Comments in Response to Risk Mitigation Options for EBDC Fungicide Use on Papayas in Hawaii: Re-Entry Interval (REI) and Protective Clothing

Date: June 29, 2005

To: Rick Melnicoe
WIPMC Director

From: Cathy Tarutani
American-affiliated Pacific Islands (API) Comment Coordinator
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822

Subject: Papaya EBDC REI — Protective Clothing

Rick,

A copy of the exchange between Wayne Nishijima and Rick Michell is attached. The picture is also attached.

Those are Wayne’s responses (in red) under the questions.

Cathy

Cathy Tarutani
Phone: (808) 956-2004
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences
3190 Maile Way, St John 307
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822

E-mail Correspondence
(Responses in red from Wayne Nishijima)

To: Wayne Nishijima  
County Administrator, Island of Hawaii  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Komohana Ag Complex  
875 Komohana St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808) 981-5199  
Fax: (808) 981-5211

From: Richard Michell, Ph.D.  
Plant Pathologist-Nematologist  
BEAD, USEPA  
Phone: (703) 308-8119  
Fax: (703) 308-8091

Subject: Papaya EBDC REI — Protective Clothing

Date: June 29, 2005
Wayne,

I have two additional quick questions, as follows:

1. Do the papaya harvesters wear any clothing that would reduce dermal exposure to EBDC treated surfaces?

Yes, most (can't say all) wear long-sleeve shirts.

2. I understand that papaya growers in Florida sometime remove leaves in the immediate vicinity of developing fruit. Is this done by Hawaiian growers?

Yes, this is referred to as "trimming leaves" so they can get less interference by leaves when spraying fungicides on the fruits. We caution them not to trim too much, otherwise photosynthetic ability is reduced. Typically growers do this every 4 to 6 months. Leaves are not handled. Growers use a long bladed knife or sickle to cut off the long (24 - 36"), hollow, brittle petioles and leave a stub about 12 inches long. A quick flick of the wrist will easily cut the petioles, and the leaves fall to the ground.

Attached is a photo of papaya field to give you an idea of the situation.--Wayne

Richard Michell, Ph.D.
Plant Pathologist-Nematologist
BEAD, USEPA
Phone: (703) 308-8119
Fax: (703) 308-8091