



POLICY BRIEF

VIET NAM

IMPROVING COMPLIANCE OF PESTICIDE RESIDUE TESTING LABORATORIES WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Pesticide residues in food raise consumers' health concern. National authorities implement strict registration system and regularly monitor the residues in food and environmental samples. The accreditation according to ISO17025 Standard is a precondition but not sufficient measure alone to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the test results. Therefore, the pesticide residue analysis, as well as any food testing laboratories should perform effective internal quality control.

The official laboratories of the Vietnamese Government have taken part in international proficiency tests and got accredited by the Bureau of Standard. Nonetheless, their results were not accepted by the importing countries and the fresh fruits and vegetable exported were frequently rejected.

To facilitate the acceptance of results of tests performed by the laboratories, GQSP built capacity on on quality assurance quality control in pesticide residue analyses for 30 analysts of 8 testing centers. The training included introduction of principles of effective internal quality control, exercises and consultations for demonstrating their practical application. In addition, the Southern Pesticide Control and Testing Centre (SPCC) and the Dong Thap Verification and Testing Center (DEVOTEC) was instructed to upgrade for annual ISO 17025 accreditation and performance improvement.

INCREASING QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE CAPACITY OF MANGO AND POMELO VALUE CHAINS IN THE MEKONG DELTA RIVER

AT A GLANCE - PHASE 1

Main counterparts	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Science and Technology
Duration	3.5 years, starting Jan 2020
Executing Agency	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Donor	Switzerland, through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
Budget	EUR 1,040,270



BENEFITS

Through capacity building for residue testing labs, key pesticide residue laboratory staffs have an enhanced appreciation of modern approaches to internal quality control, implementing sampling principles and practices, and interpretation of pesticide residue analytical results. This helps to build reliable testing services to boost export.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure effective application of the principles introduced during the training, the technical management of the laboratories should introduce an effective and substantial quality control programme in the daily practice of their laboratories.

The quality control actions should cover all hidden errors in the pesticide residue analyses beyond the basic requirements specified in the USDA Guidelines on Method Validation, and the European Commission guidance documents (SANTE11312/2021, SANTE/2020/12830, Rev.1).

The accreditation according to ISO17025 and participation in international proficiency tests are not sufficient alone for international recognition of the test results. The laboratories should be allowed to publish their anonymised results in an annual report, and to share data on internal quality management, measures which will assure the international community of the laboratories' reliability and accuracy.

“ I have learned a lot from the training program. The lectures are useful for my analysts and Quatest3's laboratory also. Most of the topics are relevant to my work. We learned them separately in the university or some workshops, and the lecturer helped us summarize and leverage all knowledge again. Through these questions and exercises, I was able to clarify and apply the knowledge learned in practical laboratory cases. ”

A testing lab analyst joining the program

