

PREFACE

The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) is an umbrella programme for the prevention and control of vector borne diseases, jointly implemented by the Central Government and the State government and Union Territories. These include malaria, kala-azar, lymphatic filariasis, Japanese encephalitis, and dengue. The programme entails safer use of insecticides and insecticide-treated material (ITM) to control vector. These chemicals have the potential to adversely impact the environment and also human health. To ensure that insecticides and insecticide-treated material (ITM) used in the project does not cause any threat to the health of persons involved, or cause community and environmental contamination, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been developed for the programme as per the World Bank operational policy.

The EMP for the programme was designed to ensure adoption of sound environmental practices by defining specific directives for storage and transportation, community involvement, use and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and safer disposal following the Environmental Codes of Practice (ECoP). To ensure that these guidelines are implemented effectively, developing the capacity of the people involved at all processes in the programme — e.g. transport, storage, handling and spraying — are required. It is also important to ensure stock management, good storage practices, proper handling of pesticides during transport and disposal, application of insecticides following surveillance methods — usually signs and symptoms of poisoning, emergency measures, proper PPE usage, accident reporting, data management, and monitoring and reporting.

The Environmental Codes of Practice developed under the programme contain a set of six environmental codes of practice (ECOP) that can be implemented to address the environmental issues associated with control of vector borne diseases and its associated activities. A series of site visits and consultations have been undertaken at the district as well as at the national level, to understand the views of the stakeholders. Taking these ground situations into consideration, the codes of practices for the programme have been formulated to ensure that they are in sync with the international guidelines, e.g. WHOPEP, USAID, FAO, etc. The codes of practice have been prepared by a group of environmental experts and entomologist and have been vetted by the Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) and external experts who have been associated with the implementation of the programme over decades.

Special emphasis has been made to ensure that the Codes of Practice correctly reflect the provisions which can be actually implemented on the ground. In some case, certain modifications have been proposed to ensure that these Codes of Practice can be adopted into the normal functioning of the programme without losing sight of the basic objectives.