

ROMANIA

1. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

During 2008 about 2718 samples of fruits, vegetables and cereals were analyzed in the national monitoring program, 2514 of fruits and vegetables total samples, 73% were from domestic market, 13% came from other EU MS, 12% from third countries and 2% with unknown origins. Total samples of cereals were 204. 66,0% of them were from domestic market, 6% came from other EU MS, 13% from third countries and 15% with unknown origins. Out of 3184 samples analysed there were sought 98 pesticide residues and 40 pesticide residues were found.

Out of 3187 samples analyzed 366 contain pesticides residues, as follows: 298 with one pesticide residue, 59 with 2 pesticide residues, 8 with 3 pesticide residues, 1 with 4 pesticide residues.

From 2514 fruits and vegetables samples 14.2% contained pesticides residues and from 204 cereals samples 3.9% contained pesticides residues.

From domestic samples, apples, grapes, and tomatoes present pesticides residues frequently. The non-domestic samples which have been found with pesticides residues are: oranges, grapes and grapefruit.

For one sample of tomato a MRL exceeding (0,38 mg/Kg cyhalothrin) was found. No notification through Rapid Alert System was registred to the national level, for the related sample, so administratives measures has been taken for the inspectors involved in the official control of that sample.

For the other sample chlorpyriphos was found in wheat (maximum residue level found: 0,06 mg/kg). Due to the uncertainty calculus (+/- 50%) for the method used in the laboratory, the competent authority has not considered the value for chlorpyriphos in wheat a MRL violation (the MRL is 0.05 mg/kg, so the values until 0.06 mg/kg are considered acceptable).

During 2008, 466 samples of baby food products were analysed in the national monitoring program. All the 466 samples were from UE countries. The results of analysis of pesticide residues (organochlorate and organophosphoric) in baby food products obeyed to legal threshold.

2. ORGANISATION OF MONITORING PROGRAMMES AND SAMPLING

Romanian Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry, National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) and Ministry of Health have the responsibility for national monitoring plan of pesticides residues in fruits, vegetables, cereals and baby food products. Each competent authority draws up one independent annual plan for control pesticide residues in food of plant origin and baby food products.

Implementation of monitoring plans is performed by Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry through Central Laboratory for Pesticides Residues Control in Plants and Vegetable Products, which analyses the samples taken by Counties and Bucharest Phytosanitary Units. For the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) the monitoring plan is implemented by the Food Safety Departments within Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Counties Divisions. In the Ministry of Health the monitoring plan is implemented by the Institute of Public Health in Iasi.

National legislation is ensured by the Order of National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority president, of Romanian Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development Minister, of the Minister of Health and of National Authority for Consumers Protection president, no.118/462/1030/313/2007 concerning the setting of maximum admitted pesticides limits in fruits, vegetables, cereals and other products of vegetable origin, in which were transposed the Regulation (EC) No.396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005.

Samples are taken by :

- phytosanitary inspectors, employers of Phytosanitary Units from counties according to a sampling programme that has been foreseen in December 2007,
- inspectors involved in food safety field within Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety County Division according to annual surveillance program in the field of food safety and
- inspectors from the counties Public Health Directorates according to the sampling programme for 2008.

The sampling procedure is according to the EU Directive no. 2002/63/EEC which has been transposed in national legislation. The priorities of planning the programme of the NSVFSA are fresh commodities imported from third countries and intra-community trade, the place of sampling are warehouses of importers, frequency of sampling is minimum 12 samples/product.

3. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Central Laboratory for Pesticides Residues Control in Plants and Vegetable Products, belonging to the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry is accredited to EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for GC-MS multiresidue method for analysis of vegetable products since 16.01.2006 with RENAR accreditation number 387-L. The laboratory implemented EU Quality control procedures for pesticides analysis – Document SANCO/3131/2007.

2304 samples were analysed by GC-MS MRM method, 669 samples were analysed by GC-ECD MRM method and 400 samples were analysed by LC-MS/MS MRM method .

Central Laboratory for Pesticides Residues Control in Plants and Vegetable Products participated to the proficiency test EUPT-C2. Central Laboratory for Pesticides Residues Control in Plants and Vegetable Products couldn't participate at EUPT FV-10 due to the damaged sample from delayed shipping.

Analytical uncertainty is calculated for GC-MS accredited method according to "EA guidelines on the expression of uncertainty in quantitative testing". The value of analytical uncertainty is $\pm 50\%$.

The laboratory from the Institute of Public Health Bucharest is accredited to EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for GC multiresidue method for analysis of food products since 2005 with RENAR accreditation number 353/2005. Laboratories belonging to the Institute of Public Health from Iasi and Cluj Napoca are in progress accreditation. Only these 3 laboratories will analyse, in future, the pesticide residues in baby food products. Institute of Public Health Bucharest implemented EU Quality control procedures for pesticides analysis – Document SANCO/3131/2007.

466 samples were analysed by GC method, 43 different pesticide residues were found. The organochlorine pesticides (20 active substances) were analysed in 466 samples and the organophosphoric pesticides residues (23 active substances) were analysed in 209 samples. Analytical uncertainty is calculated for GC/ ECD in according to "EA guidelines on the expression of uncertainty in quantitative testing".

Of the 7 regional laboratories (Bucharest, Calarasi, Iasi, Suceava, Timis, Galati, Dolj) belonging to the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, 3 regional laboratories were accredited. The general strategy is detection as many pesticides as possible in one analyses by using Multi-Residue-Methods (MRMs). The extracts are analyzed by chromatographic separation and selective detection of residues. The detection methods are Gas Chromatography (GC) with Electron Capture Detection (ECD) and Gas Chromatography with Nitrogen Phosphorus Detection (NPD). The scope of the methods is to detect about 32 analytes. The validity of the analytical results is governed by a quality assurance system under ISO 17025 accreditation. The multi-residues methods are within scope the accreditation of the Laboratory. The central laboratory, has implemented the EU Quality control procedures for pesticides analysis – Document SANCO/3131/2007 and it had taken a FAPAS test.

NOTE: The sum of the percentage is equal to 100% for all laboratories participating from each competent authority involved in the monitoring exercise(table G).

4. OTHER INFORMATION

Government Decision no. 984/2005 regarding the penalties and sanctions for non compliance cases to the sanitary veterinary and food safety legislation, with amendments provided in Government Decisions no. 679/2006, Government Decision no. 30/2008 and Government Decision no. 917/2009.