

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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FAO REPORT FOOD SAFETY IMPLICATIONS FROM THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INHIBITORS IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

FAO has just released a report on *Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems*. The report has been developed within the activities of the FAO Food Safety Foresight Programme. As a forward-looking approach, foresight seeks to facilitate preparedness for food safety challenges that may emerge in globalized and rapidly evolving agrifood systems.

The challenge of feeding a growing world population while responding to the climate crisis requires developing practices and technologies that enhance the sustainability of agrifood systems and reduce harmful effects on the environment. Among those approaches, environmental inhibitors are used to improve the production efficiency of crops and livestock while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, or limiting the loss of nitrogen from cultivated fields and pastures.

An inadvertent presence of environmental inhibitors in food commodities can raise health concerns as well as trade disruption if standards are not established. Challenges related to food safety risk assessment and management of these substances include the lack of internationally harmonized maximum residue limits (MRLs), agreed definition for environmental inhibitors and insufficient safety information for some compounds.

This publication provides an overview of various synthetic and biological environmental inhibitors along with an analysis of possible food safety implications from their use. Regulatory frameworks relevant for environmental inhibitors in selected countries are presented as examples of current approaches being taken at national or regional level. Finally, food safety-related knowledge gaps are discussed together with some perspectives on how to move forward.

Download the publication here <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc8647en>

Read more about the FAO's work on foresight in food safety at <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/foresight/en/>