

EXPERTS URGE SPRAYING DDT TO FIGHT MALARIA AT TIME GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

**'We Need to Rank Humans Over Other Species,'
Says Dr. Paul Farmer of Boston-based Partners in Health**

'Banning of DDT Has Only Helped Mosquitoes,' Farmer Says

**Environmental Problems Due To Agricultural Spraying,
Not Residential Spraying, Paul Farmer Says**

NEW YORK – Public health experts speaking today at a TIME Global Health Summit panel on how to battle malaria -- especially in sub-Saharan Africa -- advocated the selective use of the insecticide DDT, a practice that has been virtually abandoned at the urging of environmentalists to protect birds and other animals in the wild.

"We need to rank humans over other species," said Dr. Paul Farmer, a member of the Board of Directors of Boston-based Partners In Health/Programs In Infectious Disease and Social Change. The banning of DDT "has only helped mosquitoes," said Dr. Farmer, the subject of Tracy Kidder's book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*.

The three-day summit, sponsored by TIME magazine and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has gathered together national and international leaders in medicine, government, business, public policy and the arts to develop actions and solutions to world health crises.

Dr. Farmer added that he did not advocate the agricultural use of DDT on food crops, but rather spraying the insecticide on the walls and roofs of huts in rural villages. Malaria is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.

Another panelist, Charity K. Ngilu, Kenya's minister of health, said that 90% of malaria deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa and that 20 million citizens of her country are at risk of contracting malaria each year and 34,000 children a year die of malaria before the age of five. Minister Ngilu noted, that Kenyan farmers cannot spray DDT because the United States and countries in Europe ban the importation of food from countries where the insecticide is sprayed.

"A developed-country policy has backfired in the under-developed world," Minister Ngilu stated.

There was agreement among the panelists that malaria had to be fought with more than one tool. The use of mosquito nets with insecticide imbedded in the fibers was especially effective, and drugs should be continued to use to cure victims.

Dr. Steven C. Phillips, medical director for global health issues for Exxon Mobile Corp., said the tools were available to control malaria, but what is missing is effective organization and management at both the country and global level.



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TIME Global Health Summit, p. 2 of 2.
Experts Urge Spraying DDT to Fight Malaria, cont'd.

In TIME.com's ongoing blog through the conference, TIME's Christine Gorman wrote that Paul Farmer is "in favor of using DDT as needed for residential spraying to repel malaria-infected mosquitoes. Most of the big environmental problems that occurred with DDT have to do with agricultural spraying not residential spraying."

Steven Phillips of Exxon Mobil challenged the group to move on. "DDT is a red herring," Phillips said. "It's valuable product but there are also others. What's going on globally is that these debates are sapping the energy and vitality of the fight against malaria."

The TIME Global Health Summit will inform and engage Americans from all sectors on the international challenges to public health – and what they can do to help. The TIME Summit will highlight solutions to such challenges as AIDS, avian flu, malaria and the shortage of health care professionals. The summit brings together non-profit, government, faith and corporate leaders like Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Ted Turner, Ann Veneman, Rick Warren, Paul Wolfowitz and others.

For more information about the TIME Global Health Summit, or for webcasts, transcripts, downloadable photos and breaking news, log on to www.time.com/globalhealth. TIME.com features an ongoing blog by TIME's team of science and health writers throughout the Summit.

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