APHIS METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVES METHODS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS 2015

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APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine Agency has an active program developing quarantine treatment methods for imported, exported, and domestic fresh fruits and vegetables for consumption, and propagative plant material. The agency also develops treatments for safe disposal of regulated materials, decontamination of equipment and conveyances contaminated with quarantine material and soil, and evaluates for approval treatments developed by other countries for commodities that they wish to export to the US. Many of the methods involve alternatives to MB. Additionally, we also develop techniques for inspecting materials and commodities for quarantine pests. Although funds are dedicated primarily to finding alternatives, MB remains the best and only option in many cases to minimize quarantine pest risk and keep domestic and international trade moving, underscoring that the US relies upon MB for QPS uses. This presentation will highlight notable advances made in the last year as well as ongoing work. Examples of advances include: generic cold treatments for tephritids, small portable autoclave equipment for port use, large mobile autoclave for on-site use, and technology for plant pest detection at ports. Some other methods will be described in detail in presentations by other PPQ scientists in attendance. The strategic importance of making advances in these areas and transferring the technology to APHIS will be emphasized.