

OZONews

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1- China, Italy Launch Environmental Protection Programs

BEIJING, China and Italy have agreed to work together in the field of environmental protection ... Investments totaling some 32 million US dollars would mainly come from the Italian and Chinese governments, said Liu Yi, a SEPA official in charge of foreign economic cooperation. Sino-Italian cooperation in China's sustainable agriculture sector will focus on reducing and replacing pesticides and chemical fertilizers and introducing water-conserving irrigation systems. Through the initiative, China will obtain new alternative technologies to methyl bromide, an ozone-depleting substance traditionally used in soil fumigation and disinfecting. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has required the phasing out of methyl bromide in agricultural production.

Article @: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2002-12/16/content_661334.htm

Source: Xinhua News Agency, 16 December 2002

2- UAE Bans Sale of Anti-Ozone Sprays

The UAE has decided to ban the sale of medical products containing Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), which affect the ozone layer ... "The Ministry of Health will not accept registration of any medical product containing CFC. Companies marketing or producing such sprays containing this substance are given a deadline of 12 months."... The UAE also gave a timetable for the phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in an order issued by the Federal Environment Agency (FEA) ...

Article @: <http://www.gulf-news.com/Articles/news.asp?ArticleID=71496>

Source: Gulf News, Abu Dhabi, 19 December 2002

3- Hybrid Bell Pepper is Latest Bad News for Nematodes

Nematode-resistant varieties of hybrid bell peppers may soon offer desirable characteristics possessed by nonresistant types. This is because Agricultural Research Service scientists at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C., have bred an experimental hybrid that inherits its resistance from just one of its parent varieties. Nematodes are microscopic roundworms that cause millions of dollars in annual damages to crops nationwide. Root-knot nematodes are a major problem for bell pepper growers ... Progress with nematode-resistant crop varieties is significant because the soil fumigant methyl bromide, the primary control method now used to combat the parasites, is scheduled to be banned in 2005 because of its negative effects on the ozone layer. A 1995 economic study declared that banning methyl bromide without an alternative method of controlling nematodes would cost the nation's bell pepper industry \$127 million in losses.

Text @: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2002/021219.htm>

Source: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), 19 December 2002, By: Luis Pons

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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