CURRENT STATUS OF BASAMID® G IN THE USA

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Basamid® G granular soil fumigant is currently registered in the USA for control of weeds, nematodes, and diseases in the production of cut flowers, conifer seedlings, potting media, turf, and nursery crops (landscape ornamentals, nonbearing fruit trees and strawberry plants, etc.). Its use in golf course and other turfgrass renovation projects is growing rapidly. US EPA is currently reviewing data in support of its use on food crops such as fruiting strawberries and tomatoes, having granted Methyl Bromide Alternative status as a result of IR-4 studies conducted on these crops between 1999 and 2003.

In strawberry trials conducted mainly in California and Florida by IR-4 and other US researchers between 1994 and 2003, Basamid applied in combination with 1,3-D and/or chloropicrin resulted in up to 32% increase in yield aver standard methyl bromide/chloropicrin fumigation, while providing equivalent levels of weed control. In the IR-4 trials, Basamid applied at 224 to 448 Kg/Ha, either broadcast after bed formation and incorporated with overhead sprinkler irrigation, or via split application (half incorporated into the bed with a rototiller, the remainder applied as above), followed by application of 1,3-D to the beds by shank injection or drip irrigation, resulted in marketable fruit yields equal to or greater than those obtained with standard methyl bromide + chloropicrin fumigation. Similar results were observed in tomatoes in California, but not in Florida.

In 2003, Kanesho Soil Treatment (a joint venture between Agro-Kanesho and Mitsui & Co. of Japan) acquired several soil disinfestations products from BASF Corp., including Basamid® G (dazomet). Certis USA, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsui & Co., has assumed marketing and development responsibility for Basamid in the USA and Mexico. This presentation will review recent research results from key market segments and discuss plans for implementation of Basamid G as a component of alternative soil disinfestations programs.