

THE PRESENT USE OF METHYL BROMIDE AS A FUMIGANT FOR  
STORED PRODUCTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, RESULTS OF A  
RECENT SURVEY,

R.W.D TAYLOR

*Natural Resources Institute, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, United  
Kingdom  
Fax: 44634880066*

In 1992, under the terms of the Montreal protocol Agreement, methyl bromide was listed as an ozone-depleting substance with the expectation that a programme to control its use would be decided in 1995. Although routine use of the chemical for disinfesting stored products has declined in recent years it continues to be very important for treatments which need to be completed quickly, such as those undertaken for quarantine purposes. Many developing countries continue to rely upon methyl bromide for routine disinfestation programmes and in connection with their import and export trade. These countries consider that any controls on the chemical may adversely affect trade. Uncertainties regarding the affect of future restrictions on the use of methyl bromide on developing were considered partly due to a lack of data on the continued importance of the Chemical in those countries. In an attempt to overcome some of these uncertainties a survey of methyl bromide use and potential alternatives was organized by the United Nations Development Programme in three regions. The results obtained in the surveys and their implications for Latin America, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and for English-speaking Africa are described.