

How can developing countries obtain financial and technical assistance in implementing alternatives to methyl bromide?

At their 1990 meeting in London, the Parties to the Protocol created the Multilateral Fund to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries in establishing and implementing projects and programmes for phase-out of ODSs. An additional point, of great importance, is that financial aid for substances covered by a particular amendment to the protocol is only available from the Multilateral Fund to those countries which have ratified that amendment. Therefore, for countries to receive financial assistance to implement methyl bromide alternatives, they must first ratify the Copenhagen Amendment.

The Multilateral Fund is managed by an Executive Committee, made up of representatives of 14 Parties to the Montreal protocol, with equal representation from developed and developing countries. Four organizations have been designated as Implementing Agencies for the Multilateral Fund:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assists Parties in investment project planning and preparation, country programmes and institutional strengthening, and runs training and demonstration projects. *Contact: Mr. Frank J.P. Pinto, Principal Technical Advisor and Chief, Montreal Protocol Unit, EAP/SEED, 304 East, 45th Street, Room FF-9116, New York, NY 10017, the United States. Tel: +1 (212) 9065 042/004; Fax: +1 (212) 9066 947; E-mail: frank.pinto@undp.org; Internet: <http://www.undp.org/seed/eap/montreal>.*
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the UNEP IE OzonAction Programme, collects data, provides an information clearinghouse, assists low-volume consuming countries in the preparation of country programmes and institutional strengthening projects, and offers training and networking assistance. *Contact: Mr. Rajendra M. Shende, Chief, Energy and OzonAction Unit, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43, Quai Andre Citroen, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: +33 (1) 4437 1450; Fax: +33 (1) 4437 1474; E-mail: rmshende@unep.fr; Internet: <http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction.html>.*
- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) runs small-to medium-scale investment projects and country programmes, and offers technical assistance and training for individual facilities. *Contact: Mr. S.M. Si Ahmed, Acting Director Montreal Protocol Operations, Environment and Energy Branch, Industrial Sectors and Environment Division, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 400, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Tel: +43 (1) 21131 3782/3654; Fax: +43 (1) 21131 6804; E-mail: ssi-ahmed@unido.org.*

- The World Bank develops and implements investment projects and assists in the preparation of country programmes. *Contact: Mr. Steve Gorman, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Montreal Protocol Operations Unit, Environment Department, 1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433, the United States. Tel: +1 (202) 4735 865; Fax: +1 (202) 5223 258; E-mail: sgorman@worldbank.org; Internet: <http://www-esd.worldbank.org/mp/>*

Financial and technical assistance will be especially important to developing countries where the phase-out of methyl bromide is concerned. As we have seen, alternatives to methyl bromide exist, but they will need to be demonstrated in local farming conditions if technology transfer is to be successful. Programmes giving information to farmers and providing them with education, training and on-farm technical assistance will be necessary. Development of such programmes will require financial and technical resources from the Fund, from bilateral agencies and from other agriculture and development sources.

Furthermore, recognizing the urgency of the need to phase-out methyl bromide, the 1997 Amendments to the Montreal Protocol brought forward the date for its elimination in developed nations to 2005. Some developing countries may well need help if they are to be able to adopt alternatives in time to be ready for possible rejection of products treated with methyl bromide by supermarkets and consumers in developed countries when methyl bromide is no longer available in industrialized regions.

And finally, regarding Amendments, the Montreal Protocol states that amendments come into force only for those Parties which have ratified them. This also means – and the point has already been made, but is worth repeating – that if countries are to qualify for financial assistance to replace methyl bromide, they must ratify the Copenhagen Amendment.

For further information about specific projects or the general operations of the Multilateral Fund, contact: *Dr. Omar El-Arini, Chief Officer, Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, 1800 McGill College Avenue, 27th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3A 3J6, Canada. Tel: +1 (514) 2821 122; Fax: +1 (514) 2820 068; E-mail: secretariat@unmfs.org; Internet: <http://www.unmfs.org/> Or*

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