

Audit of DDT under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)

Background:

DDT is being used in the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) since 1953 for control of vectors of malaria, kaa-azar and dengue etc.

As per WHO Expert Committee on Malaria in 2000, it has been recommended that DDT may be used only for Indoor residual Spray (IRS), if it is effective and if the material is manufactured as per the specifications issued by WHO and necessary safety precautions are taken into its use and disposal. The National Health Policy goal is to eliminate Kala-azar by 2010, which requires targeted intervention through IRS with DDT up to 6 feet height from the ground twice a year in conjunction with early diagnosis and treatment. The Government of India is a party to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and has signed and ratified the convention. As per the Protocol, the GOI procures all its DDT from the state-owned enterprise, Hindustan Insecticides Limited, which is a member of International Chemical Manufacturing Association and follows international specifications.

Recently there were reports of pilferage of DDT from some states for use in agriculture sector. Hence, the mandate group during its meeting dated 29th March 2007 had opined to undertake external audit by an independent agency to look into these aspects. Following this, National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR) had carried out an audit of DDT use in selected states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and UP where DDT is being used for Indoor residual spray and submitted its report during May 2008. However, during the thirteenth meeting of the mandate group to use DDT in public health held under the Chairmanship of Shri Naresh Dayal, Secretary, Health &FW dated 12th May, 2009; it was decided to engage an agency other than NIMR through open tender to conduct DDT audit for supplies to the states, safe storage and their utilization by the states.

Statement of Objectives:

To study the use of DDT supplies to selected states of India, their safe storage and utilization by the states

Outline of the tasks to be carried out/Scope of Work

1. To identify the gaps in supply of DDT as per allocation to the states
2. To evaluate the storage facilities of DDT available at different levels
3. To assess the proper utilization of DDT for IRS purposes

Study area: Following states would be covered during the audit which has a higher consumption rate of DDT. The states are Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

Methodology to be followed:

The study would be both quantitative and qualitative. Regarding study of storage practices, visits should be made by the selected team to the states and the distribution of materials to periphery. The team member shall have to visit at least the storage facilities at the state and district level. Two districts per state would be visited (total 12 districts), two PHCs per districts would be visited (total 24 PHCs) and two subcentres per PHC would be visited (total 48 SCs) during the project period to collect the requisite information. The sample districts, PHCs & SCs would be selected based on high consumption of DDT in the corresponding states. The visit shall be completed when the supplies reach to all the Sub centers before commencement of spray operations and during spray operations to know the preparedness of the states and how effectively the DDT is being used. Functionality of spray equipments may also be documented. Structured questionnaires may be prepared & interview may be conducted with the Govt. officials dealing with transportation, storage, spraying to know their knowledge and practices vis a vis standard norms. Store records may be checked to know about the documentation of DDT transportation, storage and use.

Time schedule: 6 months from the date of Contract award

Support on input that will be provided by the Deptt. to facilitate the consultant

- Authorization letter from Directorate of NVBDCP for the audit of DDT in respective states
- Documents pertaining supply of DDT in respective states- Delivery orders, GRAN, FAC & other supporting documents

- List of the districts/states/PHCs/SCs along with the quantities where the DDT has been supplied. The data regarding the consumption pattern during last would be provided to the agency/firm before their visit.
- Operational Guidelines on safe transportation, storage and use of DDT
- Name of the officers and telephone numbers to be contacted in the states

Output: The audit will give an insight into the rational use of DDT, safe transportation, storage and their utilization with plugging the loopholes in the pilferage at different levels and suggest remedial measures to be undertaken by the Directorate of NVBDCP.