TM-425 (IODOMETHANE): DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY STATUS AS A METHYL BROMIDE REPLACEMENT. **M. A. Allan and C. T. Schiller. Tomen Agro, Inc., 100 First St., Suite 1700, San Francisco, CA 94105, U.S.A.** TM-425 (active ingredient: Iodomethane) is a broad-spectrum pre-plant soil fumigant used for control of various nematodes, soil-borne pathogens and weed species. Soil applications are made with tractor-mounted injection equipment on flat ground, as well as into prepared plant beds or through drip injection tape within the soil bed. Field efficacy studies conducted in the western and southeastern states support use rates of 120 – 235 lbs (6.2 – 12.4 gallons) of product per treated acre depending on target pest organism(s).

Efficacy studies have shown that Iodomethane provides equal to superior control of soil pests compared to methyl bromide with nearly identical spectrum of activity. Advantages include greater safety in handling since it is a liquid at room temperature, rapid photo degradation that eliminates the potential for ozone depletion, and lower overall use rates compared to methyl bromide. Use of conventional application equipment allows for an easier transition away from methyl bromide as it nears complete phase-out and for implementation of Iodomethane in its place.

Residue trials conducted on strawberries and fresh market tomatoes have resulted in no detectable residue of Iodomethane. Toxicology studies are nearly complete with acute testing results comparable to methyl bromide. Regulatory meetings with Federal EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulations (CDPR) indicate TM-425, as a drop-in replacement for methyl bromide, will be given top priority with an accelerated review process. Tomen Agro's target for submission is 1st quarter 2002 with a potential Section 3 registration by 1st quarter 2003.