

UPDATE NON CHEMICAL VECTOR CONTROL THEMATIC GROUP:

The Thematic Groups established under the Global Alliance for alternatives to DDT work as implementing instruments of the strategies developed by the Alliance Assembly through the steering committee. Each Thematic Group addresses a set of challenges to achieve a particular goal.

For effective interventions in addressing the challenges to reach the four goals, the thematic groups formulate the strategies taking into consideration, all related elements and conditions prevailing in developing countries. Therefore the expertise of each thematic group is carefully identified to ensure that required competency is possessed to effectively and comprehensively achieve the desired goal. Due consideration is given to the knowledge and experience relating to developing country conditions in identifying the relevant experts.

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 include;

- 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;

One of the objectives of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Alternatives to DDT Disease Vector Control that took place on 27th – 28th August 2012 at ICIPE in Nairobi, Kenya was to develop thematic group work plans. Members of the Non chemical control thematic group presented met, brainstormed and agreed a work plan with a budget. However during the process of disseminating and discussing the work plan with the core group members of the Thematic Group, it was suggested that we incorporate the re-introduction and training of the **Sanitary Engineer**. Sanitary engineering (according to Wikipedia) is the application of engineering methods to improve sanitation of human communities, primarily by providing the removal and disposal of human waste, and in addition to the supply of safe potable water. Skills within this field are usually employed for the primary goal of disease prevention within human beings by assuring a supply of healthy drinking water, removing garbage from inhabited areas, and so on.

The engineer used to be a core member of the malaria and mosquito control program, but it seems to have fallen out of favor. At the formation of the Roll Back Malaria Program (RBM) a few workshops were held on urban malaria and malaria related to infrastructure projects but the idea was not taken up and has remained in the background. WHO is in the process of revising the Larval Source Management guidelines that has a substantial section on non-chemical control through habitat modification and habitat manipulation.

And so for larval control, much of the “knowledge” is available, what lacks are the “skills” and the strategic vision to incorporate many of these techniques into municipal public works, housing and infrastructure projects.