

Methyl Bromide Transition Competitive Grants Program

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Sequences

- 1994 Montreal Protocol – Phase out of MB by January 2005
- 1994-2001 - Problem and MB ban denial. Hope for a “political” solution and research focused on “saving” MB
- 2000 - Methyl Bromide Transition Program
- Future research needs to evolve focus on relevant, applicable and sustainable alternatives



USDA Programs supporting MB Research & Extension Work

- **Agricultural Research Service Field Stations across the country**
- **Competitive funds:**
 - **Methyl Bromide Transitions – Integrated Res.**
 - **IR-4 Methyl Bromide Research grants**
 - **Organic Transitions Programs**
 - **SARE Farmer Grants**
 - **EQUIP grants**



USDA Methyl Bromide Transitions Competitive Grant Res. Program

- Initiated in 2000 as one of 5 new “Integrated Pest Management Research” Programs
- The intent is to enable the United States to comply with the Montreal Protocol.
- Funding is allocated through a Competitive research grant program called Methyl Bromide Transitions



Goals of MBT Program

- Discover, develop, and demonstrate Methyl Bromide alternatives
- Develop integrated research, education, and/or extension programming
- Develop tools and data to aid rapid, well-informed regulatory decisions
- Develop economic assessments for impact data for use in Critical Use Exemptions and the costs/benefits of transitions



MBT Competitive

Funding Supports ~~~

- Short- to intermediate-term Projects
- Approaches should lead to more sustainable systems
- Research supporting CUE data gaps
- Relevant programs and activities in:
 - research, education, and extension
 - field trials and/or demonstration projects of MB alternatives

USDA Methyl Bromide Transitions Competitive Grant Res. Program

- Since 2000, USDA/CSREES has funded a total of 32 research projects
- Funding level at nearly 3 million dollars a year (= ca. \$14 M since 2000)
- MBT has cultivated new working partnership between the USDA, agricultural colleges and universities, commodity groups, the regulatory community and farmers.



FY 2004 MBT Grant Awards

- In FY 2004 MBT program funded the 8 top-ranked projects of the 28 submitted proposals
- These 8 projects provided research resources for 26 additional scientists and extension educators at 15 research facilities in 9 states
- These 8 projects contributed to the training of the next generation of agricultural scientist involving:
 - 30+ agricultural technicians
 - 25+ graduate students
 - ~~ working to solve complex real-world problems



Impacts and Outcomes

The MBT Program has ~~~~

- Contributed to an appreciable reductions in MB usage
- Reduced MB usage = reduced risk to the ozone layer
- Demonstrated innovative and viable alternatives in certain MB dependent production systems
- Protected American farmer's income by maintaining international competitiveness
- Contributed positively to the U.S. balance of trade
- Helped maintain low consumer supermarket prices on fresh fruits and vegetables

Impacts and Outcomes

The MBT Program has ~~~~

- Contributed to the L-G University Mission by meaningfully engaging the talents of research scientists and extension educators on relevant applied agricultural issue.
- Contributed to the education and graduate training of the next generation of agricultural scientist and technicians through solving real-world problems



Where to Next?

- Soil pest were a production problem before MB was used as a pesticide
- MB usage will end in the near future
- We need to realignment shrinking research resources to problem areas
- Changing focus from pesticide to pest
- How about: **“Soil Pest Management in Specialty Crop Production”** ????

