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Aimplas aids research into insecticide plastic

By Amanda McCormack

Posted 1 June 2015

Aimplas, the Technological Institute of Plastics located in Valencia, Spain, has announced that along with Inesfly Corporation from Valencia and the University of Zaragoza it is working on developing a plastic for the manufacture of sandals and mats which repel insects that transmit endemic diseases.

The new generation of foamed plastics will have insecticide properties in order to avoid the transmission of diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Chagas' disease and leishmaniasis.

The project called Inmaplesp will last 24 months and is funded by the Ministry of Economics and Competitiveness.

An Aimplas spokesperson told *PNE* that the project has a budget of €372,321.

So far insecticide substances in plastics have consisted of powder incorporation and were limited to mosquito nets, animal collars, cattle ear tags and anti-mosquitoes bracelets. The Inmaplesp project will see the incorporation of insecticide to material through microcapsules which will protect the insecticide substance from its possible degradation during processing.

Inesfly's micro-encapsulation technology has already seen success in the field of insecticide paints.

The insecticide containing plastic products, such as sandals and mats, will be useful in Africa, Central America and South America says Aimplas. But the organisation highlights that they will also be useful in Europe, in countries such as Spain, where the effects of climate change is causing plagues of subtropical species like the tiger mosquito.

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