

Epilog

The International Symposium on stored product protection (SPP) drew plenty of interest in many European states and could demonstrate the shortages and deficiencies of this branch of pest control. The permanently diminishing number of accessible chemicals for use as SPP products reveal alarmingly that the structures for research and development in the member states are critically neglected. On the other side it was shown that the impact of stored product pests lies not only on shortage of food and feed but also on human health. The EU plays an important role in this context and does not yet consider SPP as a special area that needs specific consideration when banning substances without thorough communication between the various involved national ministries on the consequences for the European market. Still there seems to be the prejudice that there is an endless reservoir for new chemicals to fill gaps after one product has been phased out. Internationally, the replacement of methyl bromide has drawn together more than 150 member states under the umbrella of the UNEP to detect and develop feasible alternative prior to fully phasing out methyl bromide. This unfortunately does not happen in Europe with the consequence that for instance dichlorvos (DDVP) was taken off the market without having a feasible alternative for its use in Europe. It is strongly recommended to create a task force with national governmental technical specialists that oversees the various fields of application of such a product, communicates with the EU and proposes technical solutions for the further modified use without risks that might have led to the envisaged ban. This task force could use the network of EPPO or other existing networks but the European MS must employ scientists to deal with these questions and cooperate under each other and with European industry to develop spp into the future responding to the public expectation of supply with economically affordable feed and food of high quality without critical chemical residues or microbiological contaminants.

In so far the symposium achieved the goal to describe the possibilities of reducing the foreseeable shortages and risks for spp and proposed solutions to overcome them.