AVERMECTIN AND ARTEMISININ: WEAPONS TO ANTIPARASITIC DISEASE-FREE TROPICAL WORLD

APARNA BANERJEE AND RAJIB BANDOPADHYAY*

Nobel Prize winning discovery of Avermectin by Campbell and Ômura have drastically reduced the occurrence of river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, as well as showing effectiveness against an increasing number of various parasitic diseases. Tu's discovery of artemisinin extensively lowered the mortality rates for malaria patients. These two discoveries have lowered down millions of death annually in the tropical world. Global initiatives sponsored by WHO, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Governments set target of elimination of lymphatic filariasis and river blindness by 2025.