

It is not so often progress comes in quantum leaps. But just last month the government of Benin announced they were banning endosulfan with rumours that other West African nations might follow suit (page 3). As one of the pesticides responsible for thousands of poisonings in the developing world each year endosulfan has been a target of PAN campaigning for over a decade. Its elimination from a region of the world that has suffered too long from its use is more than welcome and more than overdue.

But all is not rosy. Over 1.6 million litres of endosulfan stocks are still available in West Africa and these will be used in the coming season before the ban takes effect. Endosulfan will have one final killing season.

And more news for those interested in organic cotton. We report on an effective pest control tool for organic cotton growers (page 5). Spraying simple insect food substances onto cotton plants during their growth can encourage beneficial insects and reduce the numbers of pest insects. Data from the first year of field trials in Benin are very promising. We will continue to report on this technology as it develops.

We also report on the cutting edge of organic cotton consumer trends (page 15). Organic cotton clothing has travelled a long way from the early days when items were functional and sensible to the current marketplace where items are fashionable and sophisticated. A new PAN UK grant for fashion design students to use organic cotton fabrics in their ranges will help to stimulate this trend.

We also report on a successful European initiative to ensure compliance with both the letter and spirit of the Montreal Protocol. Where the United States and other developed countries have repeatedly stalled the European Community (EC) has led the way, committing itself whole-heartedly to a complete phase out of methyl bromide (page 12). The EC has worked with CABI to gather and disseminate information on alternatives and to develop procedures to help users make the switch away from methyl bromide and towards less damaging alternatives. The model they have developed could be used in other parts of the world.

A topic sure to generate heated debate is that of genetically modified crops. Do they live up to their makers promise and reduce the use of harmful chemical pesticides? A new report by Friends of the Earth sums up available data which casts more than a hint of doubt over these claims (page 8). Increasing incidences of glyphosate-resistance in weed species is forcing farmers to apply ever-increasing amounts of glyphosate on the crops.

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Initials at the end of articles refer to staff contributions to *Pesticides News*.

Abbreviations and acronyms used

ACP	Advisory Committee on Pesticides
CRA	Comparative Risk Assessment
EA	Environment Agency (UK)
EC	European Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field School
FSA	Food Standards Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPM	Integrated pest management
LD ₅₀	lethal dose for 50% of population
µg/kg	parts per billion
MRLs	Maximum Residue Limits
mg/l	parts per million
NGO	Non government organisation
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
OP	Organophosphate (pesticide)
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PN	Pesticides News
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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