

# Mycotoxin detection at RIKILT

Plant toxins-emerging risk

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*Fusarium* werkgroep, October 26, 2011, CBS Utrecht



## Program

1. RIKILT
2. Mycotoxins
3. Plant toxins-emerging risk
4. Analytical challenges
5. Concluding remarks



## RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety

[www.rikilt.wur.nl](http://www.rikilt.wur.nl)

- Part of Wageningen UR since 1998
- About 200 employees



## RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety

[www.rikilt.wur.nl](http://www.rikilt.wur.nl)



- Detection, identification, functionality and effects of substances in food and feed;
- RIKILT:
  - Specific research, with CVI and RIVM, for the Netherlands new food safety authority (nVWA);
  - Is laboratory for VWA (including AID);
- Contract work:
  - According to guidance document;
  - Report duty, as any laboratory, when legal limits are exceeded;



## RIKILT - Activities and work fields

<p><b>Activities RIKILT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Research analysis &amp; toxicology</li> <li>■ Develop &amp; validate (ref.) methods</li> <li>■ Quality assurance (ref.) labs</li> <li>■ Analyses (government &amp; private)</li> <li>■ Consultancy &amp; Training</li> <li>■ Emergency response service</li> </ul> <p><b>Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Food <i>Dioxin in eggs from Germany</i></li> <li>■ Feed</li> <li>■ Tissue samples</li> <li>■ Environmental samples <i>Fire Moerdijk</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Fields</b></p> <p>Chemical &amp; natural contaminants <i>dioxins; pesticides; heavy metals; hormones; medicines; myco-, phyco-, plant toxins</i></p> <p>GMOs</p> <p>Authenticity &amp; nutrients &amp; Quality</p> <p>Supply chain management</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Emerging risks</p> <p>Radioactivity <i>Food samples Japan</i></p>
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## RIKILT –Institute of Food Safety

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## RIKILT - Cooperation



### Research:

- Food Safety Authorities
- Wageningen University
- RIVM
- Various Universities:  
(Leiden; Amsterdam)
- TNO
- International projects

### International projects

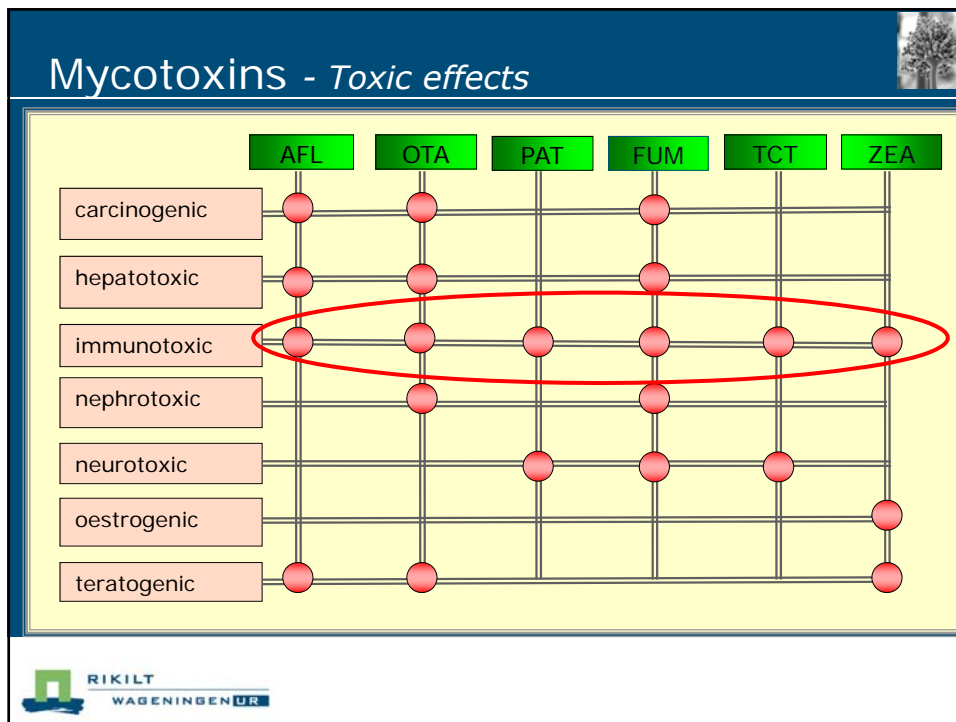
- Confidence
- Selamat
- Pegasus
- Nanolyse
- BioCop
- Go-global
- Nanodetect
- MycoRed
- MoniQA
- Emtox
- QSAFFE



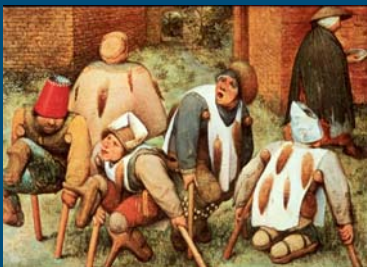

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### Mycotoxins - Challenges - Products

**994:** Holy fire (lysergic acid deriv. *C. purpurea*)

**1568:** Pieter Brueghel *The Cripples* 'Holy fire' by ergot alkaloids in **rye** (gangreen followed by *necrosis / hallucinations*)

**2011:** Ergots in **cereals**; EFSA opinion expected in 2012  
Regulatory limits on groups of toxins (as opposed to ergot sclerotia)

RIKILT WAGENINGEN UR

## Mycotoxins – Challenges - Products



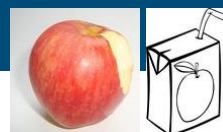
- (Re-)introduction of crops:
  - Introduction of lupin as GMO-soy replacer: risk of phomopsis contamination (Australia & NZ limit of 5 µg/kg)
- Increased area of oats as healthy grain: no recent reports on occurrence of mycotoxins in oats in the Netherlands.  
Oats sensitive for T-2/HT-2 contamination



## Mycotoxins – Challenges - Handling



- Up to now: patulin contamination of apple juice seems to be controlled:
  - bulk production of apples;
  - controlled storage and sorting;
  - quality control on juice;
- Currently: handicraft / local production:
  - lack of knowledge on contamination routes (uncontrolled storage, no sorting prior to processing);
  - use of new or old races (no experience);
 → patulin in artisanal produced apple juice (2009):  
 (Gillard et al (2009) WMJ (1) 95-104)



## Mycotoxins - Challenges- Masked mycotoxins

- Masked mycotoxin = mycotoxin that is metabolised by the plant into a, for the plant, harmless compound;
- Eg: deoxynivalenol-3- $\beta$ -D-glucoside (D3G);
- First report 1985 by Miller JD & Young JC



*(Deoxynivalenol in an experimental Fusarium graminearum infection of wheat, Canadian Journal Plant Pathology, (1985), 7, 132-134);*

- Relevance:
  - Occurrence: D3G analyzed by LC MS/MS;
  - Toxicity:
    - Increased exposure by release in intestinal tract?
    - Absorbed by intestinal cells?

## Mycotoxins – Challenges - Climate



- Expected changes in range of latitudes, where certain fungi are able to compete;
  - *Example: F. graminearum growth: NIV increase;*
- Drought, flooding and other consequences of climate change may result in changed toxin profiles;
  - *Example: aflatoxins found in Italy since 2003, and in other parts of Central Europe;*
- Response of insects and plant diseases to climate change poorly understood, but increases expected;
- RIKILT's participation in EMTOX has resulted in a model to predict DON contamination (quantify) in wheat according to wheater in growing season;



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## Plant toxins – Contamination and exposure route



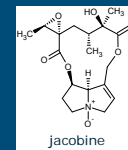
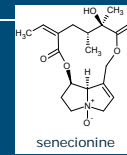


## Plant toxins

Hundreds plant toxins known

Mostly mentioned:

- PA's: pyrrolizidinalkaloids;
- TA's: tropane-alkaloids;
- Aromatic compounds: essential oils; alkenylbenzenes (estragol; methyleugenol; safrool) (herbs);
- Lectins (legumes);
- Furanocoumarins (cruciferous plants);



## Plant toxins – Incidents and issues

**1990-1991 Belgium:** >100 women kidney damage (transplants, cancer development)

Cause: aristolochic acids from *Aristolochia spp* ingredient in herbal preparations/TCM Slimming agents

*Aristolochia Clematis*  
(birthwort; pijpbloem)



**2001 Netherlands:** >60 poisoning cases (epileptic seizures)

Cause: anisatin from ingredient in herbal tea (Japanese instead of Chinese star anise)



# Plant toxins - Incidents and issues



NACHRICHTEN-ARCHIV

## Supermarkt: Giftiges Greiskraut im Rucola



In einer Packung Rucola-Salat hat ein Kunde der Discounter-Kette Plus in Hannover nach Medienberichten einzelne Stängel einer giftigen Pflanze entdeckt. Das Gemeine Greiskraut (*Senecio vulgaris*) könne in größeren Mengen mitunter gefährliche Leberschädigungen hervorrufen, schrieb «Spiegel Online». Nach Angaben von Plus-Sprecherin Christina Stylianou sei die betreffende Charge komplett aus dem Sortiment genommen worden, um jedes Risiko auszuschließen. Der Lieferant des Salats sei kontaktiert und um eine stärkere Kontrolle der Lebensmittel gebeten worden.

**2006 en 2009 Germany:**  
 Weed (*Senecio vulgaris*) in rocket <2.5 mg/kg PAs  
 Issue: pyrrolizidine alkaloids, liver toxicity  
 => feed: roughage  
 => food: honey, herbs preparations/TCM



# Plant toxins - Incidents and issues



## Rucola van de gestoomde grond

De pittig smakende slaasoort is definitief doorgebroken in Nederland. Ook telers ontdekken de jonge markt. 'Rond de 70 procent van de productie is al voor de oogst verkocht.'

Door Tjerk Gualthérie van Weezen

Vijf jaar geleden had Martin Vroegvoedhij (29) nog geen rucoला geproefd. Inmiddels maakt de sla-soort deel uit van de Thruu-systemen. Vroegvoedhij heeft een rucoలా-planten op zijn land in de provincie Groningen. Hij is een van de telers die rucoలా in Nederland in zijn opvoeding heeft opgenomen. Het is een van de sla-soorten die in de laatste jaren steeds meer bekend is bij consumenten.



Alle rucoला-planten die in Nederland worden geteeld, worden op een van de drie manieren geteeld: op de dag, overdag of 's nachts. De rucoला-planten die op de dag worden geteeld, worden op een van de drie manieren geteeld: op de dag, overdag of 's nachts. De rucoला-planten die op de dag worden geteeld, worden op een van de drie manieren geteeld: op de dag, overdag of 's nachts.

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**De grootste angst van de telers is klein kruiskruid. 'Als je daar een bak van eet, kun je het niet meer naver-**



## Plant toxins – *Incidents and issues*



**2010 Netherlands:** Alfalfa contaminated with *Senecio vulgaris*:

- Alfalfa grown in coastal area's;
- Alfalfa used as animal feed for cattle and horses (pellets);



2010 Toxicity in cattle: little known on dose-response;  
Carry-over several PA's to milk suspected (Jacoline)

## Plant toxins – *Challenges – Carry-over*



Carry-over from feed to animal products:

- Jacoline from *Senecio jacobaea* (jacobs kruiskruid) to milk
  - Hoogenboom et al. (2011) FAC Part A (28) 359-372;
- Incident in Afghanistan: possible PA's from other weeds carried over to goat milk/cheese;
- No reports on occurrence of plant toxins in meat.



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## Challenges – Analytical methods



Single compound chemical analysis



Multiple compound chemical analysis

Single / multiple compound effect analysis

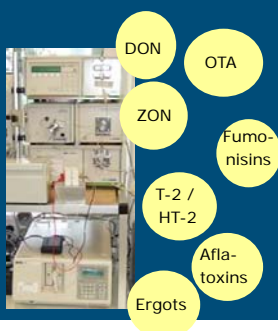


## Challenges – Chemical analysis



### Single compound methods:

- Optimized extraction;
- SPE and/or IAC clean-up (derivatisation);
- LC-UV, LC-Flu, GC-ECD



### Multi-compound methods:

- Generic extraction;
- (limited) no clean up;
- LC-MS/MS  
(RIKILT 37 mycotoxins + 10 plant toxins)

Aflatoxins  
OTA DON  
Fumonisin  
ZON T-2/HT-2  
Ergot alkaloids  
**Many other mycotoxins**



Spanjer et al, *Food Additives and Contaminants* (2008), 25, 472;  
Mol et al, *Anal. Chem.* (2008), 80, 9450;  
Mol et al. *Food Additives and Contaminants* (2011) accepted



## Challenges – Chemical analysis



### Method:

- Analysis according to standard addition;
- Analysis is in duplicate;
- Positive samples confirmed;
- All ISO 17025 .

Most often used for mycotoxin analysis: *Sum of 3&15-Acetyl-DON; Deoxynivalenol (DON); Aflatoxin B1; Aflatoxin B2; Aflatoxin G1; Aflatoxin G2; Sterigmatocystin; Agroclavine; Beauvericin; Citreoviridin; Citrinin; Diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS); Fumagillin; Fumonisin B1; Fumonisin B2; Fumonisin B3; Mycophenolic acid; Neosolaniol; Ochratoxin A; Penicillic acid; Roquefortine C; HT-2 Toxin; T-2 Toxin; Verruculogen; Alternariol; Alternariol-methylether; Moniliformin; Nitropropionic acid;  $\alpha$ -Zearalenol;  $\beta$ -Zearalenol; Zearalenon (ZON)*

Extra: *D3G (masked mycotoxin) and plant toxins*



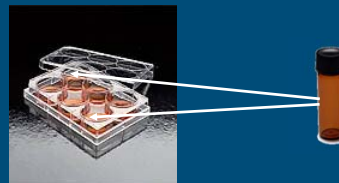
## Challenges - Emerging risks – Climate changes

- Expected: changes in range of latitudes where certain fungi are able to compete;
  - Example: *F. graminearum* growth: NIV increase
- Drought, flooding and other consequences of climate change may result changed toxin profiles;
  - Example: aflatoxins found in Italian cereals since 2003, and in other parts of Central Europe
- Response of insects and plant diseases to climate change poorly understood, but increases expected.



## Challenges – Effect analysis (1/2)

*In vitro* testing: effects of mycotoxins on gene expression



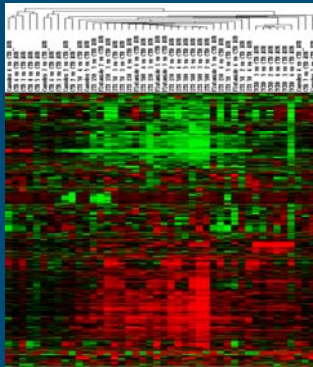
1. Culture human Caco-2 cells
2. Seed cells; expose to compounds or sample extracts of interest
3. Isolate RNA from Caco-2 cells;
4. Conversion in cDNA, amplify cDNA, labelling;
5. Hybridisation, detection and data acquisition;
6. Data analysis.

## Challenges – Effect analysis (2/2)



Affected genes whole array  
(44000 spots from 25000 genes)

- Red: up-regulated
- Green: down-regulated



Further method development, e.g.:

- Caco-2 cell line clones with luciferase expression when exposed to mycotoxins;
- Multiplex qRT-PCR on several specific up- and down-regulated genes;

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## Concluding remarks



Challenge: perform risk assessment on mycotoxins and plant toxins with any change in agrichain (new supplier, new recipe, new harvest, changed climate, changes in supply chain);

This demands exchange of information through the whole production chain and close cooperation between authorities, science, plant breeders and producers of feed and feed.

## Natural toxins



Past performance is no guarantee of future results!





Thank you for your attention

Questions ?

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