

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WP/RC8/7
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda Item 13

RESISTANCE OF INSECTS TO INSECTICIDES

1 INTRODUCTION

The seventh session of the Regional Committee discussed a document¹ on the resistance of insects to insecticides and adopted resolution WP/RC7.R12 as follows:

"The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report on resistance of insects to insecticides,

Realizing that the development of resistance of insects to insecticides represents a public-health problem of the greatest importance,

Believing that research work in this field has to be co-ordinated at an international level,

Noting that a programme of co-ordination and stimulation of research is being undertaken on this problem and that steps are being taken to provide Member States with advice on measures to be taken to control vectors which have developed resistance to insecticides,

1. RECOMMENDS that an inter-regional symposium be held in 1958 to which workers performing research on insect resistance and allied fields would be invited with a view to exchanging views and promoting co-ordination of the work, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to collect and disseminate information on research on insect resistance."

2 ACTION TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE

2.1 In February-March 1957, a visit was made by a staff member of the Division of Environmental Sanitation, WHO Headquarters, to seven centres in the Western Pacific, as well as to eight centres in other regions, in an effort to survey, stimulate and co-ordinate the research work on resistance of insects to insecticides. Governments in the Region have been requested to provide WHO with information on research on insect resistance, and at the same time, technical information on the subject has been sent to governments. Arrangements have been made recently to translate, print and bind 500 copies of 38 papers on insect resistance by Japanese workers, so that their important contribution to the knowledge of insect resistance, particularly as regards fundamental insect physiology, developmental genetics and physiology of resistance, may be shared by workers in different parts of the world.

/2.2 In the ...

¹Unpublished document WP/RC7/8

2.2 In the Western Pacific Region, malaria services have been alerted to watch for the possible development of resistance of vector species to insecticides by conducting susceptibility tests at frequent intervals. Governments have also been advised to intensify their plans for malaria campaigns so that the disease may be eradicated before the development of resistance in the vector. An increase in the tolerance of A. leucosphyrus balabacensis to DDT was observed in North Borneo ten months after the first application of the insecticide, but close watch is being kept and plans have been made to meet the situation in the event that true resistance should develop.

2.3 Arrangements have been made by WHO to send a consultant to China and to West New Guinea this year to assist in the study of insect resistance.

3 INTER-REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INSECT RESISTANCE

3.1 A technical conference on insect resistance was convened in Geneva on 25-31 July 1957 to consider an international collaborative programme of research which, among other things, discussed the present status of research on insect resistance, lines of co-ordination of existing research, training and recruitment of scientific personnel, financing of research, and the role of WHO in combatting insect resistance.

3.2 Following the recommendation of the seventh session of the Regional Committee¹, provision for an inter-regional symposium on insect resistance was made in the budget supplement for 1958 and it is hoped that funds will become available for the implementation of this activity.

4 PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The following draft resolution is submitted for the consideration of the Regional Committee:

"The Regional Committee,

Having considered the document on resistance of insects to insecticides,²

REQUESTS the Regional Director

(1) to give priority to the implementation of the inter-regional symposium on insect resistance in 1958 if funds should become available, and

(2) to continue the collection and dissemination of information on research on insect resistance."

¹Resolution WP/RC7.R12

²Unpublished document WP/RC8/7