

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON THE PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF PESTICIDES FOR LOCUST CONTROL

FAO Headquarters, Rome
Philippine Room (Building C, 2nd floor, room C277)
2-3 September 2015

(AGENDA ITEM 3. EQUIPMENT ISSUES)

EQUIPMENT & FORMULATION COMPATIBILITY

Introduction

During a recent Malagasy Migratory Locust control campaign (2013/14) in Madagascar, the insecticide tanks of a spray helicopter and a fixed wing aircraft were heavily damaged by a ULV insecticide formulation. This was likely due to a co-formulant in the product which is a powerful solvent that can affect polyesters and epoxy resins.

The Pesticide Referee Group, after reviewing this case, recommended in its 2014 meeting:

“To avoid damage to spray equipment by UL insecticide formulations, the PRG recommended that in the procurement of insecticides the supplier should indicate all solvents in the formulation and should certify that they do not affect the spray equipment used in locust control. Furthermore, the PRG recommended that a meeting be organized between spray equipment manufacturers and pesticide manufacturers to identify solvents that must be avoided in UL formulations for locust control.”

Suggested options

To avoid procurement of insecticide formulations that may damage spray equipment, the following actions could be taken.

1. FAO, in collaboration with pesticide application equipment manufacturers, to establish a list of solvents/co-formulants that are incompatible with specific equipment parts and materials commonly used for locust control.
- 2a. Insecticide supplier to list all co-formulants (or all co-formulants above a critical concentration), as part of the FAO bidding document. This information can be marked as Confidential Business Information and will not be disclosed by FAO (except for the co-formulants that trigger a GHS hazard classification, which are considered public information).
- 2b. FAO to indicate, in the bidding requirements, the list of solvents/co-formulants that are incompatible with specific equipment parts and materials commonly used for locust control. Supplier to formally certify in their bid that the product which they provide do not contain these solvents/co-formulants, or solvents/co-formulants with similar characteristics. FAO to require compensation by the supplier in case use of the product results in damaging the spray equipment due to incompatible co-formulants.

Discussion points

The meeting may wish to consider the following points for discussion.

- Should a “compatibility list” of spray equipment parts/materials and insecticide formulation solvents/co-formulants be established? If so, how can this be done in the most effective manner?
- Should insecticide suppliers disclose all co-formulants as part of the bid to FAO?

or

- Should insecticide suppliers (only) certify compatibility of their product with specified spray equipment at the risk of damages being applied by FAO?