



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Conference Meeting Report

Expert Group:	Alternatives to methyl bromide	
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	July 15, 2024	
Chairperson	Bob Baca (USDA APHIS PPQ)	
Participants:		
Javier Ireta Moreno (INIFAP)	Vincent Hervet (Agr. Can)	Adnan Uzonovic (Canadian industry)
Erin LeClair (CFIA)	Jim Cranney (US industry)	Spencer Walse (USDA APHIS PPQ)
Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)	Israel Cueto Espinosa (SENASICA)	Victor Manuel Gutiérrez Palomares (SENASICA)
Guillermo López Guillen (INIFAP)	Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)	
Summary		
Project:	Development of a NAPPO discussion document to share information regarding alternative treatments for MeBr, with a possible goal of creating an agreed position aligned to international standards.	
Item 1:	Review/approve agenda	
Consensus:	<p>The agenda was approved with the following additional items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the Global Alliance for Plant Health (GAPH, formerly known as QUADs). 	
Item 2:	Discussion on the latest version of the discussion document and next steps with the writing subgroup.	
Consensus:	<p>Feedback was requested from the EG to determine whether the information in the latest version of the discussion document is complete, and the document is ready for the writing subgroup work. The EG agreed that more information is needed and requested two more weeks to include it in the document. The following points were discussed for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include information on the importance of methyl bromide and the need for its continued use. • No positions or recommendations on uses of alternatives to methyl bromide have been taken by the EG. The objective of the project, especially the alignment with international standards, needs to be clarified. • Need to include a section in the document to identify the strengths and limitations of each alternative method. • Need to identify the strengths and limitations of methyl bromide (pros and cons). Why is methyl bromide still critical in some areas? The EG suggests including this 	

	<p>information at the beginning of the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate in the document why there is interest in phasing out methyl bromide for phytosanitary treatments. • Methyl bromide is an important product for the fresh fruit industry, but a lot of research is still needed to recommend an alternative method for this sector. • The document should include details on the amounts of methyl bromide that are used for different purposes. • Consider that some alternatives to methyl bromide methods are not registered by the NPPOs. <p>Consensus: The document is not ready for the writing subgroup to work on. The chairperson requested that the EG continue adding information to it for the next two weeks.</p>	
Item 3:	EG participation in the NAPPO annual meeting.	
Consensus:	The NAPPO Technical Director informed the EG that “Alternatives to methyl bromide” is one of two topics for the NAPPO annual meeting symposium and requested EG participation. The TD will share a draft agenda of the NAPPO annual meeting to discuss EG participation in the next EG Zoom meeting.	
Item 4:	Next steps	
Consensus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add information to the discussion document taking into consideration the points outlined in item 1 of this report. 	
Other subjects	<p>Collaboration with QUADS:</p> <p>The chairperson informed the EG about the recent NAPPO AMC decision to allow the EG to collaborate with information exchange with the Global Alliance for Plant Health (GAPH, formerly known as QUADs). The GAPH group has an expert group working on alternatives to methyl bromide; the objective of this collaboration is for the GAPH and the NAPPO EG to learn from each other's work.</p> <p>The EG suggested that the GAPH president be contacted to inquire about information that they could share with the NAPPO EG. It was also suggested inviting the GAPH president to participate in a NAPPO EG video conference for a question-and-answer session with the EG.</p>	
Next Steps		
Responsible Person	Action	Date
EG Chairperson	Inquire with the GAPH group about information on alternatives to methyl bromide that could be shared with the NAPPO EG. The chairperson will also contact the GAPH president to participate in a NAPPO EG Zoom meeting.	
EG members	Add information to prepare the document for the writing subgroup	

NAPPO Secretariat	Prepare, translate, and share the latest version of the document with the EG.	
Next Meeting		
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	TBD. The NAPPO Secretariat will send a poll.	
Proposed Agenda Items		
1. Status of updated document.		
2. EG participation in the NAPPO annual meeting.		
3. Next steps		
4. Other business		