

TWO-PAGE SUMMARY

COUNTRY: SLOVENIA

1. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

(max. 0.75 pages)

In 2008 totally 1297 samples of food were analysed, out of it 22 enforcement and 1275 surveillance samples. Enforcement samples included: 2 samples of cereals, 6 samples of processed products of plant origin and 14 samples of vegetables, fruits and other plant origin. Surveillance samples included: 30 samples of animal products, 103 samples of baby food, 16 samples of cereals, 73 samples of processed products of plant origin and 1053 samples of vegetables, fruits and other plant origin. There were 730 samples without detectable residues, 547 samples with residues below or at EU-MRL and 20 samples with residues exceeding the EU-MRL. 409 samples were originated from domestic produce, 563 from other EU Member States, 311 from Third Countries and 14 were of unknown origin.

Samples of animal products were analysed for the presence of up to 191 pesticides. From 30 surveillance samples, 28 (93,33%) samples were without detectable residues and 2 (6,67%) with residues below or at EU-MRL.

Samples of baby food were analysed for the presence of up to 222 pesticides. From 103 surveillance samples 99 (96,12%) samples were without detectable residues, 3 (2,91%) with residues below or at EU-MRL and 1 (0,97%) with residues exceeding the EU-MRL.

Samples of cereals were analysed for the presence of up to 192 pesticides. From 16 surveillance samples 11 (68,75%) samples were without detectable residues, 3 (18,75%) with residues below or at EU-MRL and 2 (12,50%) with residues exceeding the EU-MRL.

Samples of processed products of plant origin were analysed for the presence of up to 196 pesticides. From 73 surveillance samples 57 (78,08%) samples were without detectable residues and 16 (21,92%) with residues below or at EU-MRL.

Samples of vegetables, fruits and other plant origin were analysed for the presence of up to 196 pesticides. From 1053 surveillance samples 525 (49,86%) samples were without detectable residues, 512 (48,62%) with residues below or at EU-MRL and 16 (1,52%) with residues exceeding the EU-MRL.

2. ORGANISATION OF MONITORING PROGRAMMES AND SAMPLING (max. 0.5 pages)

Responsibilities

The competent authorities for the preparation of legislation in the area of pesticide residues in foodstuffs is the Ministry of Health (MH) in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF).

There are two authorities competent in the field of official control of pesticide residues in products of plant origin:

- Inspectorate for Agriculture, Forestry and Food (IRSAFF) is responsible for the control at the very first step of placing on the market of primary products by the primary producers. Trade with registered pesticides and their use is also a part of official control of IRSAFF and
- Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (HIRS) is responsible for the control of all foodstuffs, including baby food and infant formulae, in all other stages of the production chain, including importation.

The national monitoring programme covers also some food of animal origin and the competent authorities for the control of pesticide residues in animal products are:

- Veterinary Administration of Republic of Slovenia (VARs) is responsible for production, processing, packing, marketing and retail trade of non-pre-packed raw meat, aquaculture, milk and eggs (in 2008 wasn't involved yet) and

- HIRS is responsible for prepacked foodstuffs of animal origin at the retail level.

A detailed national pesticide monitoring plan, incorporating the EU co-ordinated monitoring programme, was prepared for 2008 by the MH and MAFF and was given in discussion, evaluation and confirmation to the Panel (established by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food). The Panel comprises of representatives from MH, MAFF, and Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, governmental and non-governmental consumer associations, official laboratories, National Chemicals Bureau, risk assessors and official control bodies.

Designing of Programmes (priorities, targeting)

Commodities included into the monitoring programme are selected each year covering staple food, food included in EU coordinated programme, food offered on the Slovenian market, as part of national rolling programme and non-compliant commodities of previous year. The selection of pesticides to be sought is primarily influenced by pesticide use; potential for residues based on use pattern; toxicological profile of the pesticide; analytical capabilities.

Sampling: personnel, procedures, sampling points

Samples were taken in accordance with Commission Directive 2002/63/EC by IRSAFF inspectors, HIRS inspectors and contracting institution at different stage of the production, processing and distribution chain, but mainly at wholesale / retail.

Enforcement action

Follow up activities were carried out always when infringements were found (additional inspection including sampling when sample available, taking proper official measures to prevent public health, including communication of information, RASFF...).

3. QUALITY ASSURANCE (max. 0.5 pages)

Status of accreditation of laboratories; number of laboratories

In Slovenia three official laboratories are nominated for performing the analyses of samples.

- National Institute of Public Health of Republic Slovenia (accreditation; August 2003),
- Institute of Public Health Maribor (accreditation; November 2001) for HIRS and
- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (accreditation; June 2005) for IRSAFF.

Analytical methods used

Samples were analysed using:

- mainly multiresidue methods based on gas and liquid chromatographic techniques employing mass-selective detection systems,
- single residue methods for determination of dithiocarbamates, chlormequat / mepiquat, fentin and benzimidazoles were used.

Participation in proficiency test

All three laboratories participated in proficiency testing schemes. Basic ones were FAPAS and EUPT (EU Commission's Proficiency Test on Pesticide Residues for different matrices).

Implementation of EU quality control procedure

With respect to quality of data generated in the frame of the EU residue coordinated programme, the results of the analysis of foodstuffs were obtained in compliance with the requirements of Directive 1993/99/EEC, its Article 3, applying Quality Control Procedures for Pesticide Residue Analysis and accreditation according to the ISO17025.

Analytical uncertainty

All three laboratories applied an uncertainty factor to results used in enforcement of the legislation. The used factor for samples of plant origin is 50%, which is agreed at EU level.

4. OTHER INFORMATION (max. 0.25 pages)

In all cases where pesticide residues with consideration the uncertainty factor were above MRL, a risk assessment was carried out to quantify the risk to consumers.