

News

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First formulation projects enter regulatory phase



The first two projects from IVCC's Public Health Products pipeline have successfully completed the development phase. The two projects, partially funded by IVCC and led by Bayer and Syngenta respectively, sought to develop long lasting IRS formulations that would be cheaper and easier to use and offer an opportunity to replace DDT.

The Bayer CropScience project was established to develop a long lasting residual formulation for Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) that would only need to be sprayed once a year. A deltamethrin formulation based on patented technology was developed to deliver this long lasting residual effect. Successful laboratory and field trials have shown increased residuality on all surfaces and up to 12 months on concrete and wood. Bayer has decided to commercialise the formulation and the product will now be taken through the WHOPES process.

The Syngenta project aimed to develop a long lasting non pyrethroid IRS formulation which would offer a practical new tool for pyrethroid resistance management. Using proprietary technology, Syngenta have developed a formulation which has to date demonstrated at least eight months residual activity when applied to traditional construction materials in the field; the trials are ongoing. Syngenta have therefore decided to commercialise the formulation and will take it through the WHOPES process.

Dr Robert Sloss, Portfolio Manager for Public Health Products, said: "These two projects have successfully developed IRS products that protect for longer, reducing application frequency and cost, ultimately helping to reduce disease transmission. We have several other projects in our development pipeline and we look forward to announcing similar successes."

World Malaria Day



Sunday 25 April is World Malaria Day, organised annually by RBM to commemorate the global effort to provide effective control against malaria.

IVCC Chief Executive Officer Dr Tom McLean said: "World Malaria Day is a chance for all of us involved to take stock of what has been achieved so far. During the last year we have made great progress – our projects with Bayer and Syngenta to develop new IRS formulations have moved into the regulatory phase, new information systems for monitoring and evaluation were field validated and the projects to screen existing compounds for potential new active ingredients have shown very promising initial results.

"However, there is still much to do and we look forward to another year of progress against our strategic objectives."

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Possible role for MDSS in fight against Leishmaniasis



A feasibility study to examine the possibility of using our Decision Support software to help in the fight against Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) has been launched by IVCC.

The study, supported by the World Health Organisation, is looking at how easily the unique monitoring and evaluation functionality within MDSS could be adapted to accept data relating to control campaigns against the sandfly (pictured above), the vector responsible for spreading the Leishmania parasite.

VL is the most severe form of the disease, which is the biggest parasitic killer in the world after malaria. The numbers of endemic regions and recorded cases of the disease have risen sharply in the last decade and some two million new cases of Leishmaniasis are recorded every year even though WHO estimates that a substantial number of cases go unreported.

Andrew Spencer, IVCC's Business Development Manager, said: "Because VL control programmes are similar to those for malaria, a system based on MDSS should be very useful for supporting effective monitoring and evaluation of VL control campaigns.

"The effort we've put into making MDSS a powerful, flexible and user-friendly tool makes it an ideal base for developing a VL system.

"VL is a deadly disease on the rise and it would be fantastic if the hard work that has gone into developing MDSS could be used against another killer disease."

Insecticide resistance management role at WIN



IVCC's Chief Executive Janet Hemingway attended RBM's Vector Control Working Group meeting in Basel in February.

The purpose of the group is to facilitate alignment of partners on strategy and best practice in rapidly scaling-up malaria vector control interventions, particularly insecticide treated nets (ITNs) and indoor

residual spraying (IRS) in order to meet targets for malaria control.

Janet gave a presentation on insecticide resistance patterns in sub-Saharan Africa and on IVCC's developing range of information systems for effective monitoring and evaluation, including the Vector Population Monitoring Tool and the Insecticide Quantification Kit.

The Group decided to form a task group to further investigate insecticide resistance management, which Janet was asked to lead.

"Insecticide resistance is developing rapidly in some areas and it is important that RBM has access to the latest information in this area," she added.

IVCC to lead MERG IT task force



IVCC's Malaria Decision Support System (MDSS) was presented at a meeting of RBM's Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) in January in Mexico.

MERG advises on all matters relating to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of international, national and regional initiatives, providing technical advice on state-of-the-art approaches to M&E for malaria control programmes.

The group develops and provides technical guidance on appropriate indicators, data collection methods, analytical strategies, dissemination of recommendations, identifies critical technical questions arising from monitoring and evaluation and provides technical feedback. It also develops and maintains consensus around M&E strategies and strategies for addressing the needs for capacity building at all levels.

Dr Mike Coleman presented the MDSS to the group, who then discussed how it would fit into wider monitoring and evaluation strategies. They recommended that a working group on software was established and IVCC was asked to lead this group.