

**Report on the implementation of ensuring the criteria in paragraph 1 of
decision IX/6 for permitting production of methyl bromide
for critical use for 2006**

Japanese government

Hereupon Japanese government reports on the guarantee to ensure the criteria in paragraph 1 of decision IX/6 for permitting production of methyl bromide for critical use for 2006 by the confirmation of following items.

1. To the item of para 1. (a) (i): The specific use is critical because the lack of availability of methyl bromide for that use would result in a significant market disruption.

We ensure the following facts as the base of guarantee for this paragraph. In the production of the crops given critical use exemption of methyl bromide, if methyl bromide is not available, pepper could not be harvested due to the infection of Pepper Mild Mottle Virus and cucurbit crops of melon, watermelon and cucumber could not be harvested due to the infestation of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus. Those virus could be controlled only by methyl bromide fumigation treatment. Methyl bromide is only the pesticide registered for the control of those diseases. There is not technically and economically feasible alternative to methyl bromide for the production of ginger for the control of root rot disease currently. Chestnut weevil of the chestnut could not be controlled completely if methyl bromide is not available. Accordingly if methyl bromide is not available, those yields could not be delivered to the market. It is concerned it could result in the significant market disruption.

2. To the item of para 1.(a) (ii) : There are no technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes available to the user that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health and are suitable to the crops and circumstances of the nomination:

We ensure that there is currently no technically and economically feasible alternative to control soil born virus, ginger root rot disease and chestnut weevil.

3. To the item of para 1.(b) (i): All technically and economically feasible steps have been taken to minimize the critical use and any associated emission of methyl bromide.

We confirm following facts. We realize that it is quite significant to reduce methyl bromide use and emission by the use of virtually impermeable film (called VIF hereafter) or equivalent. Currently we have encouraged farmers to use it for aiming to let them use VIF all over the soil where critical use is applied. However, we notice that VIF supply is far less than the necessity and its cost is rather much higher. Furthermore, we realize that quality problem of being easily zippered is not settled down in the physical properties. However, so far we have made much effort to penetrate the VIF use by encouraging farmers in every occasion available to us. For attainment of this purpose, we have concentrated our energies to seek for the manufacturing companies in the film industry who collaborate for the improvement of manufacturing capability of the VIF. On the other hand, we are under consideration for the possibility of VIF import from abroad. Furthermore, we got now engaged in the experiment for the confirmation of the efficacy with the reduced dose rate by using VIF with the financial subsidy from the government.

4. To the item of para 1.(b)(ii): Methyl bromide is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from existing stocks of banked or recycled methyl bromide, also bearing in mind the developing countries' need for methyl bromide:

We confirm that methyl bromide manufacturing companies has not any stocks of methyl bromide at all.

5. To the item of para 1.(b)(iii): It is demonstrated that an appropriate effort is being made to evaluate, commercialize and secure national regulatory approval of alternatives and substitutes.

We ensure that methyl iodide has got brought to registration application to control chestnut weevil to chestnut and to control of soil born pathogen to melon. We also confirm that cyazofamid has brought to registration application to control root rot disease to ginger as well. Those registration application is followed as a result of a series of many efficacy and phytotoxicity tests for many years.

6. Non- Article 5 must demonstrate that research programmes are in place to develop and deploy alternatives and substitutes.

Our research people is now engaged in the experiments for the confirmation whether it is effective to avoid infection of soil transmitted virus of PMMoV and CGMMV by planting nursery plants in the sterilized soil in the cup. Furthermore, research people in the pesticide industries have now been engaged in the development of the alternative technology with DeTrapex (Mixture of 1,3 dichloropropene and methyl isothiocyanate) and metam sodium for the control of ginger root rot disease. For the control of chestnut weevil, our people have been engaged in the test of hot water treatment.