

Newsletter to Participants No. 7: May 2009

International Forest Biosecurity Conference - March 16-20, 2009

This conference hosted by Scion in Rotorua, was a unique opportunity for STIMBR to gain exposure to a wider audience, in particular international stakeholders, and we embraced it.

We sponsored the travel of international expert on alternatives to methyl bromide Ron Mack (APHIS, USDA); and ensured the participation of Ken Glassey (MAF and STIMBR Management Committee member), Don Brash - Plant & Food Research and Mike Goss - Genera (both STIMBR collaborators), all of whom presented papers.

In addition Grant Macvey (Port of Tauranga and STIMBR Management Committee member) and Mike Goss, organised a visit to the Port of Tauranga as part of the conference field trip, to view log fumigation practice, phosphine generation technology, and UV light traps for insect management.

Your chairman facilitated a workshop, chaired a session, and got stuck with the after dinner speech.

It was universally agreed the conference was an outstanding success both through the quality of the presentations and the ease with which networking occurred. Congratulations to Brian Richardson and his team at Scion for a truly outstanding effort.

Mike Goss (Genera) explains the process of log fumigation at the Port of Tauranga. Over 150 delegates attended the conference, from 14 different countries.



Genera staff demonstrate what forest biosecurity means at the coal face.



STIMBR Invests \$174,000 in current projects

STIMBR has received \$174,000 in methyl bromide levy funding in support of the following projects in the 2008 – 2009 financial year:

Recapture technology: Undertake a review of past and present recapture technologies for methyl bromide with particular reference to large scale fumigations, as occurs with export logs. Currently available technologies such as the Nordiko system (pictured below) which is being used for recovery from container fumigations at the Port of Nelson, are difficult to scale up for log stacks.



Phosphine data: Consolidate of all phosphine research and data relevant to the fumigant's use for primary produce in support of its continued use for in-transit fumigation of logs, and to evaluate its potential for wider application. Such information is needed to ensure continued use of phosphine for logs to China and to extend its application to other markets.

Phosphine for Sirex control: Develop Ct data for Sirex eggs and larvae to advance the acceptance of in-transit fumigation of logs by Indian quarantine authorities. The wood boring wasp has been identified as a key quarantine pest by India, an issue that must be addressed if in-transit fumigation with phosphine is to be approved. This, and the two previous projects, are part of a successful Sustainable Farming Fund application by STIMBR being undertaken by Plant and Food Research.

Phosphine treatment efficacy for logs: Provide support for operational trials of phosphine to meet Indian requirements for in-

transit fumigation of logs. STIMBR is contributing part of the funding necessary to carry out sea container sized fumigation trials of logs in an effort to satisfy Indian quarantine authority requirements.

Directly generated phosphine: Undertake trials of directly generated phosphine for both saw timber and logs but with particular reference to the control of Arhopalus in sawn timber exports to Australia. Directly generated phosphine has major advantages over pellets or blankets in the exposure time required with no lag time while the required concentration is achieved. This funding supports a Sustainable Management Fund project being undertaken by Genera.

Methyl bromide monitoring: Develop national methyl bromide monitoring protocols for application at all major fumigation sites. The dispersion of gas following fumigation is a major concern for local authorities in whose jurisdiction fumigation is taking place. Although significant monitoring has shown no health and safety risks, a national standard will allow the greater aggregation of data using standardised techniques, to support this preliminary finding.

Sorption of methyl bromide by logs: Determine the spatial and temporal release of sorbed methyl bromide following ventilation of fumigated logs. Little data exists on the release pattern and quantity of methyl bromide adsorbed and absorbed (sorbed) by logs in the course of fumigation, this project aims to provide laboratory based indicative data.

Methyl bromide reassessment support: Provide to ERMA information on STIMBR initiatives to reduce methyl bromide use, their likely outcomes and delivery times, to assist in the current reassessment of the fumigant. STIMBR projects, such as recapture technologies and phosphine efficacy, are relevant to ERMA's reassessment process.

International Forest Biosecurity

Conference: Provide financial support for an overseas expert on methyl bromide alternatives to attend the conference and present a paper. International networking is seen by STIMBR as critical to collaboration on alternative technologies and ensuring we do not reinvent the wheel down under.

World Forestry Congress

Buenos Aires, Argentina
18-23 October 2009
<http://www.wfc2009.org/en/index.asp>

Proposed Side Event: Methyl Bromide Alternatives

The 13th World Forestry Congress (only occurs every six years) is being hosted by Argentina in Buenos Aires from 18-23 October 2009, 4-6000 people are expected to attend. A side event on methyl bromide alternatives at the Congress would provide an opportunity to gain support for reducing use, research into alternative fumigants, and showcase some of the emerging alternatives to fumigation.

Such an event would assist the aim of the Montreal Protocol in reducing the use of methyl bromide, used extensively by the forest industry worldwide. It is frequently a market access requirement for logs and is one of two approved treatments for the international standard (ISPM 15) on wood packaging. It is estimated that nearly 40% of the 10,000 tonnes of methyl bromide used for quarantine and preshipment purposes is to fumigate forest products - log, sawn timber and wood packaging.

A side event with a presentation, posters and round table discussion at the Congress would involve scientists, industry, government advisers and non governmental organisations from many countries in one room, fostering improved coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between countries. The primary objectives of this proposed side event are to increase awareness of the development of methyl bromide alternatives, and to increase their acceptance.

Indications of support for this proposed side event would be greatly appreciated by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand as soon as practicable. Support could be offered in the form of funding the attendance of a technical expert and/or industry organisation to

present; and/or an expression of willingness to chair the side event; and/or an expression of willingness to contribute to the costs of holding the event.

Contact:

Expressions of support for this side event should be directed concurrently to Ken Glassey and Allanah Irvine

Ken Glassey
Senior Adviser, MAF Biosecurity
ken.glassey@maf.govt.nz

Allanah Irvine
Analyst, International Policy Directorate,
MAF Policy

allanah.irvine@maf.govt.nz;

Membership and future communications

As from early May, STIMBR will be revising its email communication list to include only paid up members. This means non-members will no longer receive this newsletter, nor have access to the "members only" section of the website. If you wish to continue to be informed of STIMBR activities, have a say in our operations and programme, and support our initiatives, please become a member. Information and application form is on our website at www.stimbr.nzfoa.org.nz/ or contact Gordon Hosking at gordon.hosking@xtra.co.nz.

www.stimbr.nzfoa.org.nz/

The STIMBR website has two sections, the public component open to everyone, and the members-only component accessible to members via a password. This latter section will include minutes of the Management Committee, our current business plan, any reports on projects, and the newsletters. In early May the membership email list will be revised to include only paid up members and at the same time a new password will be provided for access to the members-only section of the website.

Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR) Application for Membership

STIMBR is an incorporated society open to all individuals and organisations (subject to approval by the STIMBR Management Committee) that support the Society's objectives.

STIMBR has two classes of membership, organisational and associate (see below). Applicants must choose one class of membership and indicate a primary area of interest.

I/We wish to apply for membership of STIMBR and have indicated the payment option for the fee appropriate to the class of membership identified below.

Class of membership (circle)	organisational \$843.75	associate \$112.50	GST inclusive
-------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	----------------------

[Note that associate members do not have voting rights.]

Area of interest (circle ONE)	Fumigator	Wood processor	Log exporter
	Sawn timber	Forest owner	Non-forestry
	Government	Research	Port
			Other

Name of organisation

Applicant's name

Address for correspondence

.....

.....

Email address

I consent to receive STIMBR-related materials by email **Y / N**

Telephone **Mobile** **Fax**.....

Subscription amount \$ **Payment options**

_____ **Invoice me (Visa & Mastercard accepted)**

_____ **Cheque enclosed**
(payable to Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction Inc.)

Signed **Position**

Please send completed application (and cheque if appropriate) to:

Dr Gordon Hosking,
Chair, STIMBR Management Committee.
P O Box 169, Mangawhai 0540, New Zealand.