation of policies and their implementation.

## Objectives

The scope of the initial activities of this thematic group is limited to promoting non-chemical alternative products and approaches to DDT with the following objectives.

- Bringing key players to one forum;
- Collect information on and details about available evidence on non-chemical interventions;
- Establish a database on non-chemical alternatives including success stories;
- Validation of vector control efficacy and effectiveness;
- Sharing information, resources and experiences between key players;

## Activities

The following activities have been proposed in the short and medium term:

- Establish a web-based mechanism for the development of a database of nonchemical options and to facilitate proper validation of effectiveness, where applicable (**March 2011**);
- Critical review of available evidence on non-chemical methods, barriers to implementation and possible solutions

- Develop advocacy and guidance materials based on a field study to identify key barriers and opportunities for promotion of nonchemical alternatives (**2012**);
- Implement demonstration projects of nonchemical options within Integrated Vector Management in malaria disease vector control initiatives towards promotion and generation of evidence(**2014-2015**);
- Awareness raising and advocacy (**2013-2015**)

## Outputs

Major outputs of the proposed programme includes;

- Current information on Non-chemical alternatives to DDT compiled;
- Supporting documents and information for the implementation of activities to address the gaps are developed;
- Non-chemical tools are promoted in vector control interventions by the disease endemic countries.
- Information is made accessible to all interested entities;
- Coordination between individual initiatives is improved.

## Target group

The activities will target national programme managers of public health vector control in disease endemic countries, Non-Governmental Organizations, research, industry and Inter Governmental Organizations.

## Approach

The approach focuses on building-up the ownership of the programme by all stakeholders and their full participation

- The Stockholm Convention social network is used for the establishment of the database and invite core-team members to populate and manage;
- The above social network will be used to promote interest among the stakeholder groups and to facilitate development of alternatives;
- The information sources such as booklet and meeting and project documents recently produced on alternatives to DDT by various interest groups and experts will be used as a basis for the preliminary survey. The alternative products will include botanicals and other categories of non-chemical products that have been produced and those products that have gone through testing, registration etc. This may provide immediate action items that could help the thematic group to move forward in terms of availability of data and marketability.
- Feeding the above survey data and meeting out come to the GA website to share with the Global community including local vector control programme managers;

## Timing and budget

Estimated cost for 2011/2012 amounts to USD 23,000.00 for the activities identified in the Table1.

Table1: Estimated costs for the implementation of activities of the initial phase of the plan of action for the thematic group on Reducing Barriers for Bringing New Nonchemical methods into use

Activity	Estimated budget (USD) 2012
Study to identify key barriers and opportunities for promotion of nonchemical alternatives	15,000.00
Development of advocacy and guidance material	8,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,000.00</b>

## Costs to be funded

To be decided