

New Zealand - Addressing the Challenges

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New Zealand's economy is uniquely at risk from any loss of or reduction in the ability to use methyl bromide as a biosecurity treatment. Our forestry exports, in particular logs, are highly dependent on the use of methyl bromide fumigation for access to all our important markets. The growth of New Zealand horticultural exports (\$2.9 billion in 2008) is dependent upon effective quarantine procedures. Continued access in the short term to methyl bromide, which is recognised as an environmentally and socially contentious fumigant, can only be justified if we can demonstrate a serious commitment to identifying and implementing alternative biosecurity treatment strategies. New Zealand is already a world leader in this respect, but just leading is not good enough, as there is strong international pressure to eliminate the release of methyl bromide to the atmosphere within the next decade. This programme aims to accelerate progress in those areas where reductions are known to be possible, clarify those areas which might potentially contribute, and explore some new horizons with promise but risk ..