

Pesticide Residues of Marketed Agricultural Products in Central Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

A monitoring program for pesticide residues in marketed agricultural products was performed during the fiscal year of 2011. A total of 529 samples were acquired thru the Midsection Local Health Bureaus from the supermarkets and traditional markets in Taiwan. The samples were analyzed by the multi-residue methods, which were promulgated by the Department of Health, for 202 items of pesticides. Two hundred and thirty-one (56.5%) in 409 vegetable samples, 29 (50.9%) in 57 fruit samples and 29 (46.0%) in 63 other samples were found to contain pesticide residues. Three hundred and forty-three (83.9%) in 409 vegetable samples, 54 (94.7%) in 57 fruit samples and 62 (98.4%) in 63 other samples complied with the regulation set by the Department of Health. Of the samples that violated the regulations, 57 samples contained pesticide residues above the tolerance levels, 5 samples contained pesticide residues prohibited in those agricultural products, and 8 samples contained both pesticide residues above the tolerance levels and prohibited. The local governments have enforced the penalty based on the Food Sanitation Management Act.

Key words: agricultural products, pesticide residue, monitoring