

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Ensuring Food Safety and Restoring a Agriculture Production Following a Nuclear or Radiological Incident



Radioactive Contamination of Agricultural Products

fallout onto soi

1. Air Contamination

Surface contamination of plants and animals

Radioactive fallout

Inhalation by animals

2. Water Contamination

Rainfall carries radioactive fallout to surface water

- Fishery products contaminated
- Plants and animals contaminated through water uptake

3. Soil Contamination

Plant and feed uptake of contamination
Animal ingestion of contaminated soil and plants





Framework for FAO's responsibility

- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations (JPLAN)
- Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE)
- FAO/IAEA Cooperative Arrangements
- FAO Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC)



FAO mandate related to nuclear or radiological emergency

Advise governments:

- Acceptable levels of radionuclides for agricultural products entering national and international trade
- Measures to minimize the impact of radionuclides on food and agricultural production
- Development of procedures for alternative agricultural practices and for decontamination of agriculture, fisheries and forestry products, soil and water

FAO/IAEA cooperation during a nuclear or radiological emergency



FAO activities related to nuclear or radiological emergency

- Coordinated research projects
 - Focus on the development of agricultural countermeasures and remediation strategies
 - Assist capacity development in Member States
 - Provide guidelines and international standards
- Technical assistance and policy advice
- Intra- and inter-agency cooperation in emergency preparedness and response
- Dissemination of knowledge and increased public awareness

Improving response to nuclear or radiological emergency in food and agriculture (1)

Early and immediate phase

- Rapid monitoring techniques
- Sampling strategies and methodologies
- Safeguarding agricultural production
- Minimizing radioactive contamination
- Decontaminating techniques for agricultural commodities
- Disposal techniques for contaminated agricultural products
- Information sharing mechanisms
- Food restrictions and food trade

Improving response to nuclear or radiological emergency in food and agriculture (2)

Short-term phase

- Minimizing radionuclide transfer
- Implementation of monitoring strategies
- Decontamination / disposal procedures for affected agricultural products
- Remediation strategies and approaches
- Policy advice on national and international trade issues

Improving response to nuclear or radiological emergency in food and agriculture (3)

Medium- and late-term phase

- Decontamination procedures for affected soil and water
- Implementation of remediation strategies
- Strategies for modified or alternative land use
- Development and application of technologies for agricultural countermeasures
- Traceability mechanisms to help ensure food safety

Coordinated preparedness and response to nuclear or radiological emergency

- Improve mechanisms of preparedness and response
- Provide technical assistance and policy advice
- Strengthen International and national capacity building
- Review and revise UN sponsored frameworks for inter-agency collaboration



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