

Risk analysis of new emerging risk

Case study in Slovenia: “Presence of alkaloids in buckwheat”

SafeFoods, Budapest, 29-30.3.2007

Legislation in the Republic of Slovenia

Decree on coordination of the working of ministries and bodies within them with responsibility in the area of food and foodstuffs safety, in their incorporation into the process of risk analysis (OJ RS, No. 56/03)

Decree on coordination of the working of ministries and bodies within them ...

Establishes coordination of activities of:

- ministries ;
- bodies within ministries;
- cooperation with institutions involved in scientific assessment.

In annexes rules on

- procedure for the process of compiling a risk assessment and for cooperation between institutions;
- procedure for the cooperation of ministries, and bodies within them;
- procedure for cooperation between bodies responsible for inspection and supervision are set.

with responsibility in the area of food and foodstuffs safety, in their incorporation into the process of risk analysis

Is performed on the field of :

- RA for human health → Institute of Public Health of RS
- RA on phytosanitary area → Agricultural institute of Slovenia, National institute for Biology, Institute for Hop Research and Brewing,
- RA for feed → National Veterinary Institute, Agricultural institute of Slovenia
- RA on veterinary area → National Veterinary Institute

INSTITUTES:

Institute of Public Health of the RS

National veterinary institute

Agricultural institute of RS

Public Health Institute Maribor

others

“FOOD” CASE



Risk assessment

Risk management

Risk communication

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES:

- Ministry of Health & Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food & -Veterinary Administration of the RS
- Inspectorate of the RS for Agriculture, -Forestry and Food
- MOE & Inspectorate of the RS for Environment

- Public
- Between official authorities

Case description- I

Two cases of food poisoning occurred in two distinct locations in Slovenia:

- 1st case: family poisoning with sour cabbage
- 2nd case: RHI epidemiologist determined the possibility of family poisoning due presence of alkaloids

Producers of both products were located at the same regional unit of Health inspectorate of RS



food prepared from buckwheat flour was source of poisoning

Case description-II

- Forensic institute at Medicine faculty was able to detect presence of scopolamine and atropine in buckwheat flour
- Results were only qualitative
- Due to problematic preparation of matrix for the analysis another laboratory had to be found for analysis of samples



- find the laboratory capable performing the analysis of official control samples
- find the criteria for assessment of samples
- risk management procedures
- risk communication procedures





Case description-III

Analytical capacity:

Enquiry at domestic and foreign laboratories on analytical capability for alkaloid detection



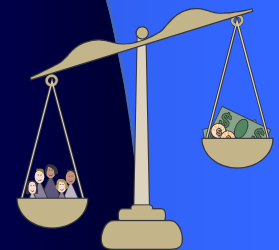
National official laboratory (Public health institute Maribor) provided standards + introduced & validated method for detection of mentioned alkaloids

Case description-IV

Assessment criteria:

- No national criteria
 - No EU criteria
 - No available information in other MS
 - No Codex alimentarius criteria
- Hazard characterization, exposure assessment, risk characterization

elaborated at Institute of Public Health of RS



Case description-V

Risk management:

Elaboration of risk management procedures based on:

- result of risk assessment;
- FBO's implemented control of physical and chemical hazards;
- traceability of raw material and products





Case description-VI

Risk communication:

- problem was communicated to the public with purpose to generate data on any additional poisonings;
- telephone line at Institute of Public Health of RS was opened for consumers;
- facts important to the public, public recalls as well as official control activities of all products were up to date communicated to the public



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!!!**