MONTREAL PROTOCOL

ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE

THE OZONE LAYER

UNEP

REPORT OF THE
TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT PANEL

VOLUME III

SEPTEMBER 2016

EVALUATION OF 2016 CRITICAL USE NOMINATIONS FOR METHYL BROMIDE AND RELATED MATTERS

FINAL REPORT

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Foreword

The September 2016 TEAP Report consists of four volumes:

Volume I. TEAP Decision XXVII/4 Update Task Force Report: Additional Information on Alternatives to Ozone-depleting Substances

Volume II. TEAP Decision Ex. III/1 Working Group Report: Climate Benefits and Costs of Reducing Hydrofluorocarbons under the Dubai Pathway

Volume III. TEAP Evaluation of 2016 Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide and Related Matters: Final Report

Volume IV. TEAP/SAP Decision XXVII/7 Report: Investigation of Carbon Tetrachloride Discrepancies

This is Volume III.

SEPTEMBER 2016REPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT PANEL

EVALUATION OF 2016 CRITICAL USE NOMINATIONS FOR METHYL BROMIDE AND RELATED MATTERS

FINAL REPORT

MBTOC FINAL CUN REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2016

Common Acronyms

1,3-D	1,3-dichloropropene
A5	Article 5 Party
ASD	Anaerobic soil disinfestation
CUE	Critical Use Exemption
CUN	Critical Use Nomination
DMDS	Dimethyl disulphide
DOI	Disclosure of Interest
EU	European Union
ExMOP	Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPPO	European Plant Protection Organisation
IM	Iodomethane
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standard Phytosanitary Measure
LPBF	Low Permeability Barrier Film (including VIF films)
MB	Methyl Bromide
MBTOC	Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee
MITC	Methyl isothiocyanate
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MS	Metham (metam) sodium
OEWG	Open Ended Working Group
Pic	Chloropicrin
QPS	Quarantine and Pre-shipment
SF	Sulfuryl fluoride
TEAP	Technology and Economics Assessment Panel
TIF	Totally Impermeable Film
VIF	Virtually Impermeable Film
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

2016 Evaluation of Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide and Related Matters – Final Report

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1 Executive Summary

MBTOC received eight CUNs for a total use of 337.8 tonnes of methyl bromide from five Parties in 2017 (seven nominations) and 2018 (one nomination). Recommendations were made on all eight nominations for 230.908 tonnes. All nominations except one for strawberry runners from Canada were reduced, to account for alternatives, which MBTOC considers can be used for a proportion of the nomination. This includes the adoption of emission reduction practices, such as the use of low permeability barrier films, which reduce dosage rates required of methyl bromide.

No further information has been received about stocks presently held by non-A5 or A5 Parties.

Concerns were presented at the 38th OEWG about non-reported uses of methyl bromide and potential illegal uses.

2 Scope of the Report

The 2016 final report provides evaluations by MBTOC of Critical Use Nominations (CUNs) submitted for methyl bromide (MB) for 2017 and 2018 by five Parties: two non-A5 (Australia and Canada) and three A5 (Argentina, China and South Africa). As per provisions set out in Decision IX/6 (Annex I, MOP16), CUNs were required to be submitted by the Parties to the Ozone Secretariat in accordance with the timetable shown in paragraph 1 of Annex I, Decision XVI/4.

This report also provides; 1) final recommendations for the CUNs for which the Parties provided information as per the timelines set at the 26th Meeting of the Parties, 2) information from Parties on stocks (Decision Ex.1/4 (9f)), 3) partial information on actual MB consumption for critical uses (in accordance with Decision XVII/9), and 4) indication of adoption rates of alternatives, as evidenced by trend lines on reduction of MB for CUNs (in accordance with Decisions XIX/9, XX/5). It is noted that trend lines on adoption may not necessarily indicate true adoption rates for alternatives, as stocks of MB may have been available for use, although for non A5 Parties stocks are now small (see Table 1-3).

Standard presumptions used in the 2016 round are consistent with previous evaluations. . These are subjected to continual review, however have remained consistent for many years. MBTOC recommendations require approval by the Parties in the MOP preceding the year of assessment, based on a draft Decision presented to the MOP in accordance with paragraph 2 in Annex 1 to the report of MOP16.

3. Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide

3.1 Mandate

Under Article 2H of the Montreal Protocol, Parties not operating under Article 5(1) of the Protocol were required to phase-out all production and consumption (defined as production plus imports minus exports) of MB after 1stJanuary 2005. The same requirements applied to Parties operating under Article 5(1) after 1stJanuary 2015. However, the Parties agreed to a provision enabling exemptions for those uses of MB that qualify as critical. Under Decision IX/6 of the Protocol Parties established criteria, which critical uses need to meet in order to qualify for an exemption (see Annex 1 of this report). TEAP and its MBTOC have provided guidance to the Parties on recommendations regarding critical use exemptions in accordance with Decisions IX/6, Annex I of Decision XVI/2 and a number of subsequent decisions (XVI/2; XVII/9, XVIII/13, XIX/9, XX/5, XXI/11, XXII/6, XXIII/4,XXIV/5 XXV/4, XXVI/2 and XXVII/3).

Decision XXIV/5 differed from past decisions in that it reinforced that Parties '*take all reasonable steps to explore further the possibility of transitioning to technically and economically feasible alternatives… and to ensure that the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee is fully aware of these efforts*'.

Decision XXV/4 requested Australia and Canada to submit, by the 38th OEWG, the available results of their research programmes on alternatives to MB and the results of the groundwater studies, respectively, to the TEAP for its consideration. Both Parties provided comprehensive summaries of these requests to the MBTOC cochairs during bilateral discussions at the 38th OEWG and also follow up information during reassessment after the OEWG for consideration by MBTOC during its final assessment. This same Decision further requests TEAP to '*analyse the impact of national, subnational and local regulations and laws on the potential use of methyl bromide alternatives, to report annually on the status of re-registration and review of methyl bromide uses for the applications reflected in the CUNs, including any information on health effects and environmental acceptability and to report annually on the status of registration of alternatives and substitutes for methyl bromide, with particular emphasis on possible regulatory actions that will increase or decrease dependence on methyl bromide'*.

MBTOC considers that any chemical or product registered for a particular use has been through the rigours of the national regulatory authorities and accepts that these fall within guidelines for health effects and environmental acceptability. MBTOC particularly takes note of those products, which are generally listed in any CUN application.

3.2 Fulfilment of Decision IX/6

Decision XVI/2 and Decision XXI/11 directed MBTOC to indicate whether all CUNs fully met the requirements of Decision IX/6 (Annex 1). When the requirements of Decision IX/6 are met, MBTOC can recommend critical uses of MB. When the requirements of Decision IX/6 are not met, MBTOC will be unable to recommend critical uses of MB. Where some of the conditions are not fully met, MBTOC can recommend a decreased amount depending on its technical and economic evaluation, or determine the CUN as "unable to assess" and request further information from the Party. When the information is submitted, MBTOC is required to re-assess the nomination, following the procedures defined in Annex 1 of the 16thMeeting of the Parties.

MBTOC recommended less MB than requested in a CUN when technically and economically feasible alternatives were considered to be available or, when the Party failed to show that there was no technically and economically feasible alternative for part of the nomination. MBTOC may have accepted that some allocation was appropriate to permit timely phase out of MB. In this round of CUNs, as in previous rounds, MBTOC considered all information provided by the Parties, including answers to questions from MBTOC and all additional information submitted by the Parties up to the date of the evaluation.

Now that technically and economically feasible alternatives have been identified for virtually all applications of MB, regulations on the use of these alternatives often determine their availability to the end users. In view of the large numbers of sectors which have moved effectively to alternatives, it was particularly important in this round for the Parties, and particularly for A5 Parties submitting CUNs, to clearly identify why MB is considered critical for the specific circumstances of the nomination. Comparative information on the economic feasibility/infeasibility of the use of alternatives with respect to MB is also becoming more critical to the outcomes of present and future CUNs. In particular, MBTOC needs annual updates of the economics information evaluating the costs of alternatives.

3.3 Accounting Frameworks for Critical Use

Under the Dec Ex 1/4 9(f) Parties non A5 Parties which have been granted a critical-use exemption after 2005 were required to submit Accounting Frameworks, and similarly for A5 Parties after 2015.

For this 2016 round, Accounting Frameworks from A5 Parties were reported for the first time. The Frameworks showed that there were 49.7 t of stocks for Parties that reported, however their source (i.e. prior to 2015 or post 2015) was not provided and this is important as it has implications for future use of methyl bromide for controlled uses. Additionally A5 Parties are required to submit National

Management Plans as required in Decision Ex. I/4(3) (Annex II). The only A5 Party submitting a plan to date is China.

Under Decision Dec Ex 1/4 9(f) it is unclear whether parties not applying for CUNs but still using MB under CUEs need to report stocks. MBTOC suggests that Parties may wish to consider a revision to submission of frameworks so that these only need to be provided from those Parties which either have been granted critical uses for the year of reporting or where stocks of methyl bromide exist at the end of the year after they cease applying for CUNs.

For this 2016 round, Accounting Frameworks from A5 Parties were reported for the first time. The Frameworks showed that there were 49.7 t of stocks, however their source (i.e. prior to 2015 or post 2015) was not provided and this is important as it has implications for future use of methyl bromide for controlled uses.

A number of decisions (Ex.I/4 (9f); XVI/2(4); XVII/9(5) and subsequent 'Critical Use' Decisions set out provisions which request Parties to submit in Accounting Frameworks by 1st February each year information on how criteria in IX/6(1) are met when licensing permitting or authorizing CUEs. Decision XVII/9 of the 17th MOP sets the timeline for reporting and also specifically requests TEAP and its MBTOC to "*report for 2005 and annually thereafter, for each agreed critical use category, the amount of MB nominated by a Party, the amount of the agreed critical use and either:*

(a) The amount licensed, permitted or authorised; or
(b) The amount used

Since the start of the CUN reviews in 2003, MBTOC has provided tables of the historic amounts of MB nominated and agreed for each critical use (Annexes III and IV). Additionally Parties provide accounting frameworks on amounts used for critical uses and stocks as required under Dec Ex.1/4 (9f). (Table1-3). The same requirements apply to A5 Parties after 2015.

For 2015, the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) authorised Australia to use 29.760t of MB (Table 1.3). The Party reported that 29.750t were used for the critical uses in 2015. For Canada in 2015, the MOP authorised 5.261 t for strawberry runners and the Party reported that 4.316 t were used for the critical uses in 2015. For A5 critical uses, the Parties authorized 71.25 t for strawberry fruit and 58.0 t for tomatoes in Argentina; 99.75 t for ginger protected and open fields in China; 85.057 t for strawberry runner and raspberry production in Mexico and 74.062 t for Mills and structures in South Africa.

3.4 Trends in Methyl Bromide Use for CUEs since 2005

Decision XVII/9 requires TEAP to show trends in the phase out of the critical uses of MB (Fig 1-1 to Fig.1-3, Annexes III and IV). Since 2005, there has been a progressive downward trend in the amounts of MB requested for CUNs by all Parties for both soil and post- harvest uses, although this has occurred at different rates. Figs 1-1 shows reduction trends in amounts approved/nominated by Parties for 'Critical Use' from 2005 to 2016 for all the remaining soil uses in both non-A5 Parties (strawberry runners, Canada and Australia) and Figs 1-2 and 1-3 the current preplant soil and commodity uses in A5 Parties (Argentina, China and Republic of South Africa) since 2015. The complete trends in phase out of MB by country, as indicated by change in CUE, are shown in Annexes III and IV.

The nominated amounts and the apparent rate of reduction in MB or adoption of alternatives achieved by Parties are shown in Table 1-4, as well as Figures 1-1 to 1-3. It is noted that for those non-A5 countries that have pre-2005 stocks of MB that are being drawn down, the reductions in CUEs from year to year cannot be taken directly as evidence of adoption of alternatives since pre-2005/2015 stocks may have been used (or may still be used) in the same sectors.

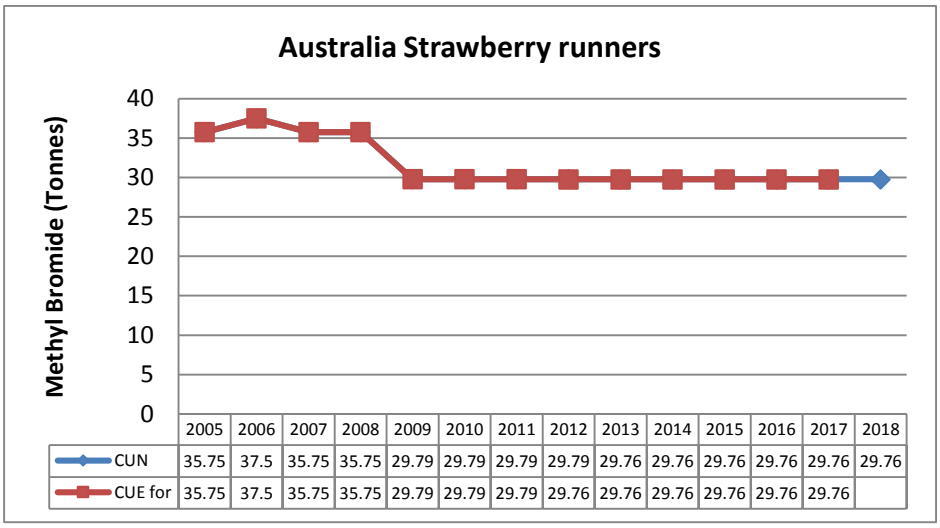
3.5 Disclosure of Interest

As in past reports, MBTOC members were requested to update their disclosure of interest forms relating specifically to their level of national, regional or enterprise involvement for the 2016 CUN process. The

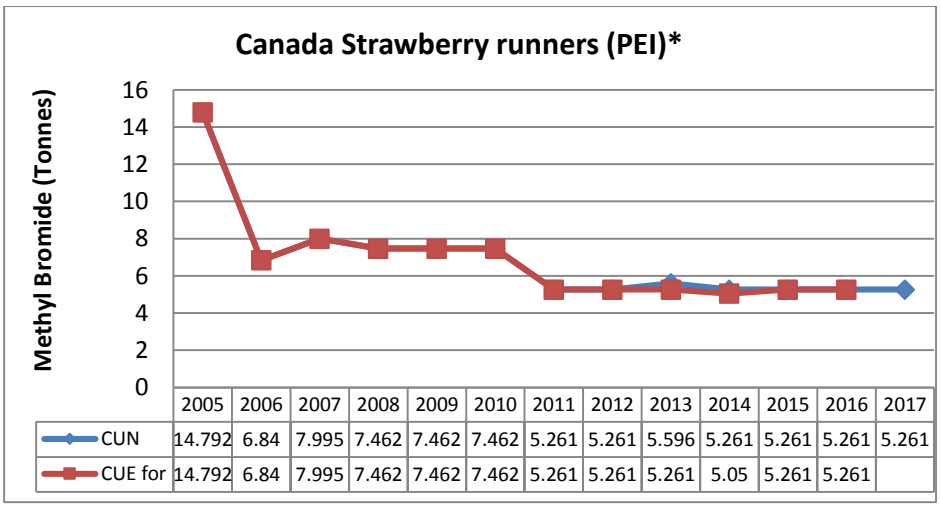
Disclosure of Interest declarations for 2016, updated in February 2016 can be found on the Ozone Secretariat website at:http://ozone.unep.org/en/assessment-panels/383/disclosure-interest?field_subsidiary_body=391 and a list of members in this report. As in previous rounds, some members withdrew from or abstained to participate in a particular CUN assessment or only provided technical advice on request, for those nominations where a potential conflict of interest was declared. Details of recusals can be found in section 1.3.2.

MBTOC co-chairs further briefed members of recent updates introduced by the Parties to the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the TEAP/TOC, as per recent Decisions XXIV/8 and XXV/6.

Figure 1.1. Amounts of MB nominated and exempted for CUE uses in nominated preplant soil sectors from 2005 to 2018 by non A5 countries: Australia and Canada. Blue lines indicate the trend inMB nominated in the CUN and the red lines the amount of MB approved as a CUE by the Parties



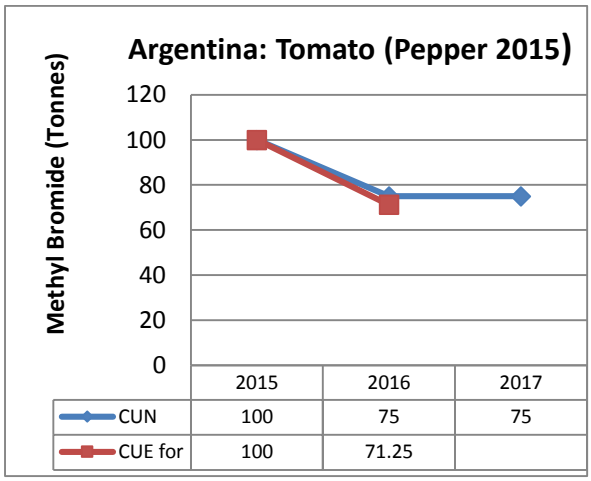
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CUN	35.75	37.5	35.75	35.75	29.79	29.79	29.79	29.79	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76
CUE for	35.75	37.5	35.75	35.75	29.79	29.79	29.79	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	

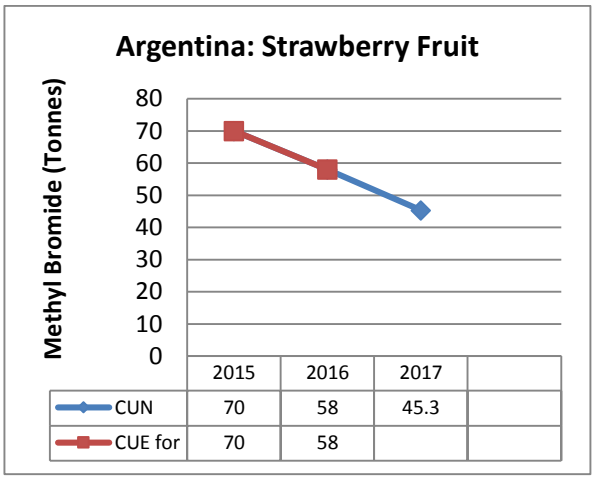


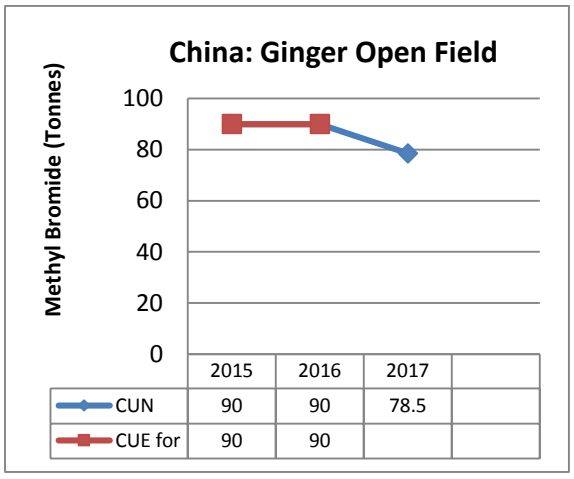
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CUN	14.792	6.84	7.995	7.462	7.462	7.462	5.261	5.261	5.596	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.261
CUE for	14.792	6.84	7.995	7.462	7.462	7.462	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.05	5.261	5.261	

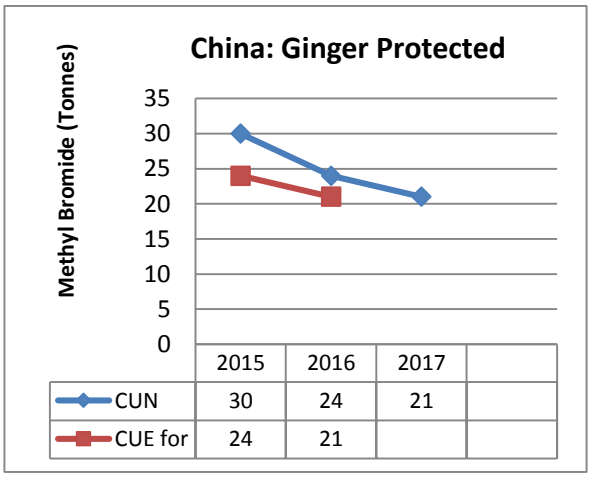
* Prince Edward Island

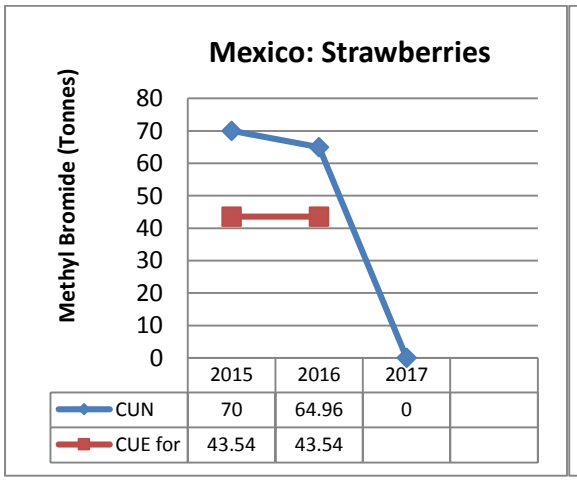
Figure 1.2. Amounts of MB nominated and exempted for CUE uses in nominated preplant soil sectors from 2015 to 2017 by A5 countries: Argentina, China and Mexico. Blue lines indicate the trend in MB amounts nominated in the CUN and the red lines the amount of MB approved as a CUE by the Parties











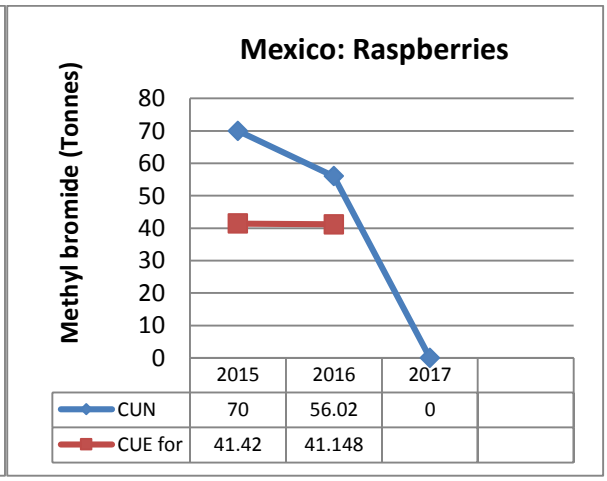
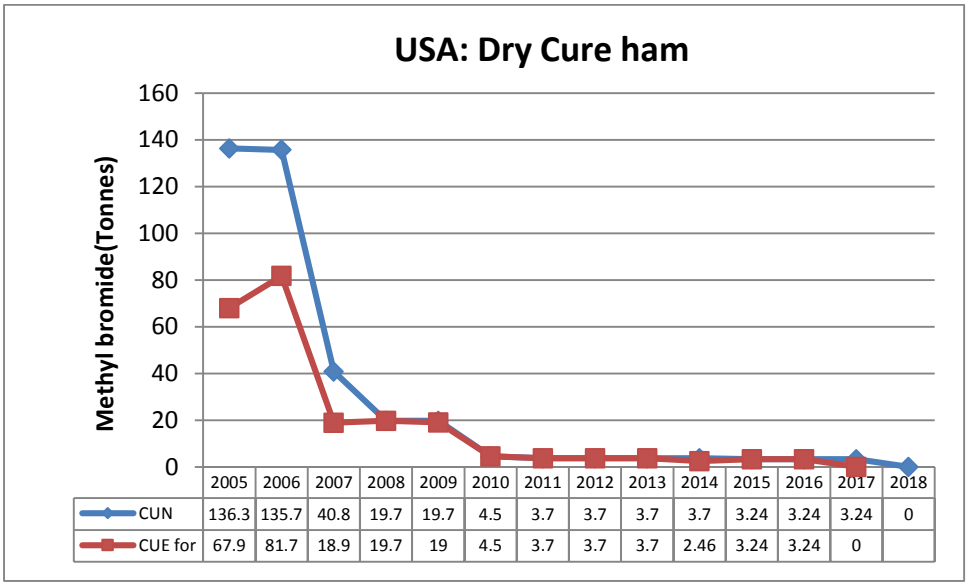
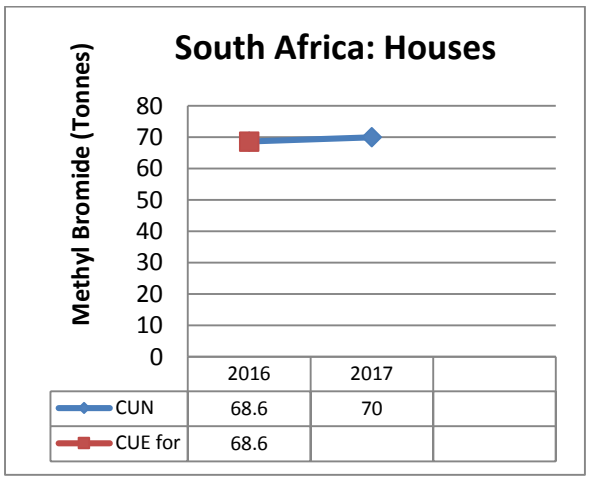


Figure 1.3. Amounts of MB nominated and exempted for CUE uses in structural and commodity uses from 2005 to 2017 by non A5 countries: USA. Blue lines indicate the trend in MB amounts nominated in previous CUNs and the red lines the amount of MB approved as a CUE by the Parties

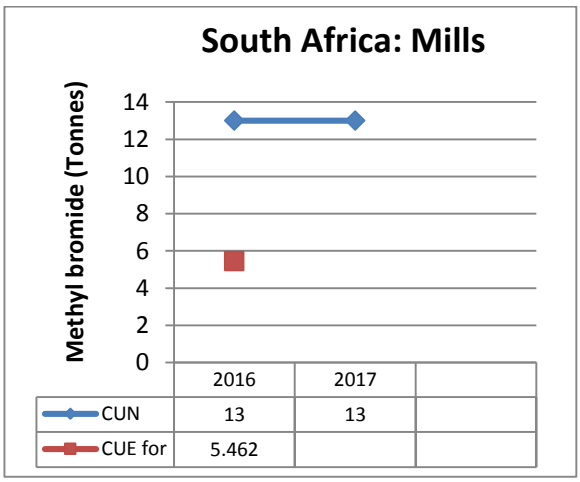


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CUN	136.3	135.7	40.8	19.7	19.7	4.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.24	3.24	3.24	0
CUE for	67.9	81.7	18.9	19.7	19	4.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.46	3.24	3.24	0	

Figure 1.4. Amounts of MB nominated and exempted for CUE uses in structural and commodity uses from 2015 to 2017 by A5 countries: South Africa (RSA). Blue lines indicate the trend in MB amounts nominated in the CUN and the red lines the amount of MB approved as a CUE by the Parties



	2016	2017	
CUN	68.6	70	
CUE for	68.6		



	2016	2017	
CUN	13	13	
CUE for	5.462		

3.6 Issues Concerning Article 5 Parties

MB was due to be fully phased out in A5 Parties by January 1, 2015, 10 years after the phaseout date by non-A5 Parties. In both cases, uses for feedstock and QPS are exempted from phase out under the control measures described in Article 2H. There is also provision for exemption from phase out for uses deemed 'critical' according to Article 2H, as complying with Decision IX/6.

By end of 2014 (the last date for which full official reporting information is available at the Ozone Secretariat Data Access Centre), approximately 98% of the global consumption for non-exempt uses has been phased out. In A5 Parties, 91.5% of previous controlled uses had been replaced, ahead and in time for the 2015 deadline. This was achieved largely as a result of investment projects implemented by the Montreal Protocol agencies, with MLF funding, bilateral cooperation and also national funding.2014 had agreements. MBTOC notes that all A5 Parties submitting CUNs in this round (except South Africa) have received substantial funding from the MLF for complete phase-out of MB in their countries by 1st January 2015 at the latest, in many cases earlier.

3.6.1. Reporting requirements and agreed conditions under Decision Ex.1/4

Decision Ex. I/4 (Annex II) taken at the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (2004) set forth a series of requirements from Parties requesting CUNs after the phase out date, which non-A5 Parties have fulfilled over the past decade and now become relevant for A5 Parties. This Decision also includes some agreed conditions for requesting continuing CUNs.

Such requirements are fully considered by MBTOC during its CUN evaluations and also when preparing the 'Handbook of CUN nominations'. The following list has been prepared to assist A5 Parties with the preparation of CUNs.

The full text of Dec. Ex.I/4 is included in the Appendix II of this report for reference. In synthesis, Parties for which a CUE has been approved need to submit the following materials to the Ozone Secretariat (dates in brackets have been inserted by MBTOC so they apply to the A5 timeline):

1. *Information before 1 February 2005 [2015] on the alternatives available, listed according to their pre-harvest or post-harvest uses and the possible date of registration, if required, for each alternative;*

2. A ***national management strategy*** *for phase-out of critical uses of methyl bromide before 1 February 2006 [2016]. The management strategy should aim, among other things:*

   a) *To avoid any increase in methyl bromide consumption except for unforeseen circumstances;*

   b) *To encourage the use of alternatives through the use of expedited procedures, where possible, to develop, register and deploy technically and economically feasible alternatives;*

   c) *To provide information, for each current pre-harvest and post-harvest use for which a nomination is planned, on the potential market penetration of newly deployed alternatives and alternatives which may be used in the near future, to bring forward the time when it is estimated that methyl bromide consumption for such uses can be reduced and/or ultimately eliminated;*

   d) *To promote the implementation of measures which ensure that any emissions of methyl bromide are minimized;*

   e) *To show how the management strategy will be implemented to promote the phase-out of uses of methyl bromide as soon as technically and economically feasible alternatives are available, in particular describing the steps which the Party is taking in regard to subparagraph (b) (iii) of paragraph 1 of decision IX/6 in respect of research programmes in non-Article 5 Parties and the adoption of alternatives by Article 5 Parties;*

3.7 Consideration of Stocks, Decision Ex.1/4 (9f)

One criterion for granting a critical use is that MB "*is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from existing stocks of banked or recycled methyl bromide*" (paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of Decision IX/6). Parties nominating critical use exemptions are requested under decision Ex.I/4(9f) to submit an accounting framework with the information on stocks. MBTOC has not reduced its recommended amount of methyl bromide in consideration of stocks held by the Party and has instead relied on Parties to take this into consideration when approving the amounts recommended by TEAP for each nomination. To assist the Parties with their consideration of stocks, and in accordance with Decision XVIII/13(7), a summary of the data on stocks as reported by non-A5Parties in the first year for accounting in 2006, and then reports submitted in 2015 and 2016 are summarized in Tables 1.1 to 1.3 below.

Efficient functioning of commerce requires a certain level of available stocks and additional stocks to respond to emergencies. Additionally, stocks may be held on behalf of other Parties or for exempted uses (feedstock and QPS uses). The correct or optimal level of stocks for virtually every input to production is not zero. In addition, stocks are privately owned and may not be readily available for critical uses, or there may be national regulations preventing the transfer of stocks. Despite these restrictions, Parties may wish to ensure that stocks are used wherever possible in order to minimize the quantity of MB that need to be produced each year for critical uses. Tables 1-1 to 1-3 report the quantities of MB 'on hand' at the beginning and end respectively of 2005, 2014 and 2015 as required under Decision XVI/6. The earlier CUN reports identified stocks for the other years.

Table 1.1. Quantities of MB (metric tonnes) 'on hand' at the beginning and end of 2005, as first reported by Parties in 2006/2007 under Decision XVI/6.

Party	Critical use exemptions authorized by MOP for 2005	Quantity of MB as reported by Parties (metric tonnes)				
		Amount on hand at start of 2005	Quantity acquired for CUEs in 2005 (production +imports)	Amount available for use in 2005	Quantity used for CUEs in 2005	Amount on hand at the end of 2005
Australia	146.6	0	114.912	114.912	114.912	0
Canada	61.792	0	48.858	48.858	45.146	3.712
EU	4,392.812	216.198	2,435.319	2,651.517	2,530.099	121.023
Israel	1,089.306	16.358	1,072.35	1,088.708	1,088.708	0
Japan	748	0	594.995	594.995	546.861	48.134
New Zealand	50	6.9	40.5	47.4	44.58	2.81
USA (a)	9,552.879	NR	7,613	NR	7,170	443

(a) Additional information on stocks was reported on US EPA website, September 2006: MB inventory held by USA companies: 2004 = 12,994 tonnes; 2005 = 9,974 tonnes; NR=not reported

Table 1.2. Quantities of MB 'on hand' at the beginning and end of 2014, as reported by Parties in 2014 under Decision XVI/6.

Party	Critical use exemption authorized by MOP for 2014	Quantity of MB as reported by Parties (metric tonnes)				
		Amount on hand at start of 2014	Quantity acquired for CUEs in 2013 (production +imports)	Amount available for use in 2014	Quantity used for CUEs in 2014	Amount on hand at the end of 2014
Australia	30.947	0	30.428	30.428	30.428	0
Canada	10.305	1.407	8.424	9.831	8.360	1.471
USA	442	327	442	799	356	140

NR=not reported

Table 1.3. Quantities of MB 'on hand' at the beginning and end of 2015, as reported by Parties in 2015under Decision XVI/6

Party	Critical use exemption authorized by MOP for 2015	Quantity of MB as reported by Parties (metric tonnes)				
		Amount on hand at start of 2015	Quantity acquired for CUEs in 2015(production +imports)	Amount available for use in 2015	Quantity used for CUEs in 2015	Amount on hand at the end of 2015
Australia	29.76	0	29.75	29.75	29.75	0
Canada	5.261	1.471	4.194	5.665	4.316	1.349
USA	376.90	NR				
Argentina	134.3	0	134.15	134.15	134.15	0
China	114.0	0	114.0	114.0	114.0	0
Mexico	84.957	NR	84.9	NR	84.9	NR
RSA	74.062	-	-	-	-	49.7*

NR=NR=not reported; *Partly Estimated from supplies available at 30 November 2015.

Table 1.4. Summary of Critical Use Nominations and Exemptions of Methyl Bromide (tonnes)

	Quantities Nominated												Quantities Approved												Final Rec.	
Party	**2005…**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2005 (1ExMOP and 16MOP)**	**2006 (16MOP+ 2ExMOP+ 17MOP)**	**2007 (17MOP + 18MOP)**	**2008 (18MOP + 19MOP)**	**2009 (19MOP)**	**2010 (20MOP + 21MOP)**	**2011 (21MOP)**	**2012 (22MOP)**	**2013 (23MOP)**	**2014 (24MOP)**	**2015 (25 MOP)**	**2016 (26 MOP)**	**[2017] + 27 MOP**	**[2018]**
Australia	206.950	52.900	38.990	37.610	35.450	34.660	32.164	30.947	29.76	29.76	29.76	29.76	146.600	75.100	48.517	48.450	37.610	36.440	28.710	31.708	32.134	30.947	29.76	29.76	29.76[A]	**[29.730]**
Canada	61.992	42.241	39.115	35.080	19.368 +3.529	16.281	13.444	10.305	5.261	5.261	5.261		61.792	53.897	52.874	36.112	39.020	30.340 +3.529	19.368	16.281	13.109	10.305	5.261	5.261	**[5.261]**	
EC	5754.361	245.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4392.812	3536.755	689.142	245.146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Israel	1117.156	952.845	699.448	383.700	232.247	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1089.306	880.295	966.715	860.580	610.854	290.878	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Japan	748.000	589.600	508.900	288.500	249.420	221.104	3.317	0	0	0	0	0	748.000	741.400	636.172	443.775	305.380	267.000	239.746	219.609	3.317	0	0	0	0	
New Zealand	53.085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.000	42.000	18.234	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Switzerland	8.700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.700	7.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
USA	10753.997	6415.153	4958.034	3299.490	2388.128	1187.118	691.608	442.337	377.170	234.78	3.240	0	9552.879	8081.753	6749.060	5355.976	4261.974	3234.074	2055.200	993.706	562.328	442.337	377.170	234.780	0	
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245	223	120.3		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	129.25	**[102.940]**	
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	120	114	99.75		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	99.75	**[92.977]**	
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	120.978	0		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84.957	84.957	**-**	
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81.60	83		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74.062	**[59.100]**	
TOTALS	**18704.241**	**8297.739**	**6244.487**	**4044.380**	**2928.142**	**1460.163**	**740.533**	**483.589**	**917.191**	**809.379**	**341.311**	**29.79**	**16050.089**	**13418.200**	**9160.714**	**6990.039**	**5,254.838**	**3572.183**	**2343.024**	**1261.304**	**610.888**	**483.589**	**751.388**	**628.06**	**29.76+ [255.017]**	**[29.730]**

A – Approved at the 27th MOP in 2015

3.8. Evaluations of CUNs – 2016 Round for 2017 and 2018 Exemptions

At the 38thOpen Ended Working Group held in Vienna in July 2016, MBTOC presented interim recommendations for the eight nominations received in 2016. These nominations were received from two non A5 Parties – Australia and Canada - and three A5 Parties, Argentina, China and the Republic of South Africa as shown in Table 1-5. During bilateral discussions at the OEWG, two non A5 Parties (Australia and Canada) and two A5 Parties (Argentina and South Africa) indicated that they would send subsequent information for reassessment.

In summary after the OEWG in 2016, CUNs from Australia, Canada, Argentina and RSA were reassessed after the Parties submitted new information and a request.

The total amount of MB nominated for the final assessment in the 2016 round for all countries was 337.81 tonnes (A5 302.8 t, Non-A5: 35.021 t). Of the amount nominated for 2016, 254.821 t was for preplant soil uses and 83.0 t for commodity uses, all for A5 Parties. MBTOC made a final recommendation of 290.008 tonnes (Figs 1.5, 1.11). In 2018, one nomination applied for a CUE of 29.760 t and MBTOC made a final recommendation of 29.730 tonnes. The grounds used for these recommendations are given in detail for the relevant CUNs in Tables 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11.

In general the CUNs were submitted due to a number of factors including the following situations: environmental conditions and regulatory restrictions did not allow partial or full use of alternatives, difficulties in the scale-up of alternatives and that potential alternatives were considered uneconomical, insufficiently effective and/or were unavailable. In paragraph 20 of Annex 1 referred to in Decision XVI/4, parties specifically requested that MBTOC explicitly state the specific basis for the Party's economic statement relating to CUNs. Tables 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11 provide this information for each CUN as prepared by the MBTOC economist and the MBTOC members. MBTOC notes that the economic information supplied by the nominating Parties varied in the level of detail.

3.8.1. Critical Use Nomination Final Review

In view of the short timelines, MBTOC conducted the reassessments by email contact with each member contributing their own views on each nomination until consensus was reached. All members agreed with the final recommendations by consensus.

The final assessment has been conducted as required in accordance with the time schedule for the consideration of CUNs provided in Annex I referred to in Decision XVI/4. In assessing the CUNs submitted in 2016, as in previous rounds, MBTOC applied as much as possible the standards contained in Annex I of the final report of the 16thMOP and, where relevant, the standard presumptions given below. In particular, MBTOC sought to provide consistent treatment of CUNs within and between Parties while at the same time taking local circumstances into consideration. The most recent CUE approved by the Parties for a particular CUN was used as baseline for consideration of continuing nominations. In evaluating CUNs for soil treatments, MBTOC assumed that the presence of a technically feasible alternative to MB would need to provide sufficient pest and/or weed control to allow for continued production of that crop within existing market standards. The economic viability of production was also considered.

For commodity and structural applications, it was assumed that technically and economically feasible alternatives would provide disinfestation to a level that met the objectives of a MB treatment, e.g. meeting disinfestation standards in treated structures or mills.

The final outcome of evaluations of CUNs for the soil and structural treatments are presented in Table 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11 below.

3.8.2 Achieving Consensus

In accordance with Decision XX/5(9) and subsequent Decisions (XXI/11(4), XXII/6(4) and XXIII/4(3) and XXIV/5 and 8) the Parties have indicated that MBTOC '*should ensure that it develops its*

recommendations in a consensus process that includes full discussion among all available members of the Committee….'.

In keeping with this mandate all members were given access to the information and were able to discuss issues related to all nominations (by electronic means).

As observed for the interim recommendations, three members did not participate in the final recommendations on nominations, as required by MBTOC's working procedures. These included Alejandro Valeiro (Argentina strawberry fruit and tomato), Cao Aocheng (China ginger) and Ian Porter (Australian strawberry nurseries). The recusals took place either as a result of a member's disclosure in observance of MBTOC's guidelines or due to a voluntary self-recusal to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.

3.8.3 Emergency Uses Reported by Israel and Jamaica

As reported in MBTOC's interim CUN report, Israel has informed the Ozone Secretariat and MBTOC of an emergency use of methyl bromide in accordance with Decision IX/7 consisting of 500 kg of methyl bromide to control an infestation of museum artefacts, and provided information on alternatives to methyl bromide for this use (TEAP, 2016).

After the OEWG, Jamaica also informed the Secretariat of an emergency use, of 1,500 kg of methyl bromide "for use by a flour mill for fumigation of stored commodities and fumigation of its warehouse". The user has indicated that no suitable alternatives are available for its particular requirements. MBTOC notes that alternatives to methyl bromide for structures – including flourmills – and stored commodities are successfully in place around the world. These include heat, phosphine, sulfuryl fluoride and others, within an IPM approach. Sanitation and proper sealing are essential to the successful outcome of alternatives. MBTOC has conducted comprehensive reviews of these alternatives in its past Assessment Reports (MBTOC 2010, 2014).

3.9 Interim Evaluations of 2016 Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide for Preplant soil use in 2017and 2018

3.9.1 Critical Use Nomination Assessment

Table 1.5 identifies the final quantities recommended by MBTOC after consideration of all the information provided by the Parties before and after the OEWG. In summary, the Australian nomination was reduced as it was considered that an alternative was suitable for a small part of the nomination. The Canadian nomination was recommended in full as the Party substantiated that no alternatives could be used in Prince Edward Island or that the available alternatives were unsuitable. The Party acknowledged that a small proportion of the nomination (420 kg) could be replaced with substrates in the future and MBTOC anticipates that this amount will not be sought in future rounds. The Argentinean tomato and strawberry nominations were reduced because it was considered that emission control technologies could be used to reduce the dosage rates of MB required for the nominations. The CUNs submitted by China were not reconsidered, as the Party did not request reassessment of the interim recommendations. Detailed descriptions of these assessments can be found in Table 1-5.

Table 1-5. Summary of the interim and final recommendations (in square brackets) for CUE's for preplant uses of MB (tonnes) submitted in 2016 for 2017 and 2018

Country and Sector	Article 5 Parties		Non A5 Parties		Final Recommendation
	Nomination by Party for 2017	Interim Rec. for 2017 use	Nomination by the Party for 2018	Interim Rec. for 2018 use	
1. **Australia**					
Strawberry runners			**29.76**	**[25.266]**	**[29.73]**
2. **Canada**					
Strawberry runners	**5.261**	**[Unable]**			**[5.261]**
3. Argentina					
Tomato	**75.0**	**[59.45]**			[64.10]
Strawberry fruit	**45.3**	**[35.71]**			[**38.84]**
4. China					
Ginger, open field	**78.5**	**[74.617]**			**[74.617]**
Ginger, protected	**21.0**	**[18.360]**			**[18.360]**
TOTAL	**225.061**	**[188.137]**	**29.76**	**[25.266]**	**[230.908]**

3.9.2 Issues Related to CUN Assessment for Preplant Soil Use

Key issues which influenced assessment and the need for MB for preplant soil use of MB in the 2016 round were:

i) For all nominations, except Australia, barrier films were considered as a technology to reduce rates and emissions of methyl bromide. For Australia, the Party presented data illustrating that heavy soil types trap methyl bromide as effectively with LDPE films as barrier films under the circumstances of the nomination.

ii) The Australian research program is trialling many options for replacement of MB in strawberry runners and the Party provided a full overview of their research program to MBTOC at the 38thOEWG in July 2016, followed by written materials, which MBTOC received in time for the final assessment.

iii) The Canadian nomination has been relying on a groundwater study to determine whether Pic (a key alternative) can be granted a permit for use on Prince Edward Island, but this study has been abandoned and potential groundwater issues in PEI also affect other fumigant alternatives.

iv) The Argentinean nominations are for sectors where a number of alternatives have been adopted in all A5 and non A-5 Parties previously using methyl bromide for these same sectors, however specific issues with cold soils and market windows are of concern for uptake of the major alternatives. A key pest of tomato, the *Nacobbus* (false root-knot) nematode is requiring specific consideration as no resistant rootstocks with good commercial potential have been identified for this pest.

v) The only chemical alternative available in China for ginger is chloropicrin. The results are encouraging but further controls are required to address nematodes and weed issues. Research shows good results with 1,3-D/Pic and DMDS/Pic, but these fumigants are currently not registered in China

MBTOC has noted more specific issues related to requests for CUNs below and also in the CUN text boxes (Table 1.9).

3.9.3 General Comments on the Assessment for Preplant Soil Use

MBTOC continues to encourage Parties to consider a review of regulations covering the registration, use and adoption of alternatives, including those regarding barrier films to reduce dosage rates of MB and its alternatives, and associated emissions. MBTOC also notes that a proportion of MB has been nominated for uses where regulations or legislation prevent reductions of MB dosage. For several cases, the mandatory use of MB is specified at a high dosage, in some cases for treatment of certified propagation material. Also regulations on the use of alternatives or their lack of registration are preventing their uptake for a substantial proportion of the remaining CUNs for preplant soil use.

3.9.4 Registration of Alternatives for Preplant Uses - Decision Ex I/4 (9i) and (9j)

Decision Ex. I/4 (9i) requires MBTOC, "*To report annually on the status of re-registration and review of methyl bromide uses for the applications reflected in the critical-use exemptions, including any information on health effects and environmental acceptability"*. Further, Decision Ex I/4 (9j) requires MBTOC "*To report annually on the status of registration of alternatives and substitutes for methyl bromide, with particular emphasis on possible regulatory actions that will increase or decrease dependence on methyl bromide".*

Where these have impacted a nomination, the Party or MBTOC may have adjusted quantities to allow for effective use of the alternative. A description of any changes has been made available in the CUN text boxes (Tables1.9 and 1.11).

Any future nominations submitted by any Party should include information on expected rates of adoption of alternatives following registration, in accordance with paragraphs 34-35 of Annex 1 of the 16thMOP, as this information would assist MBTOC in its evaluation of these CUNs.

3.9.5 Decision XXV/4

In response to Decision XXV/4 from the 25th MOP, MBTOC notes that all of the non-A5 nominations contained a discussion of national, subnational or local regulations impacting the potential use of alternatives to MB. In addition, both Non-A5 and A5 nominations contained information on the status of the registration of alternatives and substitutes for MB. These comments are summarized below for each Party.

3.9.5.1. Regulations impacting use of alternatives by country

- **Australia:** No new chemicals have been registered but several promising alternatives have been identified.
- **Canada**: A groundwater warning statement is currently on Canadian labels, which prevents the use of all fumigant alternatives in PEI.
- **China**: The only registered alternative to MB for ginger in China is chloropicrin, but this does not control nematodes and weeds.
- **Argentina**: Chloropicrin is not registered as a stand-alone product in Argentina, but combinations of 1,3-D/pic products are registered. Dazomet is not registered for edible crops.
- **South Africa**: A key fumigant alternative (sulfuryl fluoride) to methyl bromide is not registered for mills and houses.

3.9.5.2 Health effects of MB use and environmental acceptability

Over the past two decades numerous studies have characterized the health hazards resulting from exposure to methyl bromide. Its acute and chronic toxicities are very high and in many countries it is classified as "toxicity class I". It is known as a developmental, neurologic and respiratory toxin (Gemill *et al*., 2013, De Souza *et al*., 2013, Bulathsinghala *et al.*, 2014). Other known target organs are the heart, adrenal glands, liver, kidneys and testis (Gemill *et al*., 2013).

Accidental exposure to high concentrations of MB has been reported in many instances including fumigation of museums in Japan (Yamano and Nakadate, 2006), when handling the fumigant in a manufacturing facility in India (De Souza *et al*., 2013), when opening imported freight containers (Baur *et al*., 2010) and even in a home used for vacations (Sass, 2015).

Recent research findings reinforce suggested links between exposure to MB and health problems, including increased risk of developing prostate cancer, derived from occupational and community exposure (Budnik *et al*., 2012, Alavanja *et al*., 2013, Cockburn *et al.*, 2011). In another study (Gemill *et al*., 2013), a correlation was found between impaired foetal growth during the third trimester and exposure to methyl bromide in residential areas

Risk of exposure is especially high when small disposable canisters (i.e. 500 to 750g) are used for MB fumigation for pre plant soil under plastic sheets (Yamano *et al*., 2001). Canister applications have been eliminated for soil use in all non-Article 5 and in many A5 countries as this application is considered to be less efficient than other methods for the control of soil borne pathogens. Besides, this treatment is considered to be more dangerous to workers than injection methods, because trained contractors are not generally involved in MB application. This practice is not considered as effective for pathogens' control as injection of MB/Pic mixtures and also can lead to high emissions of MB as the gas is released immediately beneath the plastic sheets. MB also notes that in some circumstances, MB can sometimes leak out from the canister. MBTOC notes with concern that canister use is still allowed for preplant use and /or quarantine uses in a number of A5 countries e.g. China, Egypt Jordan and Mexico.

National regulatory authorities in each country handle the environmental acceptability of MB**.**

3.9.6 Sustainable Alternatives for Preplant Uses

MBTOC urges Parties to consider the long-term sustainability of treatments adopted as alternatives to MB. The combination of chemical and non-chemical alternatives in an IPM program provides excellent results in the longer term. Decision IX/6 1(a)(ii) refers to alternatives that are '*acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health'*. MBTOC has visited various regions where successful non-chemical alternatives e.g. soil less culture, grafting, solarisation, steam, bio-disinfestation (biofumigation) and anaerobic soil disinfestation, are used as sustainable alternatives to MB. Several Parties consider these techniques as viable alternatives, particularly when an integrated approach that combines different options is adopted.

3.9.7 Standard Presumptions Used in Assessment of Nominated Quantities

The tables below (Tables 1-6 and 1-7) provide the standard presumptions applied by MBTOC for this round of CUNs for preplant soil uses. These standard presumptions were first proposed in the MBTOC report of October 2005 and were presented to the Parties at the 17th MOP. Studies and reports to support them have been provided in previous reports and were revised for some sectors after consideration by the Parties at the 19th MOP. The rates and practices adopted by MBTOC as standard presumptions are based on maximum rates considered acceptable by published literature and actual commercial practice.

As in the evaluations in previous years, MBTOC considered reductions to quantities of MB in particular nominations to a standard rate per treated area where technical evidence supported its use. As a special case, MBTOC continues to accept a maximum rate of 200 kg/ ha (20 g/m^2) in MB/Pic formulations with high Pic-containing mixtures with or without barrier films for certified nursery production, unless regulations prescribe lower or higher rates. However, MBTOC notes that studies have shown that rates

of 200 kg/ha (20g/m^2) or less of MB: Pic 50:50 are effective with barrier films for production of 'certified' nursery material and urge Parties to consider regulations which permit these lower rates. MBTOC also notes that certified runner production may involve regulations which specify the mandatory use of a fumigant such as MB or an alternative, in order for the runners to be "certified runners".

The indicative rates used by MBTOC were maximum guideline rates, for the purpose of calculation only. MBTOC recognises that the actual rate appropriate for a specific use may vary with local circumstances, soil conditions and the target pest situation. Some nominations were based on rates lower than these indicative rates.

Table 1.6. Standard Presumptions Used in Assessment of CUNs for Preplant Soil Use of MB

	Comment	CUN adjustment	Exceptions
1. Dosage rates	Maximum guideline rates for MB: Pic 98:2 are 25 to 35 g/m^2 with barrier films (VIF or equivalent); for mixtures of MB/Pic are 12.5 to 17.5 g MB/m^2 for pathogens and nutsedge respectively, under barrier films depending on the sector. All rates are on a 'per treated hectare' basis.	Amount adjusted to maximum guideline rates. Maximum rates set dependent on formulation and soil type and film availability.	Higher rates accepted if specified under national legislation or where the Party had justified otherwise.
2. Barrier films	All treatments to be carried out under low permeability barrier film (e.g. VIF, TIF)	Nomination reduced proportionately to conform to barrier film use.	Where barrier film prohibited or restricted by legislative or regulatory reasons
3. MB/Pic Formulation: Pathogens control	Unless otherwise specified, MB/Pic 50:50 (or similar) was considered to be the standard effective formulation for pathogen control, as a transitional strategy to replace MB/Pic 98:2.	Nominated amount adjusted for use with MB/Pic 50:50 (or similar).	Where MB/Pic 50:50 is not registered, or Pic (Pic) is not registered
4. MB/Pic Formulation: Weeds/nutsedge ass control	Unless otherwise specified, MB/Pic 67:33 (or similar) was used as the standard effective formulation for control of resistant (tolerant) weeds, as a transitional strategy to replace MB/Pic 98:2.	Nominated amount adjusted for use with MB/Pic 67:33 (or similar).	Where Pic or Pic-containing mixtures are not registered
5. Strip vs. Broadacre	Fumigation with MB and mixtures to be carried out under strip	Where rates were shown in broad acre hectares, the CUN was adjusted to the MB rate relative to strip treatment (i.e. treated area). If not specified, the area under strip treatment was considered to represent 67% of the total area.	Where strip treatment was not feasible e.g. some protected cultivation, emission regulations on MB, or open field production of high health propagative material

Table 1.7. Maximum dosage rates for preplant soil use of MB by sector used since 2009 (standard presumptions)

Film Type	Maximum MB Dosage Rate (g/m^2) in MB/Pic mixtures (67:33, 50:50) considered effective for:			
	Strawberries and Vegetables	Plant Nurseries*	Orchard Replant	Ornamentals
Barrier films - Pathogens	12.5	15	15	15
Barrier films – Nutsedge	15.0	17.5	17.5	17.5
No Barrier films – Pathogens	20	20	20	20
No Barrier films - Nut sedge	26	26	26	26

* Maximum rate unless certification specifies otherwise

3.9.8 Adjustments for Standard Dosage Rates using MB/Pic Formulations

As in previous assessments, one key transitional strategy to reduce MB dosage has been the adoption of MB/Pic formulations with lower concentrations of MB (e.g. MB/Pic 50:50, 33:67 or less). These formulations are considered to be equally as effective in controlling soilborne pathogens as formulations containing higher quantities of MB (e.g. 98:2, 67:33) (Porter *et al.*, 2006; Santos *et al*., 2007; Hamill *et al.*, 2004; Hanson *et al.*, 2006), (Table 1.8).

Table 1.8. Actual dosage rates applied during preplant fumigation when different rates and formulations of MB/Pic mixtures are applied with and without barrier films. Rates of application reflect standard commercial applications rates.

Commercial application rates (kg/ha) of MB/Pic formulation	MB/Pic formulation (dose of MB in g/m^2)			
	98:2	67:33	50:50	30:70
A. With Standard Polyethylene Films				
400	39.2	26.8	20.0	12.0
350	34.3	23.5	17.5	10.5
300	29.4	20.1	15.0	9.0
B. With Low Permeability Barrier Films (LPBF)				
250	24.5	16.8	12.5	7.5
200	19.6	13.4	**10.0***	6.0
175	17.2	11.8	8.8	5.3

** Note: Trials from 1996 to 2008 (previous CUN reports) show that a dosage of $10g/m^2$ (e.g. MB/Pic 50:50 at 200kg/ha with Low Permeability Barrier Films) is technically feasible for many situations and equivalent to the standard dosage of $>20g/m^2$ using standard PE films*

3.9.9 Use/Emission Reduction Technologies - Barrier films and dosage reduction

Decision XXI/11 (para. 9) requested further reporting on Decision IX/6 to ensure Parties adopted emission controls where possible. For preplant soil use, this includes the use of barrier films or other mitigation strategies such as high moisture sealing and the lowest effective dose of MB with mixtures of chloropicrin. Other methods include deep shanking and use of ammonium thiosulphate and different irrigation technologies (Yates *et al.*, 2009). These latter technologies have not been reported or adopted widely by Parties.

In southeast USA the reported use of barrier films in vegetable crops, which expanded rapidly to over 20,000 hectares in 2009 has continued to increase. A change in the regulations – presently allowing

use of VIF in California - leaded to an increase in the adoption of barrier films in that State. MBTOC notes that barrier films particularly more recently developed totally impermeable (TIF) films can be used with alternatives and this is consistently improving the performance of alternatives at lower dosage rates (Driver *et al*. 2011; Cabrera *et al.*, 2015). For example, effectiveness at lower dosages can allow for greater areas to be treated with 1,3-D under township cap regulations.

As of December 1, 2012, EPA issued new set of soil fumigant product label changes, implementing important new protections for workers and bystanders. In the frame of these changes, the State of California now allows the use of VIF films for fumigation with MB, which were formerly prohibited (CDPR, 2012abc; EPA, 2013). Studies continue to show the advantages of barrier films and other technologies for reducing emissions and improving efficacy of alternatives as well as MB (Quin *et al*., 2013; Chellemi *et al*., 2013; Cabrera *et al.*, 2015).

Table 1-9.Final recommendations for CUNs from non A5 Parties for preplant soil use submitted in 2016 for 2017and 2018

Country	Industry	CUE for 2005[1]	CUE for 2006[2]	CUE for 2007[3]	CUE for 2008[4]	CUE for 2009[5]	CUE for 2010[6]	CUE for 2011[7]	CUE for 2012[8]	CUE for 2013[9]	CUE for 2014 [10]	CUE for 2015[11]	CUE for 2016[12]	CUE for 2017	CUN for 2018	MBTOC final rec. for 2018
Australia	Strawberry runners	35.750	37.500	35.750	35.750	29.790	29.790	29.790	29.760	29.760	29.760	29.760	29.760	29.760	29.760	[29.73]

MBTOC Final Recommendation for 2018
MBTOC recommends a reduced nominated amount of 29.73tonnes for 2018. The reduction of 0.03 t is for adoption of alternatives for fumigation of substrate for the production of Nucleus and Foundation stock use. During the OEWG, the party provided convincing research results why alternatives were not working. As indicated during the bilateral meeting at the 38th OEWG, industry has a plan to transition away from MB commencing in 2019.

Nomination by the Party:
The Party nominated 29.760 t to disinfest 119 ha (at a dose rate of 25 g/m^2) and soil-less substrate (0.03 t). This total nominated amount has remained unchanged for this industry since 2009.

Circumstances of the Nomination by the Party:
The Party states that the key pests affecting strawberry runner production are fungi (*Phytophthora, Pythium, Rhizoctonia* and *Verticillium* spp.) and weeds (*S. arvensis, Agrostis tenuis, Raphanus* spp*., Poa annua, Cyperus* spp.). The nomination is based on a soil and temperature situation: soils with very high clay and organic matter content requiring fumigation treatment under cold temperatures.

In its CUN, the Party argues that runner production under such conditions requires treatment with MB: Pic (50:50 at a MB dosage of 25 g/m^2) to meet the certification standards. The other registered soil fumigants, such as 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D)/Pic (65:35), cause crop phytotoxicity and yield losses of up to 40%. Phytotoxicity is related to the high organic matter (5-10%) and clay content (> 50%) of soils at Toolangi, and the long residual times of alternative fumigants in these soils (Mattner *et al*., 2014).

The Victorian runner industry only produces runners in soils treated with MB: Pic, and is not using any other methods other than substrates for the foundation stock production stage (Mattner *et al*., 2015). Some non-chemical alternatives are not feasible. Plant resistance is unreliable as an alternative to MB: Pic for delivering certified runners (Fang *et al* 2012). Integrated soil disinfestation with combinations of existing, registered fumigants is now considered the most likely and quickest approach for delivering a viable alternative to MB for the runner industry. The concept of the strategy is to apply low doses of existing registered fumigants (e.g. Pic, 1,3-D, and MITC generators) and herbicides (e.g. isoxaben, metolachlor, napropamide) in combinations that avoid potential crop phytotoxicity. So far, results with Pic Plus®, show that this alternative needs the development of complementary treatments to improve the control of weeds and pathogens, and increase runner yields to a similar level as with the current MB based production system.

TF-80® (1,3-D/Pic, 20:80) showed great promise in trials in reducing the risk of phytotoxicity occurring in strawberry runners in Toolangi, Victoria because of its low concentration of 1,3-D. Co-application of alternative fumigants (Pic Plus® and TF-80®) with the herbicide isoxaben increased weed control and runner yields in replicated trials to levels equivalent to MB/Pic. Ethane dinitrile (EDN) shows promise for soil disinfestation if systems can be developed to retain this product for longer periods in soil (Thalavaisundaram *et al.,* 2015). However, these products are not yet registered for soil disinfestation use in Australia. On the other hand, it appears that all fumigant alternatives showed lower pathogen control compared with MB/Pic. High levels of pathogen control are essential for production of certified runners of high health, and to manage the risk of litigation. To address this issue, new research in 2014/15 is investigating the co-application of specific fungicides, together with herbicides and alternative fumigants for improved pathogen control. Although the MB dosage rate exceeds MBTOC's standard presumption of 20 g/m^2, the lower rate is still unregistered in Australia. According to the Party, three years of trials with lower MB rates do not support bio-equivalency of these rates. The Party insists that soilless systems are not yet technically feasible for adoption into generations beyond the foundation stock.

		Trials conducted since 2014 in Australia with dimethyl disulphide (DMDS) particularly when co-applied with other fumigants or herbicides (Mattner *et al*., 2015; included in the CUN) have shown that treatment with DMDS and DMDS/Pic significantly reduced the total populations of soil borne pathogens by up to 95% reduced weed emergence by up to 70% and increased runner yields by up to 45%. The plant-back time required for DMDS and DMDS/Pic was 3 weeks which was comparable to MB/Pic and Pic (2.5 wk.), and shorter than 1,3-D-/Pic and Pic + Daz (6-12 weeks). These results clearly show that in Australia, DMDS and DMDS/Pic have considerable potential for soil disinfestation and runner production (Mattner *et al*., 2015). Application of Dazomet well in advance of DMDS fumigants shows a higher efficacy. **MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2018:** MBTOC still considers that soilless culture is a technique used widely for production of strawberry runners and is technically and economically suitable for some of the certified nursery production system resulting in healthy nursery material (López-Galarza *et al*., 2010, Rodríguez-Delfín 2012). According to the Party, 1,3-D/Pic is not available to runner growers. The rules for Certification of runner crops do not allow runners to be grown in soils treated with registered formulations of 1,3-D/Pic. The research program has made considerable progress. However, despite the promising reported results with non-registered chemical alternatives e.g. 1,3-D/Pic formulations (20:80 and not 65:35 or 40:60), EDN and DMDS/Pic, co-application of specific pre- and post-emergent herbicides with 1,3-D/Pic (20:80), EDN or DMDS/Pic, the Party cannot yet determine when the registration progress will be finalized and they will be available for use. Nevertheless, as indicated in bilateral meetings at the 38th OEWG, the industry has a plan to transition away from MB as of 2019. While MBTOC once more recognizes the Party's efforts in research and development of MB alternatives (Mattner *et al*., 2012). Furthermore, there have been essentially no significant reductions made for this production region since 2005 and no reduction in use rate as this is regulated by VSICA certification rules. MBTOC commends Australia for renewed research efforts, which are in line with the situation of various countries who phased-out MB use for strawberry runner use in the past and have implemented alternatives successfully (García-Sinovas *et al*., 2014; López-Aranda, 2016). MBTOC considers that the soil-less substrates, for which 0.03 t of MB is requested, can be disinfested with alternatives such as steam. MBTOC understands that certification authorities require at least two years of data demonstrating alternatives deliver equivalent efficacy to MB/Pic before changes to the rules of the Certification Scheme could be granted, but urges the Party to accelerate the schedule in order to phase out MB as soon as possible. **MBTOC comments on economics in 2016:** The economic information has not been updated in the nomination (see below). • A comprehensive economic analysis shows that while Foundation stock can be done in a soil-less system, Mother and Certified stock cannot. The selling prices of Mother and Certified stock would have to increase almost 7 fold (from A$0.34 per runner to A$2.03 and A$2.00 per runner respectively to break even). • Both operating and capital costs are about five times higher with a soilless system. • The main reason is the capital cost of setting up the soilless system and a yield loss of around 18%. Prices are assumed to stay the same for the two procedures. • These differences do not include the compliance costs with municipal regulations, or the costs of waste treatment, but note that the costs of use of methyl bromide do not include the real cost of damage to the ozone layer. • Soilless systems are more labour intensive, and labour costs in Australia are very high. With MB/Pic pre-plant soil treatment harvesting is done by machine, while with a soilless system it will be done by hand. The additional labour cost is already included in the operating costs and is a large reason for the discrepancy in operating costs. **Comments Requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):** • **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission reduction:** No, but the Party states that standard films perform the same as barrier films (e.g.VIF) for the reduction of emissions in the cold temperatures and heavy wet soils typical for strawberry runner production in Victoria. Party also states that use of VIF did not improve the efficacy of reduced rates of MB to an acceptable level for the strawberry runner industry. However, the Party reports new research established in 2015/16 is investigating deeper injection of alternative fumigants and the use of barrier films (VIF and TIF). • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Research program:** Approved and funded research program is currently in place at the time of this nomination. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate effort:** Research effort is adequate - funded research program currently in place at the time of this nomination.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2005[1]	CUE for 2006[2]	CUE for 2007[3]	CUE for 2008[4]	CUE for 2009[5]	CUE for 2010[6]	CUE for 2011[7]	CUE for 2012[8]	CUE for 2013[9]	CUE for 2014[10]	CUE for 2015[11]	CUE for 2016[12]	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017
Canada	Strawberry runners (PEI)	6.840	6.840	7.995	7.462	7.462	7.462	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.261	5.261	[5.261]

MBTOC Final Recommendation for 2017:

MBTOC recommends 5.261 tonnes as the Party has justified there are no viable alternatives. Since the interim assessment the Party has provided a summary of a funded research program, which demonstrates effort under Decision IX/6, however MBTOC is concerned that all present potential alternatives are not being considered because of strict restrictions on use by the PEI authorities. MBTOC anticipates that it will be informed of any changes with the Federal registration of chloropicrin and that consideration is given to other alternatives being trialled or adopted in other industries worldwide that may still be technically feasible in future (e.g. substrates, DMDS, EDN, etc.).

In past rounds, MBTOC has consistently recommended the Party to consider the use of 100% chloropicrin (registered in Canada) as a feasible alternative for MB under Dec. IX/6 for this one grower nomination. Several Canadian strawberry runner growers in other provinces, such as Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, phased out methyl bromide by using chloropicrin or metham sodium, as stated in the CUN. The Party also stated that the grower was interested in testing PIC alone in its fields, evidenced by their repeated requests for chloropicrin use permits. However, the government of PEI has been unable to authorize the trials on Pic or any of the more likely chemical fumigant alternatives on the potential of groundwater contamination, despite other studies showing otherwise.

For several years, the Canadian nomination has been relying on a groundwater study to determine whether chloropicrin (PIC) can be considered, or not, as an alternative for PEI. The study was terminated as a result of a special review initiated by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as stated in the last CUN and the Party has advised that Pic will no longer be considered for use in PEI even if the Federal review is successful. At the same time, MBTOC recognizes the efforts to adopt new substrates for foundation stock, but urges the Party to expand research efforts to secure alternatives as indicated by Dec. IX/6 b (iii). It will be considered by MBTOC, together with any additional information during its final assessment.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:

The Party has nominated 5.261 t of MB, which is the same amount granted as a CUE for 2016 and for all previous years CUEs since 2011 for this one company. It is for use for multiplication on runners on 26.3 ha of land, which includes the two final stages of multiplication of plants exported from PEI. The nomination is based on a reduced rate of MB of 20 g/m² (instead of 50 g/m^2) under high barrier films for the entire fumigated area, which is consistent with MBTOC's standard presumptions.

Circumstances of the nomination by the Party:

The grower has attempted to replace MB with 1,3-D in the past, but this fumigant was banned for use in Prince Edward Island in January 2003 due to potential ground water contamination.

Several Canadian strawberry runner growers in other provinces such as Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, phased out methyl bromide by using chloropicrin. Chloropicrin (PIC 100) is registered in Canada, but the PEI authorities have denied a permit for its use until further groundwater testing has been conducted. Long awaited studies on potential groundwater contamination of Pic 100 finally commenced in December 2013. Following the launch of the study, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) initiated a special review of chloropicrin as a result of the European Union's decision to prohibit its use. In June 2014, PEI authorities informed Environment Canada that they would not authorize the use of chloropicrin through the issuance of a research permit as part of the groundwater monitoring study until the PMRA's special review is completed. Given that the study cannot proceed without a research permit from the PEI Government to use chloropicrin, the study has been put on hold. On May 21, 2015, the PMRA published a document entitled Pest Management Regulatory Agency

		Re-evaluation Work Plan 2015-2018. A literature review of chloropicrin from major agricultural use in California and Florida indicates that chloropicrin is not detectable in groundwater. In addition, chloropicrin was not detected in the two groundwater samples collected on PEI in 2009. The company at PEI has tested organic production from 2006 - 2009 with different varieties but found that significant reductions in yield resulted, ranging from 40% to 70%. Only one variety using the organic production system compared favourably to conventional production. MB: Pic 67:33 at 50 g/m^2 is the only formulation and rate registered for use in strawberry runners in PEI, and although this exceeds MBTOC's standard presumption of 20 g/m^2 , the grower petitioned PMRA to use a lower rate under barrier films. PMRA, in the absence of a formal label amendment, granted permission to use a lower rate, but at the grower's own risk and liability. The CUN for 2017 is based entirely on a reduced rate for MB of 20 g/m^2 for the entire critical area (26.3 ha). **MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:** After thorough review of the information provided by the Party, MBTOC understands that the use of micro-propagated plants from USA and the scale up into soilless substrates is for the first stage of multiplication of runners at PEI to produce approximately 60,000 runners and that 420kg methyl bromide could be replaced or avoided if soilless is shown to be effective for this stage for which MBTOC believes there are effective alternatives. The nomination is presently requesting MB for this stage and the final two multiplication stages. Canada notes the first stage of this field production and multiplication is foundation stock. Whilst soilless production is technically feasible for the later stages of production (López-Galarza *et al.*, 2010, Rodríguez-Delfín; 2012; Miranda *et al*., 2014), MBTOC agrees from the information on economics that the use of soilless culture for the remaining runners may be uneconomical, but still considers this method could be feasible for part of the remaining nomination (Sjulin and Greene, 2014). For this reason, in previous years MBTOC agreed with the Party that the focus should be to find suitable alternatives for soil disinfestation and urged the Party to complete the groundwater studies to adopt chloropicrin either alone or in combination with other alternatives. Studies on potential groundwater contamination with Pic 100 commenced in December 2013 but were terminated as a result of a special review initiated by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as stated in the last CUN. At the OEWG the Party has confirmed that no further groundwater studies will take place at PEI and chloropicrin cannot be considered as an alternative. MBTOC still finds the situation difficult as the grower is still able to apply Terr-O-Gas® (67:33) containing 33% chloropicrin. In other words, almost 2.6 tonnes of chloropicrin is being used each year in mixes with MB. MBTOC also notes that metham sodium; metham potassium and dazomet are also registered in Canada and could be considered for use in PEI if studies and permits were issued. The Party, however, indicated that the grower's ability to find alternatives to methyl bromide is currently limited because many of the feasible alternatives used in other jurisdictions are either not registered in Canada or prevented from use in PEI and, as such, they cannot be trialled. Additionally it is noted that the grower is proposing to undertake additional trials with strawberry grow bags to determine whether a successful protocol to grow plants of adequate quality and productivity is possible **MBTOC comments on economics in 2014 for 2017:** The economic information has not been updated in this year's nomination (see below). Canada's nomination is submitted mainly on the basis that there are no technically feasible alternatives or substitutes available to the growers that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health. **Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):** • **Dec. IX/6 b(i) Emission Reduction:** Yes, uses barrier films with a reduced application rate of MB conforming to MBTOC's presumptions. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Research Program:** No evidence was provided to prove that a research program is in place. The proposed groundwater studies for pic were halted, and no new alternatives are currently tested. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** The Party has not demonstrated that it is engaged in an active research program. According to the nomination, the groundwater studies were suspended, as the PEI permit was not granted. The PEI Adapt Council funding has been discontinued with no new funding available since March 2014. No further work has been pursued with an expert previously contracted, as he has taken on a new role with less time available for research related to strawberry runner production.

[1]1ExMOP and 16MOP; [2]16MOP+2ExMOP+17MOP; [3]MOP17+MOP18; [4]MOP18+MOP19; [5]MOP19+MOP20; [6]MOP20+MOP21; [7]MOP21+MOP22; [8]MOP22, [9]MOP23, [10]MOP24, [11]MOP25, [12]MOP26

Table 1.10 Interim evaluation of CUNs from A5 Parties for preplant soil use submitted in 2016 for 2017.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[1]	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017							
Argentina	Strawberry Fruit	70	58	**45.3**	[38.84]							

MBTOC Final Recommendation for 2017:
MBTOC recommends a reduced nomination of 38.84tonnes for this use in 2017. This includes 25.90 t for Lules (77.33 ha x 0.26) +(38.67 x 0.15) and 12.94 t for Mar del Plata. (38.67 ha x 0.26)+(19.33 x 0.15).

The reduction is based on decreasing dosage rates from 26 to 15.0 g/m^2 for adoption of barrier films (e.g. TIF) and available alternatives (i.e. 1,3-D/Pic) over a transition period of three years. MBTOC reviewed the information provided after the OEWG and accepts that adoption of 50% of the industry to barrier films may not be possible and accepts that a smaller transition should be applied. For this reason MBTOC suggests that a reduction of consistent with a 3 year transition be applied and recommends 38.90 tonnes. MBTOC reinforces that the effectiveness of alternatives may require a change in the present application methods and crop rotations used within these sectors and has been provided with no further technical evidence to show that.1, 3-D/Pic using soil injection methods would not perform as effectively in the regions mentioned compared to MB.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:
The Party nominated 45.3 tonnes of MB for critical uses for strawberry fruit production in field cultivation in the critical regions of Mar del Plata and Lules.

The Party submitted a nomination based on the use of standard polyethylene films and a dosage rate of (26 g/m^2) for MB use without barrier films. This included 30.20 t for Lules (200ha x 0.58 x 0.26) and 15.10 t for Mar del Plata (100 ha x 0.58 x 0.26). The key pests in Mar del Plata are fungi (*Phytophthora, Verticillium*), soil insects, nematodes and weeds (*Cyperus*). Key fungi in Lules are (*Phytophthora, Verticillium*, Anthracnose, *Rhizoctonia, Fusarium, Pythium, Macrophomina*). A MB:Pic 70:30 formulation is used in strip treatment (beds only) so only 58% of the area is effectively treated. The nomination bases the need for MB on the fact that alternatives, particularly 1,3-D/Pic, are not effective for high moisture soils in warmer regions or heavy clay soils (Lules) and that phytotoxicity occurs in the cold soil conditions of Mar del Plata. Missing specific market windows is also of concern.

Circumstances of the nomination by the Party:
The Party states that 1,3-D/Pic does not control the entire pest spectrum attacking strawberries and has a longer plant back time or a phytotoxic effect, which leads to missed market windows. Metham sodium at the registered rate does not achieve yields comparable to MB treatments. According to the Party low soil temperatures and heavy rainfall typically present at the time when fumigation needs to happen to ensure optimum yields and a timely harvest, challenge the adoption of alternatives. Chloropicrin alone is not registered and does not control weeds. Dazomet is not registered for edible crops. Methyl iodide, which proved effective in trials, is no longer being considered for registration. Solarization and biofumigation are not considered practical in the critical areas and VIF and TIF are fairly new products that need to be imported.

According to the Party, results of trials conducted from 2001 to 2013 showed that 1,3-D/PIC, an alternative that is widely adopted in strawberry fruit crops worldwide, gave variable results in the Mar del Plata region, but good yields in the Lules region. Dazomet is not registered for edible crops. Metham sodium at a high rate of 0.25 l/m^2 with two drip tapes obtained similar yields as MB: Pic (70:30) at a rate of 40 g/m^2, but that rate is not registered. According to the Party, Pic is a technically and economically feasible alternative to MB, but Pic alone is not registered in Argentina. DMDS is a promising alternative to MB, but it is not available. Non-chemical alternatives, in particular solarisation, are widely used in the North, East and West of Argentina, but cannot be used in the central areas.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:
The Party stated that 1,3-D/Pic and other alternatives (i.e. metham sodium, metham potassium, metham ammonium) are ineffective under the particular circumstances of the nomination, however the nomination shows that higher yields can be obtained with 1,3-D/Pic in Lules. The Party shows economic information which assumes an 11 week delay in plant back times for 1,3-D/Pic, but this is inconsistent with results reported in other regions of the world where similar sub-tropical conditions prevail. MBTOC considers that1, 3-D/Pic, Pic alone, which are the major chemical alternatives adopted worldwide, would be suitable for this sector, but has reduced the nomination only based on uptake of barrier films over a 3 year period.

	MBTOC accepts that 1,3-D/Pic may be more difficult to use in cooler regions such as in some areas of Mar del Plata, and notes the issues with commercial scale up in some regions of the nomination. Whilst MBTOC believes that some growers could transition to 1,3-D/Pic mixtures no reduction has been made to this CUN. The Party showed MBTOC the impact of high disease pressure caused by leasing soils cropped recently with vegetables, particularly potatoes, which harbour strawberry pathogens (*Rhizoctonia* sp, *Verticillium* sp.) - MBTOC suggests that this practice should be avoided where possible to improve the performance of alternatives. The Party also indicated that most growers get a two year crop from one application of MB/Pic, however yields can be 50% less in the second year. Future nominations should provide detailed scientific studies demonstrating the effects of the length of the plant back periods for 1,3-D/Pic in Lules (warm conditions) and Mar del Plata (cooler conditions) as compared to methyl bromide in accordance with Decision IX/6. In particular, further validation is required to support the longer plant back times for 1,3-D/Pic in the heavy rainfall region of Lules. MBTOC also noted that a high proportion of the present MB/Pic use is applied through drip irrigation lines used to irrigate strawberry crops, however shank application of MB/Pic formulations is considered a more effective application method. Shank injection of methyl bromide has been shown to improve the performance of both MB/Pic mixtures and that of alternatives, therefore providing better yields in the second year crop. MBTOC notes that research is underway in Argentina on non-chemical alternatives, such as biosolarisation and biofumigation with promising results (Gabriel, 2014). MBTOC is also aware of references indicating positive results with other alternatives, such as metham ammonium, 1,3-D/Pic, metham sodium and metham potassium in the critical regions: Del Huerto, (2013) found no difference between the performance of MB and 1,3-D/Pic. Jaldo *et al*. (2007) showed that 1,3-D/Pic injected in the soil gave better yields that MB in Lules/Tucumán. Aldercreutz and Szczesny, (2008, 2010), showed that yields obtained in Mar del Plata with metham sodium and metham ammonium were comparable to those produced when fumigating with MB. Bórquez and Agüero (2007) found that weed control achieved with metham ammonium, metham sodium and metham potassium in Lules, was comparable to that obtained with MB 70:30 and that there were no significant differences in the total yields obtained with these treatments. Other studies confirmed these results (Bórquez and Mollinedo, 2009, 2010; Aldercreutz and Szczesny, 2008; Bórquez and Agüero, 2007). MBTOC is unclear why these results are not applicable to the regions nominated. MBTOC acknowledges that alternatives are available for strawberry fruit, however this may require some improvements in application methods in order to be effective in Argentina. MBTOC encourages the Party to consider further adoption of Pic, 1,3-D/Pic, DMDS, metham sodium and Pic/DMDS to assist with phasing out this nomination. **MBTOC comments on economics in 2016 for 2017:** The economic analysis provided by the Party shows that treatment with 1,3-D/Pic misses the market window and fetches lower revenues than MB. **For Mar del Plata** • The nomination assumes a yield reduction from 93 to 62 t/ha using 1.3-D + Pic because of heavy clay soils and low soil temperatures. • From the yield reduction the nomination calculates a symmetrical gross revenue reduction as prices are assumed to be the same for the two treatments. • The nomination argues that operating costs for the two treatments are similar, but this is not shown. It then argues that weed control costs of 1.3-D Pic would be greater than for methyl bromide, as will conversion to a one year production system. In this case yields are still assumed to be lower (15-20%) and the costs of fumigants, tarps and transplants will be higher. However, these costs are not given. **For Lules** • Provides data on the movement in prices from the early harvest to late harvest. Prices start at $6/kg and end at <$1. • Argues that weed control is insufficient with 1.3-D Pic and that the planting time is short because of soil temperature and rainy conditions and prolonged plant back time. As a result, the strawberries miss the market window and are sold at the high-season price rather than the early-season price. • In this case, yield is expected to increase with 1.3-D Pic, but despite this, the fall in prices results in a loss in revenue of around 50%. • The “with methyl bromide” price is taken as $1.69/kg and the “with 1.3-D Pic” as $0.72 • Again, costs of production are expected to be similar for the two treatments, in this case without the caveats.

Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):

- **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** Barrier films are available but to date have not been adopted on a commercial scale.
- **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) MLF Assistance/Adoption of Effective Alternatives:** Trials and research have been conducted through the MLF projects implemented in Argentina and also directly by national institutions (e.g. INTA, EEAOC) and various universities.
- **Dec. IX/6 b(iii) Appropriate Effort:** MBTOC notes that considerable research has been conducted during the MLF funded projects and provided references. MBTOC is however unaware of present trials and results within the specific areas of the nominations.
- **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategies:** No detailed plan was provided, however the Party noted a few dot points of potentially suitable alternatives, including TIF mulching, resistant varieties and DMDS/Pic.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[1]	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017							
Argentina	Tomatoes	100	71.25	75	[64.10]							

MBTOC Final Recommendation for 2017
MBTOC recommends a reduced nomination of 64.10 tonnes for this use in 2017. This includes 12.9 t for Mar Del Plata (38.6 ha x 0.26)+(19.3ha x 0.15) and 51.2 t for La Plata (146.6 ha x0.26)+(73.3 ha x 0.15).

The reduction is based on a reduction of dosage rates from 26.0 to 15.0 g/m^2 for adoption of barrier films (e.g. TIF) over a transition period of three years. MBTOC reviewed the information provided after the OEWG and accepts that adoption of 50% of the industry to barrier films may not be possible and accepts that a transition period of three years instead of two years should be applied. For this reason MBTOC recommends 64.10 t In addition, MBTOC noted that the nominated amount this year has been increased by 3.75 t from the amount approved at MOP27 because the Party did not agree that they could use grafting as a technology at this time.

Nomination by the Party for 2017
The Party nominated 75 tonnes of MB for critical uses for tomato production in protected cultivation in the critical regions of Mar del Plata (15 t, 58 ha) and La Plata (60 t, 232 ha), an amount higher than the approved amount for 2016 use of 71.5 t. The nominated area treated with MB was 290 ha. The broad acre area nominated was 500 ha of which 58 % is fumigated at a dosage rate of 26 g/m^2 using standard LDPE films (i.e.) without VIF or TIF.

Rootstocks and tomato cultivars resistant to *Naccobus* are not yet commercially available, (Verimis *et al.*, 1997; Manzanilla-Lopez *et al*., 2002; Lax *et al*., 2016). However, MBTOC notes promising research results when grafting susceptible tomato varieties onto rootstocks with some resistance to this nematode (Mitideri *et al.,* 2013; Chale*et al.*, 2013; Ducasse *et al.*, 2013; Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2013, 2014; Andreau *et al.*, 2014) and to *Meloidogyne* (Lobos *et al.*, 2013). The nominated regions have the potential of producing *Nacobbus* resistant plants when available.

Also successful research on combined alternatives has been conducted and promising results have been obtained (Garbi *et al.*, 2013; Mezquíriz *et al.*, 2013; Martínez *et al.*, 2014; Quiroga *et al.*, 2014). These technologies will require time for scale up, however the Committee anticipates that it is possible to implement these and other alternatives to fully replace MB in the near future. Argentina is also encouraged to consider registration of herbicides for controlling nutsedge, which are being used in other countries as part of integrated control schemes.

The target pests are nematodes (*Nacobbus* spp. and *Meloidogyne* spp.), fungi (*Rhizoctonia* spp., *Sclerotinia* spp., *Phytophthora* spp.), soil fungi disease complex (damping off) in seedbeds and crops, weeds (*Cynodon*, *Cyperus*, etc.) and soil insects (*Agrotis* sp., *Agriotes* sp., *Melolontha* sp.). MB is used in regions where cold and heavy clay soil conditions prevail, representing 31.25% of the total protected tomato production area. However, despite of the new information provided by the Party when answering to questions, MBTOC is still concerned with the temperature information provided and urges the Party to provide further clarification of soil and ambient temperatures inside and outside green houses in any future nominations.

Circumstances of the nomination by the Party
The Party stated that 1,3-D/Pic did not provide sufficient control of key pests in the critical areas, mainly due to soil types, which were heavy clay soils and to soil temperatures (5 to 23º C). Chloropicrin alone did not control the entire pest complex including weeds and is not registered as a single product in Argentina. Metham sodium gave erratic and insufficient performance for weed and disease control, because the heavy clay soils inhibited movement of this fumigant throughout the soil. Dazomet is not registered for edible crops, plus trials with this fumigant showed insufficient nematode control. Long-term efficacy was not enough for the dual cropping system (tomato and pepper). Steam was very costly and time consuming. Application with currently available equipment was extremely slow and size of equipment was too big for use inside greenhouses. Grafting is a fairly new technology for Argentina, with some commercial and native rootstocks presently under study. Although potential production of grafted plants is high, no resistant rootstocks to *Nacobbus* are presently commercially available. According to the Party, cold climate, heavy soil conditions and overlapping key production period make solarisation and biofumigation unsuitable for the regions of La Plata and Mar del Plata.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:
The Party provided sufficient information on the historic cropping areas, MB usage, specific definition of the critical area, and reasons why alternatives to methyl bromide were not technically and economically feasible. Using the information provided in the nomination, MBTOC recommends 59.45 t of MB.

Grafting tomatoes onto resistant rootstocks is an effective disease control method presently in use in many A5 countries such as China, Egypt, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia and Turkey (MBTOC, 2011; 2015), but no root stock resistant to *Nacobbus* is presently available (Veremis *et al*., 1997). The Party acknowledges that grafting is a promising alternative for nematodes in many countries of the world. However, no resistance has been identified or confirmed to *N.aberrans* in *Lycopersicon* germplasm accessions, including those that possess genes for resistance to root knot nematodes (Veremis *et al.,* 1997). In this 2016 CUN, the Party reports that grafted plants are produced and are commercially available in limited numbers in various tomato-growing regions such as Mendoza, Corrientes and Buenos Aires.

Use of resistant cultivars is also a very effective strategy used to increase yield and manage soilborne diseases and nematodes except *Naccobus*, in vegetables around the world (Devran and Sogut, 2010; Christos *et al*., 2011; Fery and Thies, 2011; Jari *et al*., 2011).

1,3-D/Pic is a key alternative to MB, which is widely accepted commercially for controlling soil nematodes and fungi and has consistently shown to be as effective as MB (Minuto *et al*., 2006; Porter *et al*., 2006,Ji*et al.*, 2013). However, according to the party, 1,3 D + Chloropicrin did not show stability under Argentinean CUN conditions. Chloropicrin does not control entire soil borne pathogens complex, including nematodes and weeds. This fumigant is not registered as a single product in Argentina. Metham sodium is erratic and insufficient performance for weed control and soil borne pathogens. Dazomet is not registered for edible crops and do not control nematodes. Steam is not available and it is costly.

MBTOC notes that the Party has been supported by the MLF with a number of demonstration, investment and technical assistance projects since 1997 and that many alternatives have been trialled and found successful in this sector (MLF, 2014 a, b).

MBTOC comments on economics in 2016 for 2017:

- Assumes a substantial yield reduction in both cases while prices and costs remain the same for both treatments for both crops.
- Revenue reduction of 28% results.
- The reduction in revenue is partly due to a smaller drop in yield on the early crop but mostly due to the impossibility of a late crop because of the waiting time between applications and planting.

Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):
- **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** Barrier films are available.
- **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) MLF Assistance/Adoption of Effective Alternatives:** Trials and research have been conducted through the MLF projects implemented in Argentina and also directly by national institutions (e.g. INTA, EEAOC) and various universities.
- **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** MBTOC recognizes that considerable research and commercial trials have been conducted.
- **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategies:** MBTOC notes that China provided a summary strategy showing key steps anticipated to phase out MB in 2019.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[1]	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017							
China	Ginger Open field	90	90	78.75	[74.617]							

MBTOC Final Recommendation for 2017:

MBTOC recommends a reduced amount of 74.617 t of MB for this use in 2017. MBTOC has calculated the nomination based on the adoption of barrier films on 50% of the nomination area at the rate of 35 g/m^2. Without VIF (229.59 ha x 0.5 x 35 g/m^2 = 40.178 t) and with VIF (229.59 ha x 0.5 x 30 g/m^2 = 34.439 t).

Barrier films (TIF and VIF) are produced in China. MBTOC considers that can be used in open field. MBTOC considers that barrier films can be used in open field cultivation without any risk of wind degradation and used an average dosage rate (30g/m^2) according to MBTOC's standard presumptions for sandy and heavy soils and to meet the requirements of Decision IX/6 to minimize emissions.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:

China nominated 78.75 tonnes of MB as a critical use for 2017, for open field ginger production on an area of 229.59 ha at a rate of 35g/m^2 without VIF. The target pests are, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Pythium* spp. *Meloidogyne* spp. and *Cyperus rotundus*. MB is used in regions where soil-borne pathogen pressure is high and this only represents a small percentage (0.30%) of the total ginger cropping area. The request is only for ginger grown in the Shandong region where this crop is grown continuously and where pest pressure is high.

Circumstances of the nomination by the Party:

China submitted a National Management Strategy to completely phase out MB in 2019. The Chinese government is encouraging research and development of new MB alternatives, speeding the registration process for chemical to completely phase out MB by 2019.

China is using small disposable canisters of MB (681 g/canister), using standard polyethylene films. MB is applied in canisters (98:2), as cold gas at a rate of 35g/m^2, which is below the rate registered in China. According to the Party, chloropicrin is the only chemical alternative registered in China for this sector. Chloropicrin did not provide effective control of *Meloidogyne spp* and *Cyperus rotundus*. In addition, chloropicrin causes phytotoxicity and needs longer fumigation time forcing farmers to postpone the planting time which affects yield, quality and market windows. However a recent study confirms that chloropicrin is a promising alternative with good efficacy against *Ralstonia solanacearum*, which can be used successfully in integrated pest management programmes in China (Mao *et al.,* 2014).

In spite of their proven efficacy, other chemical alternatives, 1,3-dichloropropene, dazomet, iodomethane, metham sodium, dimethyl disulfide and sulfuryl fluoride are not registered for use in this sector in China. SF however has been shown to control root-knot nematodes and to reduce the levels of key soil pathogens in research trials (Cao *et al.,* 2014). Chloropicrin and 1,3- D have been formulated in capsules for trial work (Wang *et al.,* 2013). Trials with Pic are encouraging (Mao *et al.,* 2014). The tested 1,3-D/Pic capsule formulation provides a promising method for soil pest and disease control, which at the same time reduces environmental emissions and potential human exposure in greenhouse production of vegetables (Wang *et al.,* 2013). Telone C-35 is an excellent MB alternative and has provided acceptable weed control efficacy (Jiet *et al.,* 2013, *Qiao et al.* 2012), but this formulation is not registered. Results of the experiment on Pic + 1,3-D conducted in 2015 and reported in 2016 CUN shows that the marketable yield obtained with Telone C35 is lower that the yield obtained with MB

According to the Party, non-chemical alternatives (crop rotation, bio-fumigation, solarisation, steaming, soil less) are not technically and economically feasible when used alone but may be useful in an IPM program. Preliminary results obtained when using soilless cultures have shown that the marketable yields obtained are lower that the yields obtained with MB.

Barrier films are produced in China but are not used. MBTOC considers that their use is possible in ginger open field cultivation.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:

The Party states that alternatives are not available for this nomination, particularly 1,3-D/Pic, which is not registered in China. MBTOC notes that other countries, which in the past applied MB canisters on a small-scale basis have phased out for this sector (e.g. Japan). In China the registered dosage rate for MB varies between 50 and 75g/m^2 (Cao, pers. com 2014). The amount requested in the nomination is based on a dosage rate of 35g/m^2 (without VIF or TIF) applied with MB canisters.

MBTOC considers that in the absence of effective alternatives, MB/Pic 50:50 can be suitable for this sector, but China would need to develop technology to formulate and apply this formulation. MBTOC considers that barrier films should be used in the future and urges the Party to consider accessing these films. MBTOC is also aware that Pic combined with DMDS or Pic +fosthiazate have shown promising results in China (Cao, 2014, pers. comm.). The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has funded nine companies to register and develop MB alternatives and one company to carry out the commercial demonstration of anaerobic disinfection technology. MBTOC expects that the results obtained will be rapidly made available for adoption.

MBTOC notes that since 1994 the Party has been supported by the MLF with one demonstration project, three project preparation grants and one investment project comprising eight tranches and that many alternatives have been tried. Funding from the MLF committed the Party to phase out its whole MB consumption for controlled uses by the end of 2014 (MLF, 2014 ab). According to reports presented to the ExCom, satisfactory pest and disease control has been obtained in ginger crops with the combination of high dosages of chloropicrin, improved application methods of this fumigant and dazomet, other chemicals and biological nematicides, in an IPM approach. Pic is used for soil fumigation in areas where the main ginger soil-borne pathogens *Pythium spp*. and *Ralstonia solanacerum* are main pests.

MB canisters are used because they provide small-scale farmers with an easy application method and the ability to apply targeted amounts of MB to small areas where injection machinery may be difficult to use (TEAP, 2008). However, MB canisters have been banned for soil use in many Article 5 countries, as this application is considered less efficient than injection methods and more dangerous to workers since trained contractors are not required for their application. This practice also leads to high emissions of MB. In some situations, MB gas has been found to leak during storage because of poor air tightness of canisters.

MBTOC suggests that DMDS and Pic may be useful to consider for this nomination.

MBTOC comments on economics in 2016 for 2017:

The price of ginger is lower with chloropicrin (MB: $1.31/kg, Pic: $0.65/kg) because of the impact of root-knot nematodes on quality. Yield with MB is 96.45 t/ha, while with Pic is 86.22 t/ha, again because of the effect of root-knot nematodes.

Gross revenue with Pic is 44% of that of MB (because of the yield and price difference). Net revenue is 25% of that of methyl bromide

Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9)

- **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** VIF and TIF are produced in China, but are not used for ginger production due to very high cost and low efficacy under low temperatures. MB is applied every year during early spring or late autumn.
- **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) MLF Assistance/Adoption of Effective Alternatives:** Research trials within the MLF-funded investment project commenced in this sector in 2008 Progressive results of the experiments which Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has funded are expected to be available and adopted. Results are also expected from the nine companies responsible of registering and developing MB alternatives and from the company carrying out the commercial demonstration of anaerobic disinfection technology
- **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** Yes, considered appropriate as experiments are being conducted to phase out MB by 2019.
- **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategy:** MBTOC notes that China provided a summary strategy showing plans to phase the Critical-Use Exemption of Methyl Bromide on ginger in 2019.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[1]	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017							
China	Ginger Protected	24	21	21	[18.360]							

MBTOC final recommendation for 2017:

MBTOC recommends a reduced amount of 18.360 tonnes of MB for this use in 2017 (61.2 ha x 30g/m^2=18.360t) based on 100% adoption of barrier films, which MBTOC considers are suitable for the nomination and meet the requirements of Decision IX/6 to minimize emissions.

Barrier films (VIF and TIF) are produced in China. MBTOC considers that barrier films can be used in protected cultivation without any risk of wind degradation and used an average dosage rate (30 g/m^2) according to MBTOC's standard presumptions for sandy and heavy soils.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:

China nominated 21 t of MB as a critical use for protected ginger production on 61.2 ha at a rate of 35 g/m^2 for use in 2017.The target pests are *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Pythium* spp., *Meloidogyne* spp. and *Cyperus rotundus*. MB is used in regions where soil borne pathogen pressure is high and this only represents a small percentage of the total ginger cropping area 12.24%). The request is only for ginger grown in the Shandong region where this crop is grown continuously and where pressure from the target pests is high.

Circumstances of the nomination by the Party:

China submitted a National Management Strategy to completely phase out MB in 2019. The Chinese government is supporting research and development of new MB alternatives and speeding up the registration process for chemical to completely phase out MB by 2019.

China is using small disposable canisters of MB/Pic (681 g/canister), using standard polyethylene films. MB/Pic is applied in canisters (98:2), as cold gas at a rate of 35 g/m^2. According to the Party, chloropicrin is the only chemical alternative registered in China for this sector. Pic alone did not provide effective control of *Meloidogyne* spp. and *Cyperus rotundus*. In addition, Pic causes phytotoxicity and needs a longer fumigation time than MB obliging farmers to postpone the planting time which affects yield, quality and marketing. However, a recent study confirms that Pic is a promising alternative with similar effectiveness to MB against *Ralstonia solanacearum*, which can be used successfully in integrated pest management programmes in China (Mao *et al.,* 2014).

In spite of their proven efficacy, other chemical alternatives such as 1,3-dichloropropene, dazomet, iodomethane, metham sodium, dimethyl disulfide and sulfuryl fluoride are not registered for use in ginger in China. In research trials, SF has been shown to control root-knot nematodes and reduce the levels of key soil pathogens (Cao *et al.,* 2014). Pic and 1,3 D have been formulated in capsules for trial work and results are encouraging (Mao *et al.,* 2014). The 1,3-D/Pic capsule formulation provides a promising method for soil pest and disease control, reducing both environmental emissions and potential human exposure in greenhouse vegetable cultivation (Wang *et al*., 2013). Telone C35 is an excellent MB alternative and has provided acceptable weed control efficacy (Ji *et al.,* 2013, Qiao *et al.,* 2012), but this formulation is not registered. Results of the experiment on Pic + 1,3-D conducted in 2015 and reported in 2016 CUN shows that the marketable yield obtained with Telone C35 is lower that the yield obtained with MB.

According to the Party, non-chemical alternatives (crop rotation, bio-fumigation, solarisation, steaming, soil less) are not technically and economically feasible when used alone but may be useful in an IPM program. Preliminary results obtained when using soilless cultures have shown that the marketable yields obtained are lower that the yields obtained with MB.

Barrier films are produced in China but are not used. MBTOC considers that their use is possible in ginger protected cultivation.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:

MBTOC recommends a reduced amount of 18.360 t of MB for this use in 2017 (61.2 ha X 30 g /m^2= 18.360 t with barrier films. The Party states that alternatives are not available for this nomination, particularly as 1,3-D is unavailable for use in China. MBTOC however notes that other countries, which applied MB using canisters on a small-scale basis have phased out for this sector (e.g. Japan). In China the registered MB application rate varies between 50 and 75 g/m^2 (Cao, pers. com 2014). Although the amount requested is based on a use rate of 35 g/m^2 (without VIF or TIF), the application is based on the use of canisters of MB which are less efficient than soil injection methods and thus the rate proposed

	is considered appropriate. MBTOC considers that in the absence of effective alternatives, MB/Pic 50:50 can be suitable for this sector, but China would need to develop technology to formulate and apply this formulation. MBTOC considers that barrier films could be used because it is available in China. MBTOC is also aware that Pic + DMDS or Pic + fosthiazate have shown promising results (Cao, 2014, pers. comm.). The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has funded nine companies to register and develop MB alternatives and one company to carry out the commercial demonstration of anaerobic disinfection technology. MBTOC expects that the results obtained will be rapidly made available for adoption. MBTOC notes that since 1994, the Party has been supported by the MLF with one demonstration project, three project preparation grants and one investment project comprising of eight tranches and that many alternatives have been tried. Funding from the MLF committed the Party to phase out its entire MB consumption for controlled uses by the end of 2014 (MLF, 2014 ab). MB canisters are used because they provide small-scale farmers with an easy application method and the ability to apply targeted amounts of MB to small areas where injection machinery may be difficult to use (TEAP, 2008). However, they have been banned in many Article 5 countries, as this application is considered less efficient for soil-borne pathogen control than injection methods. Use of canisters is also considered more dangerous to workers because trained contractors are not involved in its application. This practice also leads to high emissions of MB. According to reports presented to the ExCom, satisfactory pest and disease control has been achieved in ginger crops with the combination of high dosages of chloropicrin, improved application methods of this fumigant and dazomet, plus other chemicals and biological nematicides within an IPM approach. Pic is used for soil fumigation in areas where the main ginger soil-borne pathogens *Pythium spp.* and *Ralstonia solanacerum* are main pests. **MBTOC comments on economics for 2017:** The price of ginger is lower with chloropicrin (MB: $1.31/kg, Pic: $0.65/kg) because of quality impact of root-knot nematodes. Yield with MB is 96.45 t/ha, while with Pic it is 86.22 t/ha, again because of the effect of root-knot nematodes. Gross revenue with Pic is 44% of that of MB (because of the yield and price difference). Net revenue is 25% of that of methyl bromide. **Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):** • **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** VIF and TIF are produced in China, but are not used for ginger production due to very high cost and low efficacy under low temperatures. MB is applied every year during early spring or late autumn. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) MLF Assistance/Adoption of Effective Alternatives:** Research trials within the MLF-funded investment project commenced in this sector in 2008 Progressive results of the experiments which Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has funded are expected to be available and adopted. Results are also expected from the nine companies responsible of registering and developing MB alternatives and from the company carrying out the commercial demonstration of anaerobic disinfection technology • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** Yes, considered appropriate as experiments are being conducted to phase out MB by 2019. • **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategy:** MBTOC notes that China provided a summary strategy showing plans to phase the Critical-Use Exemption of Methyl Bromide on ginger in 2019.

[1]1ExMOP and 16MOP; [2]16MOP+2ExMOP+17MOP; [3]MOP17+MOP18; [4]MOP18+MOP19; [5]MOP19+MOP20; [6]MOP20+MOP21; [7]MOP21+MOP22; [8]MOP22, [9]MOP23, [10]MOP24, [11]MOP25

3.10. Final Evaluation of Critical Use Nominations of Methyl Bromide for Commodities and Structures for 2017

3.10.1 Standard rate presumptions

Upon the Party's request, MBTOC reassessed the SC CUNs from South Africa, consisting of one request for two sectors in a single nomination. These two sectors were disaggregated by MBTOC and reassessed for appropriate MB dosage rates and deployment of MB emission/use reduction technologies, such as strict sanitation and appropriate sealing techniques.

Decision IX/6 requires that critical uses should be permitted only if '*all technically and economically feasible steps have been taken to minimise the critical use and any associated emission of methyl bromide*'. Decision Ex.II/1 also mentions emission minimisation techniques, requesting Parties "…*to ensure, wherever methyl bromide is authorised for critical-use exemptions, the use of emission minimisation techniques that improve gas tightness or the use equipment that captures, destroys and/or reuses the methyl bromide and other techniques that promote environmental protection, whenever technically and economically feasible.*"

With the beginning of the CUN process in 2005, MBTOC published its standard presumptions for structures (dosage rate of 20g/m^{-3} of methyl bromide) and indicated that the European Plant Protection Organization's (EPPO) published dosage rates for commodities should be considered standard best practice for fumigation worldwide. Since that time all Parties submitting CUNs stated their adherence to those practices. The EPPO dosage rates for commodity treatment vary by commodity, sorption rate and environmental conditions. They can be found in annexes to the MBTOC 2006 Assessment Report (MBTOC, 2007). Where possible, reduced dosages, combined with longer exposure periods, can reduce MB consumption, while maintaining efficacy (MBTOC 2007).

3.10.2. Details of the evaluation

The total MB volume nominated in 2016 for post-harvest uses in 2017 was 83 tonnes. MBTOC recommended 45.223 tonnes for South Africa in 2017 (Table 1.11). Table 1-12 provides MBTOC-SC final recommendation for the CUN submitted.

Table 1.11. Summary of the final recommendations for a CUE for postharvest uses of MB (tonnes) for 2017 submitted in the 2016 round.

Country and Sector	Nomination for 2017(tonnes)	Final Recommendation for 2017(tonnes)
	2017	**2017**
South Africa - Mills	13	4.1
South Africa - Structures	70	55
Total	**83**	**59.1**

Table 1-12. Final evaluation of CUNs from A5 Parties for structures and commodities submitted in 2016 for 2017.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[11]	CUN for 2016	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final recommendation for 2017				
South Africa	Mills	--	**13.0**	5.462	**13.0**	[4.1]				

MBTOC final recommendation for 2017:

MBTOC recommends a reduced amount of 4.1 tonnes for 2017, for pest control by fumigation in specific mills/food processing facilities. This recommendation is based on an amount of MB sufficient for one fumigation per year per mill as a transitional measure to allow time for adoption and optimisation of alternatives plus an additional 40% for contingencies. The recommendation is based on a dosage of 20 g/m³ (MBTOC standard presumptions) applied to well-sealed structures.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:
This nomination forms part of the initial CUN for 83 tonnes covering both fumigation of specific flour and grit mills against stored product insect pests (13 t) and domestic and industrial premises for control of wood destroying insect pests (70 t). Being distinct uses with specific issues each, MBTOC has disaggregated into two separate CUNs.

After the OEWG, the Party requested a reassessment of the CUN following MBTOC's interim recommendation to allow additional time to make the required changes and carry out test treatments at the recommended reduced dosage rate.

Circumstances of the nomination:
The Party nominated 13 tonnes of MB for the fumigation of 9 grain mills, total capacity of 146,130 m³, for pest control against common stored product insect pests. Individual mills are currently treated either two or three times a year at a calculated average rate of 37 g/m^3 per mill. Methyl bromide fumigation on a calendar basis and not according to prevalence of pests has been a routine part of pest control in the specific mills to ensure output of uninfested product from the mills.

Grain mills in South Africa have to comply with stringent requirements relating to hygiene and the associated insect and pest free production and storage facilities. These relate to both local and international insect control and quality assurance standards. Full site treatments with heat, sulfuryl fluoride or phosphine were considered as alternatives by the Party, but were found not feasible. Sulfuryl fluoride is not currently registered, though registration is under consideration. Phosphine fumigation was considered inappropriate because of cost of downtime, the associated corrosion and risk of damage to sensitive electrical and electronic apparatus in mill machinery. Heat treatment was considered not feasible because of the capital cost of imported equipment needed to carry out the heating. The Party noted that there might be insecticide resistance in sprays that may be used for mill hygiene.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:
MBTOC considers that various suitable alternatives are available or feasible for the necessary disinfestation of all mills in this CUN (Bell and Savvidou, 1999; Bell *et al.,* 2003; Drinkall *et al.,* 1996; Drinkall *et al.,* 2003; Ducom *et al.,* 2003; MBTOC Assessment reports 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014; Reichmuth *et al.,* 2003; Schneider *et al.*, 2003). Whole site fumigation of flourmills with methyl bromide has been discontinued in other countries. Where whole site treatment is still practiced, periodic applications have been carried out with heat or various other fumigants (sulfuryl fluoride, hydrogen cyanide, phosphine). Some mills have never been fumigated with methyl bromide as whole site fumigations. Alternative targeted approaches provide adequate insect infestation control. Effective pest control in mills in general requires a combination of measures applied rationally including, as circumstances and registration permit, localised heat treatment, fumigation with hydrogen cyanide, phosphine or sulfuryl fluoride, as possible according to local registration and circumstances, and various diverse insect control measures applied as an IPM system. Pest control

	intervention may be guided by appropriate pest monitoring. Change from an established system of periodic routine methyl bromide treatment requires some time to trial, refine and implement, hence the partial MBTOC recommendation for the nominated CUE, despite the general availability of alternatives for this situation. Changes to the mill and machinery structure may be needed to remove pest harbourage as part of the IPM system. IPM measures, cleaning and sanitation, as well as spraying of insecticides, full site heat disinfestation of the mills smaller than 10,000 m^3, and localised heat treatment of infested machinery in larger mills, should lead to a reduced requirement for, or elimination of, full site fumigations. Improved inspection of imported grain is essential; if insects are intercepted separate phosphine fumigation should be conducted, in sufficiently gas tight silo bins prior to introducing this grain into the mills and the milling process. This recommendation is based on MB sufficient for one fumigation per year per mill as a transitional measure to allow timely optimisation of alternatives. The recommendation is based on a dosage of 20 g/m^3 (MBTOC standard presumptions) applied to well-sealed structures. The indicated need to fumigate several times per year reveals deficiencies in the RSA mill sanitation system. If fumigations are not sufficiently effective, survivors will multiply quickly into high new numbers. The result may be improved with appropriate sealing, which would further to avoid high losses of MB into the environment. Sealing can be checked and locally improved with the use of a gas loss test prior to fumigation (MBTOC 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 1990;Reichmuth, 1990). Dosage and overall use of methyl bromide can be reduced by this approach, keeping in mind that MB can be fully effective at concentrations as low as 5 g/m^3 when kept for enough time (Bell and Reichmuth, 1990). MBTOC appreciates however that the Party may need more time to implement these measures and has adjusted the interim recommended CUE by +40% as a contingency (total mill volume of 146,130 m^3 at 20 g/m^3, plus 40%). This is a reduction of 25% of the approved CUE (5.462 t) by the Parties for 2016. As stated in MBTOC recommendations for the CUN submitted in 2015, MBTOC notes that there is scope for a further reduction in frequency of fumigations, combined with implementation of alternative measures. It urges that a development program is continued or put in place immediately to address alternatives, and results submitted to MBTOC as required under Decision IX/6(1,b,ii). MBTOC notes that the interception and control of the quarantine pest insects Khapra beetle *Trogoderma granarium* and Larger Grain Borer *Prostephanus truncatus* would likely fall under QPS provisions of the Montreal Protocol control measures and corresponding actions as described in the legislation of the RSA. The Party indicated ISPM-15 as justification that a dosage of 48g/m^3 is needed for this nomination. MBTOC notes that ISPM 15 is a standard relating to the treatment of wood packing material in trade. It aims specifically to eliminate infestation of pests of standing timber that may infest or complete their life cycle in new timber made into pallets and the like. The dosage rate in ISPM 15 is excessive for the control of common stored product and mill pests. It is thus not a reasonable benchmark for setting dosages for control of particular mill pests. **MBTOC comments on economics for 2017:** No new economic information has been submitted by the Party in this nomination round. The Party argues that the cost of a 100 kg cylinder of MB gas (100%) required to fumigate a 4000 m^3 mill varies from R15 000.00 compared to more than R800 000.00 for the installation of a single heating plant for the same mill. Additional arguments were made that phosphine fumigation is not economically feasible because of the cost of the extended downtime required to complete a treatment and costs associated with rectification of corrosion damage produced by the phosphine treatment. **Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9)** • **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** The CUN states that a high level of fumigant containment has been achieved. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Research Program:** There is no on going program of testing and trialling promising alternatives given in the CUN. In correspondence relating to the CUN it was stated that effects of reduced fumigation frequency was under investigation. This statement was again made in 2016 but no results as yet submitted • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** see previous paragraph. • **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategy:** No Management Strategy was provided.

Country	Industry	CUE for 2015[11]	CUN for 2016	CUE for 2016	CUN for 2017	MBTOC final rec. for 2017				
South Africa	**Houses**	**--**	**68.6**	**68.6**	**70.0**	[55.0]				

MBTOC final recommendation for 2017:

MBTOC recommends a reduced CUE of 55.0 tonnes for use in houses in 2017, which represents a reduction of 20% of the approved amount for 2015 (68.6 t) for this sector.

Nomination by the Party for 2017:

This nomination forms part of the initial CUN for 83 tonnes covering both fumigation of specific flour and grit mills against stored product insect pests (13 t) and domestic and industrial premises for control of wood destroying insect pests (70 t). A reassessment of the interim MBTOC recommendation for treatment of houses was requested by the Party to allow more time for implementation of the suggested improvements in fumigation procedure.

Circumstances of the nomination:

The Party applied for 70 t of MB for the disinfestation of houses (1,505 facilities annually of residential houses along coastal areas and partly inland at an treated volume of av. 962.8 m³, equivalent to about 1,449,000 m³ in total at a calculated dosage about 48 g/m³. The treatments are carried out either on whole houses 'under sheets' (30% of the described houses) or exclusively in the attic (roof space) of infested houses (70% of the described houses).

Sale agreements for house and factory structures along the East coast of RSA stipulate that the structure be apparently free of "timber destroying insects" and that should such insects be found then the structure be made apparently insect free. A Certificate of Clearance is required for a sale to proceed and this can only be produced once an inspection has been undertaken and treatment if the wood is found to be infested. Treatments are not undertaken if wood destroying insects are not detected.

Five target pests are given in the nomination – *Crypotermes brevis*, the West Indian drywood termite; *Hylotrupes bajalus*, the European house borer, and the small wood and furniture beetles, *Anobium punctatum*, *Lyctus brunneus* and *Nicobium castaneum*.

The Party states that the registration process for sulfuryl fluoride, a potential fumigant alternative in use in some other parts of the world for this application, was commenced, but then could not be pursued further due to lack of sufficient company support. New efforts to source and register sulfuryl fluoride fumigant continue to be made. The Party notes that termite control may be difficult with SF and is reluctant to pursue the registration since the efficacy of this gas is weaker and often incomplete towards eggs compared to the other developing stages. MBTOC notes that to control termites killing that queen and workers is sufficient and it is not necessary to kill termite eggs. Adult termites are very sensitive towards fumigation with SF. It is commonly known that SF is suitable for control of drywood termites (Osbrink *et al.,*1987; Stewart,1957). Fumigation with hydrogen cyanide (Rambeau *et al*., 2001) and even inert atmospheres, like nitrogen and carbon dioxide with low residual content of oxygen under appropriate conditions (Lewis and Haverty, 1996, Reichmuth, 2007). Heat as an alternative was regarded by the Party as not feasible, due to lack of access into some roof spaces.

MBTOC final assessment for MB use in this sector in 2017:

	MBTOC notes that for controlling wood boring insects in attics and wooden structures of the roof area of infested houses has been common practice for many years around the world. Phosphine, without added heat, is unlikely to be feasible because of slower action, with fully effective treatments taking several days against wood boring pests without added heat. The nomination distinguished between treatments for low level infestations of drywood termite, infestations of other wood destroying insects, particularly *Hylotrupes*, and multiple infestations of drywood termite with or without wood borers. Similar situations in the US, formerly treated with methyl bromide, are now mainly fumigated with sulfuryl fluoride (MBTOC Assessment reports 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014), but heat has also been used. Drywood termite infestations can typically be treated by the 'search-and-destroy' system where access is possible. In this process, the nests are located acoustically, electronically or with detector dogs and the located nests are eliminated by injection with appropriate, registered insecticide formulation. Baiting is not normally used, as the drywood termite nest, unlike subterranean termites, does not typically have contact with the ground. Established infestations of *Hylotrupes* and other wood boring insects in structural timber are likely to require whole site treatment. Alternatives to methyl bromide include heat treatments to moderate temperatures around 56°C (Dreger, 2007; Lewis and Haverty, 1996). MBTOC uses the information supplied by the Party of 81% attic (1,029,000 m^3) only treatment and 19% whole houses (420,000 m^3). Of the treatments the Party estimated that 55% are for termites. MBTOC has used the standard presumption of 20g/m^3 to determine the amount necessary for this treatment (22.14 t). For the fumigation of the rest that requires an effective dosage of 48g/m^3 to control the other wood boring insects including *Hylotrupes,* MBTOC recommends an amount of 20.16 tons. MBTOC has adjusted the nomination to a total of 42.3 t to account for the lower rate for termites (20g/m^3) and reduced the required amount for the attic disinfestation by one third to allow for the implementation of other methods of control like heat disinfestation. The Party indicated ISPM-15 as justification for need for a dosage of 48g/m3 for this nomination. MBTOC notes that ISPM 15 is a standard relating to the treatment of wood packing material in trade. It aims specifically to eliminate infestation of pests of standing timber that may infest or complete their life cycle in new timber made into pallets and the like. The dosage rate in ISPM 15 is excessive for the control of some postharvest pests of wood and timber, notably termites. It is thus not a reasonable benchmark for setting dosages for control of particular mill and domestic pests. In response to request for reassessment by the Party, MBTOC calculated this reduction in nomination to be phased in over a 2 year period, with a 20% reduction in the first year, allowing time for implementation of improved practice and dosage rates targeted at the species being treated MBTOC urges the Party to put in place a development and demonstration program with alternatives against wood destroying pests in houses and similar structures, particularly heat treatment, and to pursue registration of alternatives to assist rapid phase out of methyl bromide for the use in this CUN. **MBTOC comments on economics for 2017:** The CUN rests on technical infeasibility and non-availability of SF as registered material, so no economic analysis was conducted. No new data as already in the nomination of previous year were reported. **Comments requested in Dec. XX1/11 (para 9):** • **Dec. IX/6 b (i) Emission Reduction:** The CUN states that partially in the sheeted houses a high level of fumigant containment has been achieved. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Research Program:** MBTOC notes the recent favourable adoption of heat, but limited work on trialling promising alternatives given in the CUN. But the Party is undertaking investigations in the suitability of heat disinfestation as possible alternative in South Africa for the described control of infestation. • **Dec. IX/6 b (iii) Appropriate Effort:** Sourcing and registration of one in-kind alternative is being sought for this use. • **Dec. Ex 1(4) Annex 1 National Management Strategy:** No Management Strategy was provided.

[1]1ExMOP and 16MOP; [2]16MOP+2ExMOP+17MOP; [3]MOP17+MOP18; [4]MOP18+MOP19; [5]MOP19+MOP20; [6]MOP20+MOP21; [7]MOP21+MOP22; [8]MOP22, [9]MOP23, [10]MOP24, [11]MOP25

4 Activity Report 2016 and Workplan for 2017

4.1. Activity report for 2016

- MBTOC initiated 2016 with 20 members (including 3 co-chairs) after completing its reorganization process in 2014. The current list of members together with individual terms of appointment can be found in the TEAP Progress Report of May 2016.
- Initial summarisation of the 2016 CUNs for 2017 and 2018 (initial sorting and recording carried out by the Secretariat).
- Preparation of questions for Parties submitting CUNs. Assessment of responses received from Parties.
- MBTOC meeting in March 2016 (Mar del Plata, Argentina) for assessment of CUNs (soils and SC). The meeting included a field trip to visit preplant soil uses, including strawberry fruit and tomato cropping sites.
- Interim recommendations were agreed by consensus. The committee prepared the CUN Interim Report and the 2016 Progress Report (including QPS) for consideration by the 38thOEWG.
- At the 38th OEWG (Vienna, July 18-21, 2016) presented CUN and Progress Report outcomes, and conducted bilateral meetings with Australia, Canada, Argentina and South Africa.
- The final assessment for the CUN (soils and SC) was conducted by email during the second half of August 2016. Further information was provided by Australia, Canada and Argentina for four preplant soil nominations and South Africa for structural and commodity nominations.
- MBTOC prepared the final CUN report for consideration by the Parties at their 28th Meeting in October 2016.

The following "Actions" and "Indicative Completion Dates" are the "Working procedures of MBTOC relating to the evaluation of nominations for critical uses of MB", as described in Annex 1 of the 16th Meeting of the Parties. The annual work plan is required to be drawn up by MBTOC (supported by the Ozone Secretariat) in consultation with TEAP, which shall submit it to the Meeting of the Parties each year.

4.2. Work plan and indicative budget for 2017

Tasks and actions	**Indicative budget needs where applicable**	**Indicative completion date**	**Dates of meetings**
1. Parties submit their nominations for critical-use exemptions to the Secretariat	-	24 January 2017	
2. The nominations are forwarded to MBTOC co-chairs for distribution to the subgroups of appointed members	-	7 February 2017	
3. Nominations in full are assessed by the subgroups of appointed members. The initial findings of the subgroups, and any requests for additional information are forwarded to the MBTOC co-chairs for clearance	-	21 February 2017	
4. MBTOC co-chairs forward the cleared advice on initial findings and may request additional information on to the nominating Party concerned and consult with the Party on the possible presumption therein	-	28 February 2017	

Tasks and actions	Indicative budget needs where applicable	Indicative completion date	Dates of meetings
5. Nominating Party develops and submits its response to the MBTOC co-chairs	-	7 March 2017	
6. MBTOC Meeting • To assess nominations, including any additional information provided by the nominating Party prior to the MBTOC meeting under action 5 and any additional information provided by nominating Party through pre-arranged teleconference, or through meetings with national experts, in accordance with paragraph 3.4 of the terms of reference of TEAP (see Annex I of MOP16, Dec XVI/4) • Bilateral meetings if requested by Parties • To discuss and finalise the CUN evaluation process • If necessary, discussed any new or standard presumptions that MBTOC seeks to apply in its future assessment of critical-use nominations, for approval by the Meeting of the Parties • Draft the 2015 Progress Report • Any other tasks assigned by the Parties at the 27th MOP	Funds for travel of 1non-A5 member: US$3,000* Meeting Costs $3,000	March 2017	TBA China? (March, 2017)
8. MBTOC provides its draft recommendations on the CUNs to TEAP		April, 2017	
9- TEAP Meeting: To assess the MBTOC report on critical-use nominations and submits the finalised interim report on recommendations and findings to the Secretariat.		April 2017	Kyoto, Japan (tentative)
10. The Secretariat posts the finalised report on its web site and circulates it to the Parties	-	May 2017	
11. OEWG Bilateral Discussions: Nominating Party has the opportunity to consult with MBTOC on a bilateral basis in conjunction with the Open-ended Working Group meetings		June - July 2017 (TBD)	TBD
12. The nominating Party submits further clarification for the critical-use nomination requested by MBTOC or if requested to do so by the Open-ended Working Group, and provides additional information should it wish to appeal against a critical-use nomination recommendation by MBTOC/TEAP	-	Depending on OEWG date	

Tasks and actions	Indicative budget needs where applicable	Indicative completion date	Dates of meetings
13. MBTOC second meeting or agreed email process (according to feasibility and justification of a second meeting): • Meets to reassess only those critical-use nominations in the "unable to assess" category, those where additional information has been submitted by the nominating Party and any critical-use nominations for which additional information has been requested by the Open-ended Working Group (see Annex I of MOP16, Dec XVI/4) • Finalise the report, including notice of any proposed new standard presumptions to be applied by MBTOC • Conduct any bilateral consultations requested by Parties • Draft work plan and budget for MBTOC for 2015	Funds for travel of 1 non-A5 member*: US$3,000 Meeting costs: $US 3,000	August-September 2017 (according to MOP 29th dates)	TBD
14. MBTOC drafts final report considered by TEAP, finalised and made available to Parties through the Secretariat	-	Sept - October 2017 depending on MOP dates	
15. 26th Meeting of the Parties			November 2017
Total budget:	**US $: 12,000*** US$ 6,000 (Travel of Non Article 5 member) Meeting Costs $6,000		

** Travel funds for non-A5 members have been requested in the past but not granted. Attendance of some non-A5 MBTOC members support is getting increasingly difficult due to lack of funding

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ANNEX I - Decision IX/6 Critical Use Exemptions for Methyl Bromide

1. To apply the following criteria and procedure in assessing a critical methyl bromide use for the purposes of control measures in Article 2 of the Protocol:

(a) That a use of methyl bromide should qualify as "critical" only if the nominating Party determines that:

(i) The specific use is critical because the lack of availability of methyl bromide for that use would result in a significant market disruption; and

(ii) There are no technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes available to the user that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health and are suitable to the crops and circumstances of the nomination;

(b) That production and consumption, if any, of methyl bromide for critical uses should be permitted only if:

(i) All technically and economically feasible steps have been taken to minimise the critical use and any associated emission of methyl bromide;

(ii) Methyl bromide is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from existing stocks of banked or recycled methyl bromide, also bearing in mind the developing countries' need for methyl bromide;

(iii) It is demonstrated that an appropriate effort is being made to evaluate, commercialise and secure national regulatory approval of alternatives and substitutes, taking into consideration the circumstances of the particular nomination and the special needs of Article 5 Parties, including lack of financial and expert resources, institutional capacity, and information. Non-Article 5 Parties must demonstrate that research programmes are in place to develop and deploy alternatives and substitutes. Article 5 Parties must demonstrate that feasible alternatives shall be adopted as soon as they are confirmed as suitable to the Party's specific conditions and/or that they have applied to the Multilateral Fund or other sources for assistance in identifying, evaluating, adapting and demonstrating such options;

2. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to review nominations and make recommendations based on the criteria established in paragraphs 1 (a) (ii) and 1 (b) of the present decision;

3. That the present decision will apply to Parties operating under Article 5 and Parties not so operating only after the phase-out date applicable to those Parties.

Para. 2 of Decision IX/6 does not assign TEAP the responsibility for determining the existence of "significant market disruption" specified in paragraph 1(a)(i).

TEAP assigned its Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) to determine whether there are no technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes available to the user that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health and are suitable to the crops and circumstances of the nomination, and to address the criteria listed in Decision IX/6 1(b).

ANNEX II - Decision Ex.I/4. Conditions for granting and reporting critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide

Mindful of the principles set forth in the report[1] by the chair of the informal consultation on methyl bromide held in Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 March 2004, namely, fairness, certainty and confidence, practicality and flexibility, and transparency,

Recognizing that technically and economically feasible alternatives exist for most uses of methyl bromide,

Noting that those alternatives are not always technically and economically feasible in the circumstances of nominations,

Noting that Article 5 and non-Article 5 Parties have made substantial progress in the adoption of effective alternatives,

Mindful that exemptions must comply fully with decision IX/6 and are intended to be limited, temporary derogations from the phase-out of methyl bromide,

Recognizing the desirability of a transparent presentation of data on alternatives to methyl bromide to assist the Parties to understand better the critical-use volumes and to gauge progress on and impediments to the transition from methyl bromide,

Resolved that each Party should aim at significantly and progressively decreasing its production and consumption of methyl bromide for critical uses with the intention of completely phasing out methyl bromide as soon as technically and economically feasible alternatives are available,

Recognizing that Parties should revert to methyl bromide only as a last resort, in the event that a technically and economically feasible alternative to methyl bromide which is in use ceases to be available as a result of de-registration or for other reasons,

3. That each Party which has an agreed critical use under the present decision should submit available information to the Ozone Secretariat before 1 February 2005 on the alternatives available, listed according to their pre-harvest or post-harvest uses and the possible date of registration, if required, for each alternative; and on the alternatives which the Parties can disclose to be under development, listed according to their pre-harvest or post-harvest uses and the likely date of registration, if required and known, for those alternatives, and that the Ozone Secretariat shall be requested to provide a template for that information and to post the said information in a database entitled "Methyl Bromide Alternatives" on its web site;

4. That each Party which submits a nomination for the production and consumption of methyl bromide for years after 2005 should also submit information listed in paragraph 1 to the Ozone Secretariat to include in its Methyl Bromide Alternatives database and that any other Party which no longer consumes methyl bromide should also submit information on alternatives to the Secretariat for inclusion in that database;

5. To request each Party which makes a critical-use nomination after 2005 to submit a national management strategy for phase-out of critical uses of methyl bromide to the Ozone Secretariat before 1 February 2006. The management strategy should aim, among other things:

(a) To avoid any increase in methyl bromide consumption except for unforeseen circumstances;

(b) To encourage the use of alternatives through the use of expedited procedures, where possible, to develop, register and deploy technically and economically feasible alternatives;

(c) To provide information, for each current pre-harvest and post-harvest use for which a

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro.ExMP/1/INF/1, para. 11.

nomination is planned, on the potential market penetration of newly deployed alternatives and alternatives which may be used in the near future, to bring forward the time when it is estimated that methyl bromide consumption for such uses can be reduced and/or ultimately eliminated;

(d) To promote the implementation of measures which ensure that any emissions of methyl bromide are minimized;

(e) To show how the management strategy will be implemented to promote the phase-out of uses of methyl bromide as soon as technically and economically feasible alternatives are available, in particular describing the steps which the Party is taking in regard to subparagraph (b) (iii) of paragraph 1 of decision IX/6 in respect of research programmes in non-Article 5 Parties and the adoption of alternatives by Article 5 Parties;

6. To request the Meeting of the Parties to take into account information submitted pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present decision when it considers permitting a Party to produce or consume methyl bromide for critical uses after 2006;

7. To request a Party that has submitted a request for a critical use exemption to consider and implement, if feasible, Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee recommendations on actions which a Party may take to reduce critical uses of methyl bromide;

8. To request any Party submitting a critical-use nomination after 2004 to describe in its nomination the methodology used to determine economic feasibility in the event that economic feasibility is used as a criterion to justify the requirement for the critical use of methyl bromide, using as a guide the economic criteria contained in section 4 of annex I to the present report;

9. To request each Party from 1 January 2005 to provide to the Ozone Secretariat a summary of each crop or post-harvest nomination containing the following information:

(a) Name of the nominating Party;

(b) Descriptive title of the nomination;

(c) Crop name (open field or protected) or post-harvest use;

(d) Quantity of methyl bromide requested in each year;

(e) Reason or reasons why alternatives to methyl bromide are not technically and economically feasible;

10. To request the Ozone Secretariat to post the information submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 above, categorized according to the year in which it was received, on its web site within 10 days of receiving the nomination;

11. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel:

(a) To identify options which Parties may consider for preventing potential harmful trade of methyl bromide stocks to Article 5 Parties as consumption is reduced in non-Article 5 Parties and to publish its evaluation in 2005 to enable the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to decide if suitable mitigating steps are necessary;

(b) To identify factors which Article 5 Parties may wish to take into account in evaluating whether they should either undertake new accelerated phase-out commitments through the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol or seek changes to already agreed accelerated phase-outs of methyl bromide under the Multilateral Fund;

(c) To assess economic infeasibility, based on the methodology submitted by the nominating Party under paragraph 6 above, in making its recommendations on each critical-use nomination. The report by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel should be made with a view to encouraging nominating Parties to adopt a common approach in assessing the economic feasibility of alternatives;

(d) To submit a report to the Open-ended Working Group at its twenty-sixth session on the

possible need for methyl bromide critical uses over the next few years, based on a review of the management strategies submitted by Parties pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision;

(e) To review critical-use nominations on an annual basis and apply the criteria set forth in decision IX/6 and of other relevant criteria agreed by the Parties;

(f) To recommend an accounting framework for adoption by the Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties which can be used for reporting quantities of methyl bromide produced, imported and exported by Parties under the terms of critical-use exemptions, and after the end of 2005 to request each Party which has been granted a critical-use exemption to submit information together with its nomination using the agreed format;

(g) To provide, in consultation with interested Parties, a format for a critical-use exemption report, based on the content of annex I to the present report, for adoption by the Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties, and to request each Party which reapplies for a methyl bromide critical-use exemption after the end of 2005 to submit a critical-use exemption report in the agreed format;

(h) To assess, annually where appropriate, any critical-use nomination made after the end of 2006 in the light of the Methyl Bromide Alternatives database information submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present decision, and to compare, annually where appropriate, the quantity, in the nomination, of methyl bromide requested and recommended for each pre-harvest and post-harvest use with the management strategy submitted by the Party pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision;

(i) To report annually on the status of re-registration and review of methyl bromide uses for the applications reflected in the critical-use exemptions, including any information on health effects and environmental acceptability;

(j) To report annually on the status of registration of alternatives and substitutes for methyl bromide, with particular emphasis on possible regulatory actions that will increase or decrease dependence on methyl bromide;

(k) To modify the handbook on critical-use nominations for methyl bromide to take the present decision and other relevant information into account, for submission to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties.

ANNEX III - Part A: Historic Trends in non A5 Preplant Soil Nominations and Exemptions for MB Use

List of nominated (2005 – 2015) and exempted (2005 – 2014) amounts of MB granted by Parties under the CUE process for each crop.

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Australia	Cut Flowers – field	40.000	22.350											18.375	22.350										
Australia	Cut flowers – protected	20.000												10.425											
Australia	Cut flowers, bulbs – protected Vic	7.000	7.000	6.170	6.150									7.000	7.000	3.598	3.500								
Australia	Strawberry Fruit	90.000												67.000											
Australia	Strawberry runners	35.750	37.500	35.750	35.750	29.790	29.790	29.790	29.790	29.760	29.760	29.760	**29.76**	35.750	37.500	35.750	35.750	29.790	29.790	23.840+ 5.95	29.760	29.760	**29.760**	**29.760**	**29.760**
Belgium	Asparagus	0.630	0.225											0.630	0.225										
Belgium	Chicory	0.600	0.180											0.180	0.180										
Belgium	Chrysanthe mums	1.800	0.720											1.120											
Belgium	Cucumber	0.610	0.545											0.610	0.545										
Belgium	Cut flowers – other	6.110	1.956											4.000	1.956										
Belgium	Cut flowers – roses	1.640																							
Belgium	Endive (sep from lettuce)		1.650												1.650										
Belgium	Leek &onion seeds	1.220	0.155											0.660											

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Belgium	Lettuce(& endive)	42.250	22.425											25.190											
Belgium	Nursery	Not Predictable	0.384											0.900	0.384										
Belgium	Orchard pome & berry	1.350	0.621											1.350	0.621										
Belgium	Ornamental plants	5.660												0.000											
Belgium	Pepper & egg plant	5.270	1.350											3.000	1.350										
Belgium	Strawberry runners	3.400	0.900											3.400	0.900										
Belgium	Tomato (protected)	17.170	4.500											5.700	4.500										
Belgium	Tree nursery	0.230	0.155											0.230	0.155										
Canada	Strawberry runners (PEI)	14.792	6.840	7.995	7.462	7.462	7.462	5.261	5.261	5.596	5.261	5.261	**5.261**	(a)14.792	6.840	7.995	7.462	7.462	7.462	5.261	5.261	5.261	**5.261**	**5.261**	**5.261**
Canada	Strawberry runners (Quebec)		1.826	1.826										(a)	1.826	1.826									
Canada	Strawberry runners (Ontario)			6.129												6.129									
France	Carrots	10.000	8.000	5.000										8.000	8.000	1.400									
France	Cucumber	85 revised to 60	60.000	15.000										60.000	60.000	12.500									
France	Cut-flowers	75.000	60.250	12.000										60.000	52.000	9.600									
France	Forest tree nursery	10.000	10.000	1.500										10.000	10.000	1.500									
France	Melon	10.000	10.000											7.500	6.000										

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities										
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
France	Nursery: orchard, raspberry	5.000	5.000	2.000										5.000	5.000	2.000									
France	Orchard replant	25.000	25.000	7.500										25.000	25.000	7.000									
France	Pepper	Inclin.tomatocun	27.500	6.000											27.500	6.000									
France	Strawberry fruit	90.000	86.000	34.000										90.000	86.000										
France	Strawberry runners	40.000	4.000	35.000										40.000	40.000	28.000									
France	Tomato (and eggplant for 2005 only)	150(all solanaceous)	60.500	33.250										125.000	48.400										
France	Eggplant		27.500	33.250											48.400										
Greece	Cucurbits	30.000	19.200											30.000	19.200										
Greece	Cut flowers	14.000	6.000											14.000	6.000										
Greece	Tomatoes	180.000	73.600											156.000	73.600										
Israel	Broomrape			250.000	250.000	125.000	12.500	12.500								250.000	250.000	125.000	12.500						
Israel	Cucumber - protected new 2007			25.000	18.750		18.750	12.500								25.000	18.750	-	15.937						
Israel	Cut flowers – open field	77.000	67.000	80.755	53.345	42.777	42.554	23.292						77.000	67.000	74.540	44.750	34.698	28.554						
Israel	Cut flowers – protected	303.000	303.000	321.330	163.400	113.821	72.266	52.955						303.000	240.000	220.185	114.450	85.431	63.464						
Israel	Fruit tree nurseries	50.000	45.000	10.000										50.000	45.000	7.500									

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities										
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Israel	Melon – protected & field	148.000	142.000	140.000	87.500	87.500	87.500	35.000						125.650	99.400	105.000	87.500	87.500	70.000						
Israel	Potato	239.000	231.000	137.500	93.750	75.000								239.000	165.000	137.500	93.750	75.000							
Israel	Seed production	56.000	50.000			22.400								56.000	28.000			NR							
Israel	Strawberries – fruit (Sharon)	196.000	196.000	176.200	64.125	52.250	47.500	28.500						196.000	196.000	93.000	105.960	42.750							
Israel	Strawberries – fruit (Sharon &Ghaza)																		57.063						
Israel	Strawberry runners (Sharon)	35.000	35.000		20.000	15.800	13.570	13.500						35.000	35.000	28.000	31.900	15.825							
Israel	Strawberry runners and fruit Ghaza				87.875	67.500	67.500	34.000										47.250							
Israel	Strawberry runners (Sharon &Ghaza)																		22.320						
Israel	Tomatoes			90.000												22.750									
Israel	Sweet potato					95.000	20.000	20.000									111.500	95.000	20.000						
Italy	Cut flowers (protected)	250.000	250.000	30.000										250.000	187.000	30.000									
Italy	Eggplant (protected)	280.000	200.000	15.000										194.000	156.000										
Italy	Melon (protected)	180.000	135.000	10.000										131.000	131.000	10.000									

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Italy	Pepper (protected)	220.000	160.000	67.000										160.000	130.000	67.000									
Italy	Strawberry Fruit (Protected)	510.000	400.000	35.000										407.000	320.000										
Italy	Strawberry Runners	100.000	120.000	35.000										120.000	120.000	35.000									
Italy	Tomato (protected)	1300.000	1030.00	418.000										871.000	697.000	80.000									
Japan	Cucumber	88.300	88.800	72.400	68.600	61.400	34.100	29.120	26.162					88.300	88.800	72.400	51.450	34.300	30.690	27.621					
Japan	Ginger – field	119.400	119.400	112.200	112.100	102.200	53.400	47.450	42.235					119.400	119.400	109.701	84.075	63.056	53.400	47.450					
Japan	Ginger – protected	22.900	22.900	14.800	14.800	12.900	8.300	7.770	6.558					22.900	22.900	14.471	11.100	8.325	8.300	7.036					
Japan	Melon	194.100	203.900	182.200	182.200	168.000	90.800	77.600	67.936					194.100	203.900	182.200	136.650	91.100	81.720	73.548					
Japan	Peppers (green and hot)	189.900	200.700	169.400	162.300	134.400	81.100	68.260	61.101					187.200	200.700	156.700	121.725	81.149	72.990	65.691					
Japan	Watermelon	126.300	96.200	94.200	43.300	23.700	15.400	13.870	12.075					129.000	98.900	94.200	32.475	21.650	14.500	13.050					
Malta	Cucumber		0.096												0.127										
Malta	Eggplant		0.128												0.170										
Malta	Strawberry		0.160												0.212										
Malta	Tomatoes		0.475												0.594										
New Zealand	Nursery material	1.085	1.085												0										
New Zealand	Strawberry fruit	42.000	42.000	24.78										42.000	34.000	12.000									

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities										
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
New Zealand	Strawberry runners	10.000	10.000	5.720										8.000	8.000	6.234									
Poland	Strawberry Runners	40.000	40.000	25.000	12.000									40.000	40.000	24.500									
Portugal	Cut flowers	130.000	8.750											50.000	8.750										
Spain	Cut Flowers – Cadiz	53.000	53.000	35.000										53.000	42.000										
Spain	Cut Flowers – Catalonia	20.000	18.600	12.840	17 (+Andalucia)									20.000	15.000 (+Andaluci a)	43.490									
Spain	Pepper	200.000	155.000	45.000										200.000	155.000	45.000									
Spain	Strawberry Fruit	556.000	499.290	80.000										556.000	499.290	0.0796									
Spain	Strawberry Runners	230.000	230.000	230.000	215.000									230.000	230.000	230.000									
UK	Cut flowers		7.560												6.050										
UK	Ornamental tree nursery	12.000	6.000											6.000	6.000										
UK	Strawberry (& raspberry in 2005)	80.000	63.600											68.000	54.500										
UK	Raspberry nursery		4.400											4.400	54.500										
USA	Chrys. Cuttings/roses	29.412												29.412	0										
USA	Cucurbits – field	1187.8	747.839	598.927	588.949	411.757	340.405	218.032	59.500	11.899				1187.800	747.839	592.891	486.757	407.091	302.974	195.698	59.500				

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
USA	Eggplant – field	76.761	101.245	96.48	79.546	62.789	34.732	21.561	6.904	1.381				76.721	82.167	85.363	66.018	48.691	32.820	19.725	6.904				
USA	Forest nursery seedlings	192.515	157.694	152.629	133.140	125.758	120.853	106.043						192.515	157.694	122.032	131.208	122.060	117.826	93.547					
USA	Ginger	9.2												9.2	0										
USA	Orchard replant	706.176	827.994	405.415	405.666	314.007	226.021	203.591	18.324	6.230				706.176	527.600	405.400	393.720	292.756	215.800	183.232	18.324				
USA	Ornamentals	210.949	162.817	149.965	138.538	137.776	95.204	70.178	48.164	48.164				154.000	148.483	137.835	138.538	107.136	84.617	64.307	48.164				
USA	Nursery stock - fruit trees, raspberries, roses	45.789	64.528	12.684	51.102	27.663	17.954	7.955	1.591	0.541				45.800	64.528	28.275	51.102	25.326	17.363	7.955	1.591				
USA	Peppers – field	1094.782	1498.53	1151.751	919.006	783.821	463.282	212.775	28.366					1094.782	1243.542	1106.753	756.339	548.984	463.282	206.234					
USA	Strawberry fruit – field	2468.873	1918.40	1733.901	1604.669	1336.754	1103.422	1023.471	753.974	610.339	415.067	373.660	231.540	2052.846	1730.828	1476.019	1349.575	1269.321	1007.477	812.709	678.004	532.442	415.067	373.660	231.540
USA	Strawberry runners	54.988	56.291	4.483	8.838	8.837	7.381	7.381	3.752	3.752				54.988	56.291	4.483	8.838	7.944	4.690 + 2.018	6.036	3.752				
USA	Tomato – field	2876.046	2844.985	2334.047	1840.1	1406.484	994.582	336.191	54.423	10.741				737.584	2476.365	2065.246	1406.484	1003.876	737.584	292.751	54.423				
USA	Turfgrass	352.194	131.600	78.040	52.189	0									131.600	78.04	0								
USA	Sweet potato	224.528			18.144	18.144	18.144	14.515	8.709								18.144	18.144	14.515	11.612					
USA	Research								2.768	2.768															

ANNEX IV– Part B: Historic Trends in non A5 Structural and Commodity Nominations and Exemptions for MB Use

List of nominated (2005- 2016) and exempted (2005 - 2016) amounts of MB granted by Parties under the CUE process for each commodity.

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Australia	Almonds	1.900	2.100											1.900	2.100										
Australia	Rice consumer packs	12.300	12.300	10.225	9.200 +1.8	9.2	7.82	5.66	3.653	2.374	1.187	1.187		6.150	6.150	9.205	9.200	7.820	6.650	4.870	3.653	1.187	1.187		
Belgium	Artefacts and structures	0.600	0.307											0.590	0.307										
Belgium	Antique structure & furniture	0.750	0.199											0.319	0.199										
Belgium	Churches, monuments and ships' quarters	0.150	0.059											0.150	0.059										
Belgium	Electronic equipment	0.100	0.035											0.100	0.035										
Belgium	Empty silo	0.050	0.043											0.050	0.043										
Belgium	Flour mill see mills below	0.125	0.072											See mills below	0.072										
Belgium	Flour mills	10.000	4.170											9.515	4.170										
Belgium	Mills	0.200	0.200											0.200	0.200										
Belgium	Food processing facilities	0.300	0.300											0.300	0.300										

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Belgium	Food Processing premises	0.030	0.030											0.030	0.030										
Belgium	Food storage (dry) structure	0.120	0.120											0.120	0										
Belgium	Old buildings	7.000	0 .306											1.150	0.306										
Belgium	Old buildings and objects	0.450	0.282											0	0.282										
Belgium	Woodworking premises	0.300	0.101											0.300	0.101										
Canada	Flour mills	47.200	34.774	30.167	28.650	26.913	22.878	14.107	11.020	7.848	5.044	**5.044**		(a)47	34.774	30.167	28.65	26.913	22.878	14.107	11.020	5.044	**5.044**		
Canada	Pasta manufacturing facilities	(a)	10.457	6.757	6.067	4.740	4.740	2.084						(a)	10.457	6.757	6.067	4.740	3.529						
Canada	Commodities					0.068																			
France	Seeds sold by PLAN-SPG company	0.135	0.135	0.100										0.135	0.135	0.096									
France	Mills	55.000	40.000	8.000										40.000	35.000	8.000									
France	Rice consumer packs	2.000	2.000											2.000	2.000										
France	Chestnuts	2.000	2.000	1.800										2.000	2.000	1.800									
Germany	Artefacts	0.250	0.100											0.250	0.100										

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities										
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Germany	Mills and Processors	45.000	19.350											45.000	19.350										
Greece	Dried fruit	4.280	3.081	0.900										4.280	3.081	0.450									
Greece	Mills and Processors	23.000	16.000	1.340										23.000	15.445	1.340									
Greece	Rice and legumes		2.355												2.355										
Ireland	Mills		0.888	0.611											0.888										
Israel	Artefacts	0.650	0.650	0.600										0.650	0.6500										
Israel	Dates (post harvest)	3.444	3.444	2.200	1.800	2.100								3.444	2.755	2.200	1.800	2.100	1.040						
Israel	Flour mills (machinery & storage)	2.140	1.490	1.490	0.800	0.300								2.140	1.490	1.040	0.312	0.300							
Israel	Furniture–imported	1.4220	1.4220	2.0420										1.4220	0										
Italy	Artefacts	5.500	5.500	5.000										5.225	0	5.000									
Italy	Mills and Processors	160.000	130.000	25.000										160.000	65.000	25.000									
Japan	Chestnuts	7.100	6.500	6.500	6.300	5.800	5.400	5.350	3.489	3.317				7.100	6.800	6.500	6.300	5.800	5.400	5.350	3.489				
Latvia	Grains		2.502												2.502										
Netherlands	Strawberry runners post harvest		0.120	0.120		0.120									0	0.120									
Poland	Medicinal herbs & dried mushrooms as dry commodities	4.000	3.560	1.800	0.500									4.100	3.560	1.800	1.800								

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Poland	Coffee, cocoa beans	(a)	2.160	2.000	0.500										2.160	1.420	1.420								
Spain	Rice		50.000												42.065										
Switzerland	Mills & Processors	8.700	7.000											8.700	7.000										
UK	Aircraft			0.165												0.165									
UK	Mills and Processors	47.130	10.195	4.509										47.130	10.195	4.509									
UK	Cereal processing plants		8.131	3.480					(a)						8.131										
UK	Cheese stores	1.640	1.248	1.248										1.640	1.248	1.248									
UK	Dried commodities (rice, fruits and nuts) Whitworths	2.400	1.256											2.400	1.256										
UK	Herbs and spices	0.035	0.037	0.030										0.035	0.037										
UK	Mills and Processors (biscuits)	2.525	1.787	0.479										2.525	1.787										
UK	Spices structural equip.	1.728												1.728	0	0.479									
UK	Spices stored	0.030												0.030	0										

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
UK	Structures buildings (herbs and spices)	3.000	1.872	0.908										3.000	1.872	0.908									
UK	Structures, processors and storage (Whitworths)	1.100	0.880	0.257										1.100	0.880	0.257									
UK	Tobacco equipment	0.523												0.050											
UK	Woven baskets	0.770												0.770											
USA	Dried fruit and nuts (walnuts, pistachios, dried fruit and dates and dried beans)	89.166	87.719	91.299	67.699	58.912	19.242	10.041	2.419	0.822	0.740	0.310		89.166	87.719	78.983	58.921	45.623	19.242	5.000	2.419	0.740	0.740		
USA	Dry commodities/ structures (cocoa beans)	61.519	61.519	64.028	52.256	51.002								61.519	55.367	64.082	53.188								
USA	Dry commodities/ structures (processed foods, herbs and spices, dried milk and cheese processing facilities) NPMA	83.344	83.344	85.801	72.693	66.777	37.778	17.365	0.200					83.344	69.118	82.771	69.208	54.606	37.778	17.365					

Party	Industry	Total CUN MB Quantities												Total CUE Quantities											
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
USA	Smokehouse hams (Dry cure pork products) (building and product)	136.304	135.742	40.854	19.669	19.699	4.465	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730	67.907	81.708	18.998	19.699	18.998	4.465	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730	3.730
USA	Mills and Processors	536.328	505.982	401.889	362.952	291.418	173.023	135.299	74.51	25.334	22.800			483.000	461.758	401.889	348.237	291.418	173.023	135.299	74.510	22.800	**22.800**		
USA	Research								0.159	0.159															