STIMBR PGP PROGRMME

Quarterly Progress Report October to December 2012

The Stakeholders In Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR) PGP programme is a multi-strand research programme that seeks to reduce methyl bromide to the atmosphere by 2020 and find alternative phytosanitary treatments.

Notable progress during the second quarter of 2012/13 was achieved with:

- PGP, STIMBR and researchers agreeing to reduce the length of the research programme to facilitate earlier delivery (June 2014 from September 2016) of the programmes outcomes. This has been achieved by artificially raising insects and bringing forward parts of the work plan.

- Completion of the review of the fumigant ethane di-nitrile (EDN) and its suitability as a replacement for methyl bromide. This report will inform future work research into the efficacy of this chemical. Approval for the experimental work was obtained from the EPA and all of the equipment necessary to undertake the research is in place. (Objective 2)

- Completion of research to proof the concept of Joule heating. The work proved that electricity can be used to cost efficiently raise the temperature of logs to a level which can kill bark insects. To support this conclusion, energy usage and cost modelling of treatment costs per cubic metre of wood have been completed. Modelling indicates that this technology should be competitive with bark removal as a means of producing pest free logs. Researchers acknowledge that cost efficient treatment delivery to large numbers of logs will be a challenge. Further work will be undertaken (outside this programme) on treatment delivery and for an efficacy set for the temperature required to kill all of the key quarantine pests. (Objective 5)