Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality

Official control of organic products in the Netherlands

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NVWA: Fields of responsibility

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA):

- safety of food
- safety of consumer products
- animal welfare
- nature

Official control of organic products

1. Legislation
2. Role NVWA
3. Control of Residues
4. Follow up of findings
5. Topics of today

Legislation

- Main legislation: two laws
  - EU Regulation 834/2007 and 889/2009 on organic production
    - Requirements production, labeling, control of organic products
    - No criteria for evaluation analytical results
    - Certification is base of confidence
    - Main tool: audit and inspection
  - EU Regulation 396/2005 on pesticide residues
    - MRLs apply for all products, including organic
      - Main tool for control of organic production: sampling

Roles Skal Biocontrole and NVWA

- Skal Biocontrole is Control Authority (CA) on organic production
  - Assigned by Ministry of Agriculture
  - All companies dealing with organic production must be certified and registered
  - Juridical power Skal Biocontrole limited to registered companies

- Role NVWA
  - Irregularities at non-registered companies
    - NVWA has juridical power in whole food and feed chain

Cooperation of NVWA and Skal Biocontrole

- Data exchange
  - Covenant, taking into account privacy issues
- NVWA takes action against non-registered users
- Skal Biocontrole takes action on NVWA findings of residues
- Skal Biocontrole uses NVWA data in monitoring

Control of residues

- Skal Biocontrole and NVWA analyse samples
  - Legal base
    - Skal Biocontrole
      - Reg 889/2008 article 65, starting 2014
      - 5 % of FBOs (~ 4000)
    - NVWA
      - Reg 2017/660 (example)

Article 1

Member States shall, during the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, take and analyse samples for the pesticide/product combinations, as set out in Annex I.

The number of samples of each product, including foods for infants and young children and products originating from organic farming shall be as set out in Annex II.

Control of residues by NVWA

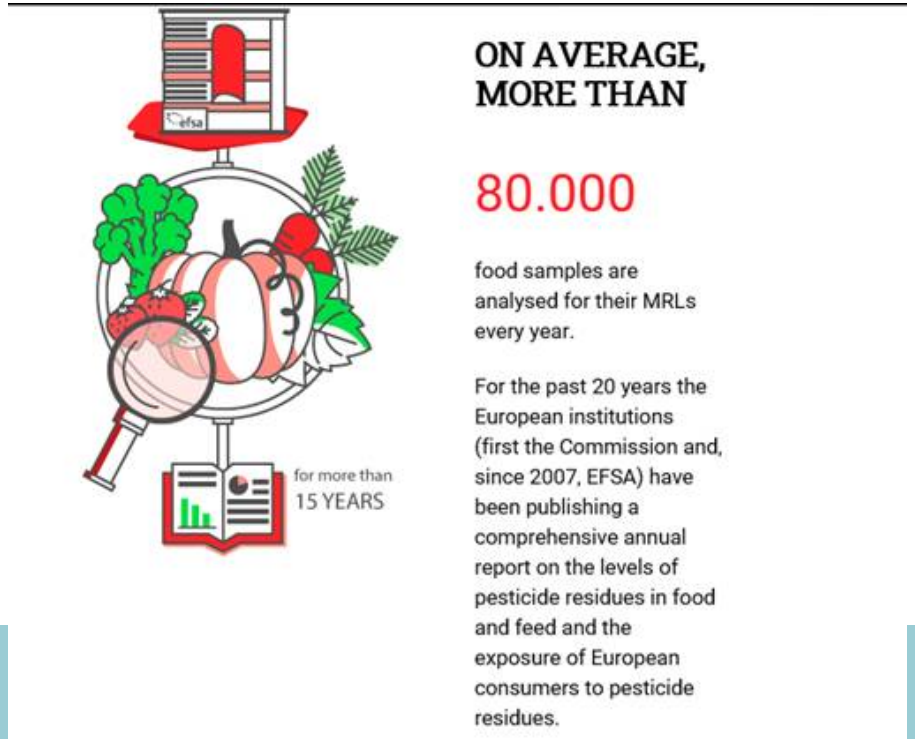
- Samples analysed

year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NVWA	310	271	348	402	285	256

- Sampled more than market share (7,4 % of samples)
- Netherlands important exporter of organic prducts

Control of residues by NVWA

- Control of pesticide residues
  - Sampling (Dir 2002/63) in trade and at border
  - Conventional & Organic: same MRL's apply 396/2005



Control of residues by NVWA

- Evaluation of results
  - Products must comply with MRL legislation Reg. 396/2005
  - Organic production legislation does not give limits for pesticide residues
  - Conventional production: residue <0,01 mg/kg neglected
  - NVWA: same starting point for evaluation of organic samples: residues below 0,01 mg/kg are neglected
    Notification to Skal Biocontrole at 0,02 mg/kg (measurement uncertainty 50%, applicable for CA, not for FBO)

Control of residues by NVWA

- Findings NVWA 2013-2017

Origin	samples	% with residue	
		> 0,01 mg/kg	> 0,02 mg/kg
Dutch production	632	5,3	1,8
EU production	343	4,2	2,2
Non-EU imports	460	11,3	5,4
Unknown	181	8,1	6,2

Control of residues by NVWA

- Typical issues
  - Chlorpropham – potatoes
    - Contamination by conventional products
  - Boscalid – various products
    - Persistent in soil
  - Third country specialties
    - “superfood”

Follow up of findings by NVWA

- Administrative fine, in consultation with Skal Biocontrole
  - Misleading consumer by illegal labelling
  - Dutch labelling regulation
- Notification to Skal Biocontrole

Topics of today

- Anthraquinone
  - Considered as pesticide
  - Notification to Skal Biocontrole
  - 2 findings in 2016,
    - tea > MRL (administrative fine), gojiberry < MRL
  - Source not clear, but proof of non-use at the producer
  - Intervention policy if > MRL (LOQ-MRL):
    - Administrative fine
    - Notification to Skal Biocontrole

Topics of today

- Phthalimide
  - Only considered as pesticide residue if folpet is detected as well
  - In that case standard intervention policy
  - Notification to Skal Biocontrole
  - Since 2019 in reporting scope, results not evaluated yet
  - If no folpet present: no intervention

Topics of today

- Phosphonic acid (comparable issues as phthalimid)
  - Only considered as pesticide residue if fosetyl-Al is detected as well
  - In that case standard intervention policy
  - Notification to Skal Biocontrole
  - Other sources exist
  - Some of these sources are not allowed in organic farming
  - Intervention policy to be determined in cooperation with SKAL
  - Notification should be done even without fosetyl-Al?

Topics of today

- Chlorate
  - Considered as pesticide residue
  - Temporary intervention guidance exists
  - When > MRL standard intervention policy
  - Other sources exist
  - Most of these sources are not allowed in organic farming
  - Intervention policy to be determined in cooperation with SKAL

Topics of today

- Results Chlorate
  - 2017-2019 samples 334, 73 >LOQ
  - Organic 79, 5 >LOQ, 1 intervention (babyfood)
  - Fruits and vegetables within intervention limit

Thank you for your attention