

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YEAR 2003 REPORT</b> <b>ON THE AUSTRIAN MONITORING OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES</b> <b>IN PLANT PRODUCTS (FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND CEREALS)</b></p>
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**COUNTRY: AUSTRIA****1. SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

In 2003 a total of 1491 samples were analysed under the co-ordinated program, the national pesticide monitoring program and as routine samples. Most of the samples were fresh fruits and vegetables (1322 samples). Beside that other products like cereals, processed products and baby food were analyzed.

44,9 % of all samples of fruits and vegetables were from Austria, 34,3 % from the European market and 20,3 % from third countries. For cereals this rates were 81,7 %, 14,6 % and 3,7 % respectively. The rates for processed food were 59,8 %, 25,6 % and 4,9 %. Baby food was predominantly from the European market (92,3 %).

In 67,2 % of the samples of fruits and vegetables no pesticide-residues could be detected. 28,6 % of the samples had residues under the harmonized and/or national Maximum Residue Limits (MRL). In sum 95,8 % of the samples were in compliance with the regulations.

4,2 % of the samples of fruits and vegetables contained one or more pesticide(s) above the MRL.

In 189 samples (12,7 %) more than one pesticide was analysed. Up to 8 pesticides were found in some samples. The samples with more than 7 pesticides were in all cases grapes or peppers (8 samples).

In the samples were analysed up to 217 different pesticides. Totally 257 different pesticides were sought, of which 85 (33,1 %) were found. The most frequently found residues in fruits and vegetables were in the co-ordinated and national programme and routine samples: Maneb-group, Fludioxinil, Procymidone, Cyprodinil, Iprodione, Chlorpyrifos, Azoxystrobin, Endosulfane, Methomyl and Cypermethrin.

**2. ORGANISATION OF MONITORING PROGRAMMES AND SAMPLING**

The national pesticide monitoring is done according to a nation-wide sampling plan designed by the Institute of Applied Statistics and System Analysis (Joanneum Research, Graz) in co-operation with the Federal Minister of Health and Women. The plan was based on data concerning dietary consumption, production and import of fruits and vegetables and results of former measurements. Furthermore the results of earlier monitoring-programs, the analytical possibilities and the budgetary situation were taken into account, too. The co-ordinated programme of the European Commission was of course also done.

The samples were taken by trained officials from the local Food Inspection Service („Lebensmittelaufsicht“).

**3. QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The analysis of the co-ordinated programme, the national monitoring programme and routine samples also were made by two laboratories for food control (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Institute for Food Control, Vienna and Institute for Food Control,

Innsbruck). Two additional laboratories for food control of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (Institute for Food Control, Graz and Institute for Food Control, Linz) made the analyses of some samples of the national monitoring programme and routine samples. One Laboratory in Vienna (Regional Institute for Food Control in Vienna) analysed routine samples

The analytical methods were adopted from published methods of the Dutch federal laboratories („Analytical Methods for Pesticide Residues in Foodstuffs“, 6th Ed., General Inspectorate for Health Protection, Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands) and validated in the laboratories. The fruits and vegetables were analysed up to a maximum of 217 pesticides. The methods used were a GC multimethod with ECD-, NPD- and FPD-detection. GC/MS-methods are primarily applied for confirmation purposes of the other GC methods, a HPLC-method for benzimidazol-fungicides and a spectrophotometric method for the sum of dithiocarbamates.

All laboratories involved in the co-ordinated programme and the national monitoring programme including the routine samples got the accreditation in the year 1998.

In 2003 three of the laboratories participated at proficiency tests, eg. the European Proficiency Test 5.

#### **4. OTHER INFORMATION**

Due to the fact, that there were some commodities for the national programme isolated, of which higher risk for residues was identified in the last years, these specific data are representative for the Austrian market, but the monitoring has to be seen partially as „targeted monitoring“. It was the aim, to reflect to the results of the last years and to choose special commodities of interest for further examination. This type of monitoring is foreseen for the next years.

Furthermore the routine sampling includes special samples, of which European alerts were given, too and thus the number of exceedance is higher than by doing statistical based sampling over all commodities and time of the year.