



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Total Sector Methyl Bromide Phase-Out in Countries with Economies in Transition

Fast Facts

Achieved: Supported the elimination of methyl bromide, an ozone-depleting substance, from agricultural and food storage use.

Where: Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland

Cost: GEF funds: \$5,175,500; Co-financing: \$6,728,222

When: 2004 to 2007

Partners: United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, National Ozone Unit

Achievements:

The project reduced the amount of methyl bromide used in agriculture and in food storage in countries with economies in transition, benefiting those businesses and effecting the ozone and climate change. The project also helped bring countries into compliance with standards on the elimination of ozone-depleting substances that were set by the Montreal Protocol.

Legacy

The project's continued successes include:

- Capacity for longer-term development of non-chemical alternatives to methyl bromide that are suitable for markets and circumstances of the target countries.
- The global environmental benefits reaped by the elimination of consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances in the target countries.
- Legislative and policy changes supporting the elimination of ozone-depleting substances that are now in place in the target countries.
- Use of alternative products for pest control such as metam sodium has contributed to a four-fold production increase in the case of strawberry runners in Poland.
- A key strawberry runner company that participated in the project in Poland was able to maintain job security for workers and ensure long-term financial viability because of the project.
- In Hungary, the project increased the number of local growers using bio-control because they were attracted by the prices. This also resulted in fewer risks from contaminants in glasshouses and products.

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What People Say:

The GEF projects provided global environmental benefit by avoiding pesticides that deplete the ozone layer, and provided a valuable contribution to the development of pest control methods that produce food with minimal chemical input.

- from an independent evaluation

Outputs and Deliverables:

The project succeeded in:

- Reducing use of methyl bromide in the areas to 0 in January 2009 from about 80 tons in 2004.
- Training participants about alternatives to methyl bromide.
- Raising awareness about the detriments of using methyl bromide and the advantages of alternatives.
- Driving legislative policy changes regarding methyl bromide.
- Converting the last remaining fumigation company in Lithuania to phosphine use in silos and grain elevators.
- Registering phosphine from speed boxes in Lithuania, a rare distinction because many companies throughout the European Union do not meet local registration requirements.
- Providing methyl bromide publications and materials in local languages.
- Bringing together policy makers, custom officers, importers, users and producers of methyl bromide.
- Developing training strategies for local extension workers on promoting and implementing methyl bromide alternatives for control of pests pre-harvest and post-harvest.
- Replacing methyl bromide with metam sodium to control pests in flourmills in Bulgaria.
- Facilitating the exchange of heaters between companies in Latvia and Lithuania for pest control treatment in mills.
- Replacing methyl bromide with metam sodium for open field soil treatments in Hungary.
- Helping a company develop bio-control methods to control pests on tomatoes and sweet peppers in Hungarian glasshouses.
- Participating in the approval of a quick-release phosphine treatment in Lithuania.
- Reducing methyl bromide consumption in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania to zero in January 2009 from about 80 tons at the start of the project.

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