

Scenario 4 – National Policy and Emerging Resistance

Scenario Background

Reports of bed bug infestations have increased across universities, hotels, and residential communities. Researchers have identified insecticide resistance in local bed bug populations, making traditional treatments less effective. At the same time, the hospitality industry is requesting a national "Bed Bug Free" certification program to reassure travelers.

The Ministry of Public Health has convened a national stakeholder meeting to develop a coordinated strategy despite limited resources and competing public health priorities.

Your Stakeholders

- Ministry of Public Health Officer
- Medical Entomologist
- Pest Management Association Representative
- Pesticide Company Representative
- Hospitality Association Representative
- University Researcher

Discussion Tasks

Task 1 – Identify National Priorities

- What are the biggest policy and technical challenges?
- Which issues require immediate action?
- What evidence is needed to support decision-making?

Task 2 – Discuss National Responsibilities

- What roles should government, industry, academia, and professional organizations play?
- Should a national certification system be developed?
- How can limited resources be used effectively?

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Task 3 – Develop a National Action Plan

Include:

- National surveillance and reporting
- Professional training
- Research priorities
- Industry collaboration
- Public communication and policy recommendations

Expected Presentation

- Three national priorities
- Roles of key stakeholders
- One major policy challenge
- One recommendation for the Ministry of Public Health

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1. Ministry of Public Health Officer

Background

You oversee national environmental health programs. Your department has recently been asked to coordinate a bed bug prevention initiative despite limited resources.

Your Priorities

- Protect public health.
- Develop national guidance.
- Build stakeholder collaboration.
- Promote evidence-based policy.

Challenges

- Limited funding.
- Staff expertise focuses on vector control.
- No national laboratory for efficacy testing.

You Can Contribute

- National coordination.
- Policy development.
- Public awareness campaigns.

Secret Agenda

Your department cannot justify diverting significant resources from mosquito control.

Negotiation Goal

Develop a realistic national strategy with shared responsibilities.

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2. Medical Entomologist

Background

You are a researcher specializing in bed bug biology, surveillance, and insecticide resistance.

Your Priorities

- Evidence-based decisions.
- Surveillance.
- Research funding.
- Professional training.

Challenges

- Limited surveillance data.
- Research findings are often overlooked.
- Funding is limited.

You Can Contribute

- Scientific evidence.
- Technical guidance.
- Resistance monitoring.

Secret Agenda

Your latest research found widespread resistance, but the results have not yet been published.

Negotiation Goal

Ensure policy decisions are based on science.

3. Pest Management Association Representative

Background

You represent licensed pest management companies and promote professional standards across the industry.

Your Priorities

- Improve industry standards.
- Promote professional training.
- Encourage Integrated Pest Management.
- Strengthen public confidence.

Challenges

- Uneven service quality.
- Public misunderstanding of pest control.
- Unqualified operators.

You Can Contribute

- Professional training.
- Technical standards.
- Industry coordination.

Secret Agenda

Some member companies continue using outdated practices.

Negotiation Goal

Develop national competency standards.

4. Pesticide Company Representative

Background

Your company develops and markets insecticides for public health and pest management.

Your Priorities

- Effective products.
- Efficient product registration.
- Scientific evaluation.
- Innovation.

Challenges

- Limited efficacy testing services.
- Increasing insecticide resistance.
- Regulatory uncertainty.

You Can Contribute

- Product development.
- Technical support.
- Research partnerships.

Secret Agenda

Your newest product has not yet been independently evaluated against resistant bed bugs.

Negotiation Goal

Strengthen collaboration for product evaluation and innovation.

5. Hospitality Association Representative

Background

You represent the national hospitality industry and advocate for safe, high-quality accommodation standards.

Your Priorities

- Protect tourism.
- Improve accommodation standards.
- Staff training.
- Customer confidence.

Challenges

- Reputation risks.
- Diverse member capacities.
- Balancing transparency with business interests.

You Can Contribute

- Industry guidelines.
- Staff education.
- Communication networks.

Secret Agenda

Members strongly support government certification because they believe it will reassure guests.

Negotiation Goal

Develop practical national standards that are trusted by the public.

6. University Researcher

Background

You conduct applied research on urban pests and collaborate with universities, government agencies, and industry.

Your Priorities

- Generate evidence for policy.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Secure long-term research funding.
- Support education and training.

Challenges

- Research is often disconnected from policy.
- Limited funding.
- Weak collaboration between sectors.

You Can Contribute

- Research evidence.
- Student training.
- Evaluation of intervention programs.

Secret Agenda

You have proposed a national surveillance network several times, but it has never received funding.

Negotiation Goal

Build sustainable partnerships between academia, government, and industry.