Sumitomo Chemical and IVCC (*), an international nonprofit organization, will jointly start on-the-spot tests in Africa of a new insecticide active ingredient for use in the fight against the mosquitoes that transmit malaria and other infectious diseases.

The new insecticide has a novel mode of action different from those of existing insecticides for malaria control. The safety and efficacy of this new product against mosquitoes that are resistant to existing insecticides have been already demonstrated by laboratory based studies.

Malaria is an infectious disease that is transmitted to humans when the anopheles mosquito infected with the malaria parasite bites a person. Every year, an estimated 200 million people worldwide are stricken down by malaria, of which some 580,000 people die from the disease. Malaria cases have been significantly declining in number with the widespread use of long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets, such as Sumitomo Chemical’s Olyset® Net, as well as indoor residual sprays.

On the other hand, primarily in certain parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, the emergence of mosquitoes that are resistant to existing insecticides has been observed. Currently, four classes of insecticide are recommended for use by the World Health Organization for malaria prevention, and no new classes of insecticide for this purpose have been introduced in the past 40 years, which is a factor behind the problem of some mosquito populations growing resistant to existing insecticides. The new insecticide on which Sumitomo Chemical and IVCC are working is expected to help solve the problem of insecticide resistance.

Sumitomo Chemical is a leading company in combating insect-borne infectious diseases, constantly developing various products by fully utilizing its advanced chemical synthesis and formulation technologies accumulated over many years. The company not only strives for the early commercialization of this new insecticide in cooperation with IVCC who has specialized expertise in this field, but enhances its own drive to offer more effective methods of preventing malaria and other infectious diseases.

(*) IVCC is a Product Development Partnership (PDP) established as a not for profit company and registered charity to overcome the barriers to innovation in the development of new insecticides for public health vector control and to develop information systems and tools which will enable new and existing pesticides to be used more effectively. For more information please go to www.ivcc.com.

Today, August 20, is World Mosquito Day, established in commemoration of British medical doctor Sir Ronald Ross who discovered on August 20, 1897 that anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

A press release is issued in joint names of Sumitomo Chemical and IVCC in Britain, where IVCC is based, on August 20.
Sumitomo Chemical and IVCC work together to develop novel insecticide for mosquito control

Sumitomo Chemical and IVCC have been working for the past 5 years to develop a new active ingredient with a novel mode of action for use in the fight against the mosquitoes that transmit malaria and other debilitating and often fatal diseases.

Extensive laboratory based studies demonstrating the safety and efficacy of this chemistry against insecticide resistant mosquitoes have now been completed. On World Mosquito Day, that commemorates the 1897 discovery by Sir Ronald Ross that female mosquitoes transmit malaria, we are delighted to announce these studies have moved to the next phase. This includes evaluating the performance of a range of prototype products in both laboratory and semi-field based settings.

The past 10 years has seen tremendous progress in the reduction in the number of cases and deaths from malaria due to widespread efforts to control mosquitoes primarily through use of bed nets and indoor residual sprays.

This progress is however at risk as mosquitoes are developing resistance to many of the classes of insecticides currently available.

Sumitomo Chemical with its long history of expertise in synthetic chemistry has an exciting pipeline of new insecticides and products and has been at the forefront of developing new tools to combat disease transmitting insects. The current research effort has been supported by IVCC who have provided funding and access to a global multi-disciplinary team of experts.

Ray Nishimoto, Representative Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer at Sumitomo Chemical stated “Sumitomo Chemical is proud to be working with IVCC in the development of this new chemical class insecticide. When used in combination or rotation with other products and tools as part of a resistance management program this has the potential to substantially improve our ability to better control and in the longer term achieve our long term goal to eradicate malaria.”

Commenting on the project, Dr. Abdoulaye Diabate, a researcher in Burkina Faso at IRSS (Institut de Researche en Sciences de la Santé), where high levels of resistance in mosquitoes are being recorded said “Insecticides with novel modes of action such as this are desperately needed, because if we carry on using the same mosquito control tools we have been using in the past then there is no doubt that the increase in resistance levels we are seeing will lead to control failure, with up to half the lives currently saved by vector control lost”
Dr. Nick Hamon (IVCC CEO) said: "Resistance to current insecticides is possibly the greatest problem facing us in our battle against malaria, so we should not underestimate the significance of this exciting development."

**About IVCC**

IVCC is a product development partnership funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Agency for International Development (UKAID), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

**About Sumitomo Chemical Company**

Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is one of Japan’s leading chemical companies, offering a diverse range of products globally in the fields of petrochemicals, energy and functional materials, IT-related chemicals and materials, health and crop science products and pharmaceuticals. For additional information, visit the company’s website at www.sumitomo-chem.co.jp/english/.

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