

The Insect Free Post

Newsletter of the
CORESTA Sub-Group on Pest and Sanitation Management in Stored Tobacco
Issue 7 – November 2017



Sub-Group objectives:

- To educate and promote best Integrated Pest Management practices for post-harvested tobacco world-wide
- To conduct collaborative studies on pest control and sanitation practices for post-harvested tobacco
- To investigate new technologies and issues related to infestation control in post-harvested tobacco

There have been a number of developments and events since the last Post from the Sub-Group in 2014. Here are some of the highlights:

Infestation Control Conferences



ICC 2015 was held in Lilongwe, Malawi on May 18-19 and ICC 2017 was held in Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil on May 8-9 thanks to the support of Universal Leaf and Limbe Leaf (2015) and SindiTabaco and BAT (2017). There was good participation at both events with about 70 attendees each. There was a good mix of leaf suppliers, fumigators and logistics in Lilongwe while in Santa Cruz do Sol the majority of attendees were leaf suppliers.

In addition to the consistent ICC presentations the attendees had the privilege to hear about the importance of tobacco to Malawi and Brazil and pest control from members of the Malawi Tobacco Beetle Monitoring Committee (MTBMC) and from the president of Sinditabaco.

The conferences included field demonstrations of phosphine fumigations, emphasizing safe and proper fumigation practices.



Following the training, participants divided into groups and were presented with real life scenarios and asked to apply what they learned.

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Sub-Group Meetings

In addition to the research presentations and discussions about **Sub-Group** activities (highlighted in the Headlines section), the past three meetings all had unique elements to them.

In Lilongwe (2015), recognizing the impact that the MTBMC could have on the significant pest control issues in the region, the Sub-Group invited the committee to share about their efforts to address the issues.



The CORESTA Congress was held in Berlin in 2016. The Sub-Group had its meeting in conjunction with the Congress giving many Sub-Group members the opportunity to experience a CORESTA meeting for the first time.

The next ICC and Sub-Group meeting will be held in Winston-Salem, USA on 7-8 May and 9-10 May 2018, respectively.

In Santa Cruz do Sul (2017), following a presentation of research being done at the university about using parasitoid wasps to control beetle populations in tobacco, the Sub-Group was given a tour of the entomology laboratory at the university.



Headlines

The current methods of treating tobacco for infestations are **fumigation** with phosphine, **freezing**, or **controlled atmospheres** (CA). Phosphine resistance continues to be a major concern of the Sub-Group. Efforts are underway to better understand the mechanisms of phosphine resistance and to establish parameters needed to kill positively identified strong resistant cigarette beetle strains. CA parameters are being re-evaluated in light of reports of CA failures. Research is ongoing to investigate the efficacy of alternate fumigants.

For more details on any of the subjects covered in this newsletter please contact your local CORESTA Sub-Group representative.

<http://www.coresta.org>