



70% of tainted veggies had banned pesticides

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E-Paper

You rinse your veggies before cooking — rather than soaking them in lukewarm water — to quickly rid them of pesticides. You may have to sacrifice speed to protect your health. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) tested 1,739 vegetable samples from Gujarat and found that 251 had pesticide residues.

Of the tainted samples, 176 — almost 70% — had residues of ‘non-approved’ or banned toxic pesticides. In 51 samples, the FSSAI found pesticides exceeding permissible limits. The report, ‘Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National level’, was released on October 19.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES ON VEGGIES			
	Anand Agri Uni. Anand (lab)	NDDB Anand (lab)	NIDM Ahmedabad (lab)
Total samples taken	817	187	739
No residues	622	172	694
With pesticide residues	195	15	41
Non-approved pesticide residues	130	14	32
Above permissible limits of FSSAI	43	0	2
Samples with residue from APMC market	106	11	33
Samples from APMC with non-approved pesticide	66	10	28
APMC samples with residues above FSSAI limits	15	0	1
Farm vegetables with residue	88	4	8
Samples from farm veggies with non-approved pesticide	63	4	4
Farm vegetables with pesticide above FSSAI limits	28	0	1

SAMPLES FROM CITIES/TOWNS		
ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY	NDDB, ANAND:	NIDM, AHMAD
Veggies from: Ahmedabad, Ambav, Dabhoi, Khambhat, Padra, Ankleshwar, Anand, Vadodara, Kunjri, Sankheda	Veggies from: Rajkot, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Rattam, Ujjain and Chittorgarh	Veggies from: Surendranagar, Ahmedabad and Kadi

SAMPLES COLLECTED	
Vegetables tested:	Brinjal, okra, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, green chilli, capsicum, cucumber, green pea, bitter gourd and coriander leaves
NON-APPROVED PESTICIDES DETECTED:	Acophate, acetamiprid, azoxystrobin, carbendazim, chlorpyrifos, cyhalothrin lambda, ethion, fenvalerate, imidacloprid, mancozeb, methamidophos, myclobutanal, proflorofos, propiconazole, 28-pyraclostrobin, tebuconazole, thiamethoxam, triazophos

Three national-level laboratories in Gujarat participated in the study. They were the labs of Anand Agricultural University; National Dairy Development Board, Anand; and Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad. Vegetable samples were collected from towns and cities including Ahmedabad, Dabhoi, Rajkot, Khambhat, Padra, Ankleshwar, Anand, Vadodara, and Kadi. Vegetables collected for sampling were brinjal, okra, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, green chilli, capsicum, cucumber, green peas, and bitter gourd.

The samples were collected from farms, organic farms, and APMC wholesale markets. The samples were collected between April, 2017, and March, 2018. Interestingly, Anand Agricultural University detected pesticide in a vegetable sample taken from an organic farm in Anand. Seventeen ‘non-approved’ pesticide residues were found in the vegetables.

Across the country, the FSSAI collected 23,660 samples for analysis. Pesticide residues were detected in 4,510 (19.1%). Residues in 523 (2.2 %) samples exceeded FSSAI limits.