



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA.

Ref No. FMENV/PCEH/CM/SC/REPORTING/17/I.....

Date 15th October, 2012.....

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Attention: Exemptions
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219, Chatelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland.

RE: REQUEST ON INFORMATION ON THE USE OF LINDANE

With reference to Decisions SC-5/8 on notifications of registration for specific exemptions, I have the honour to forward to you information on status of lindane application in Nigeria as outlined below:-

Pharmaceutical Alternatives to Lindane

2. There are concerted efforts to discourage the illicit use of lindane as a second-line treatment for lice and scabies due to increasing resistance, lack of efficacy, and its toxic effects on patients. Consequently, the following alternative treatment protocols are being promoted for the control of lice and scabies:

Treatment of Lice:

- The use of 4% dimethicone lotion. Dimethicone lotion has been shown to be more effective than malathion and permethrin treatments (Burgess, et. al 2005).
- Mechanical removal of lice using wet combing method.
- Application of hot air which is an effective and safe treatment for lice and unlikely to evolve resistance.

Treatment of Scabies:

In separate clinical trials in **Nigeria**, extracts of essential oils from Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and Bush Tea (*Lippia multiflora*) resulted in about 97% cure rate of scabies patients with no adverse reactions (IPEN, 2009).

Alternatives to Lindane in Agriculture

3. In Nigeria, the use of lindane as a pesticide to reduce damage to economic crops, e.g. cocoa, is becoming outmoded given a wide range of non-insecticidal methods and POPs-free alternatives as outlined below:

Non-insecticidal alternatives:

- Crop rotation where a non-host species is planted to reduce the damage of infestation and maintain low levels of pests;
- Fallowing the area for a few years before planting to starve the pests;
- Balanced fertility levels to ensure that plants are not predisposed to disease;
- Use of more competitive crop varieties to limit losses from these pests, among others.

Non-POPs Alternatives to Lindane use in Agriculture:

Adoption of safer alternatives like imidicloprid and thiamethoxam which are neonicotinoid insecticides found to be less toxic than organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. There is no documented evidence of potential POPs characteristics of the two products.

4. In light of the foregoing, I am directed to withdraw Nigeria's initial notification of registration of lindane for specific exemption.
5. I am also to restate the commitment of Nigerian Government to the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the environment as obligated under the Stockholm Convention.
6. Please accept the assurances of the Honourable Minister's highest regards.


Mrs. O. O. Babade
for: Honourable Minister