



## **Newsletter about Pesticides**

**N°7 – February 2022**

### **Civil Society Activities**



#### **Luxembourg: Too many pesticides in food**

In 2020, [analyses](#) were conducted by the Luxembourg government to monitor the levels of pesticide residues in products of plant and animal origin and in food for infants and young children.

These analyses were carried out on 480 samples of products of plant and animal origin and agricultural crops, from national production, foodstuffs from other EU Member States and third countries. The most represented foods were fruits (which represented 35.1% of the samples) and vegetables (28% of the samples).

The results of these analyses showed that products from organic agriculture were not contaminated or only slightly. Indeed, only two samples of cereals contained pesticide residues, in small quantities.

As for conventional agriculture, 40% of the samples contained pesticide residues, mostly fruits such as apples and pears. 5% of the samples had to be withdrawn from the market because they exceeded the maximum permitted values (this only concerned one product, onions, which exceeded the maximum permitted residue level by 30 times!)

Moreover, these samples are often contaminated by several pesticides at the same time. This risk of exposure to multiple pesticides is not regulated, however, as scientific assessments are limited to a review of the risks of the active ingredient of the pesticides, whereas the combined toxicity of the active ingredient and other components of the pesticides, or various pesticides, may be much greater than the individual toxicity of these products. This is the so-called "cocktail effect", which can lead to serious damage on human health.

The [Luxembourg environmental movement](#) therefore recommends eating organic, local and seasonal products whenever possible, but insists on a significant reduction in the use of pesticides in conventional agriculture. The Ministry of Health is expected to take action to achieve this, such as providing better information to consumers on the presence of these pesticides in foodstuffs, strengthening the dialogue with farmers and introducing stricter regulations for products imported into the European Union.

The result of these analyses echoes that of the [Dutch Food Safety Authority](#) (NVWA), which shows that more and more fruits and vegetables sold in Dutch grocery stores have been sprayed with dangerous pesticides. Notably, on pears, apples, strawberries and leeks, the NVWA found at least one of the 55 hazardous pesticides sought in 2020.

*If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?*

*Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation and information to support victims of pesticides.*

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