

**MYCOTOXIN FORUM 2013
5-6 September 2013****Euromaisiers Position Paper on T-2 and HT-2 toxins**

Euromaisiers members have carried out a monitoring for the mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2 over the past ten years. This historical data-base provides information on the mycotoxin presence in maize over many harvest years. The data have been collected from several member companies that mill maize of different geographic origins, both from the European Union and third countries, i.e. Argentina.

The 2012 crop survey confirms the results obtained in the previous years: T-2 and HT-2 levels found in maize and maize milling products are low. The sum of T-2 and HT-2 was lower than 50 µg/kg for all the 2012 samples (2011 figures in brackets): for 100% of the maize samples (93%), 100% of the maize grits samples (100%) and 100% of the maize flour samples (100%). The results are summarized in table 1 and table 2 below.

Although some data were collected in paired samples for maize and the related processed products, the presence of T-2 and HT-2 was not sufficiently high to derive any assessment on the effect of processing.

Conclusions and recommendations

The data collected by Euromaisiers shows that the presence of T-2 and HT-2 in maize and maize milling products is very low and that the consumer exposure is limited. This data confirms the EFSA opinion¹ on T-2 and HT-2 toxins which concludes that there is no health concern linked to these toxins.

Euromaisiers welcomes the decision of the European Commission not to establish maximum levels for T-2 and HT-2 toxins in maize and maize milling products but rather to recommend benchmark levels triggering further investigations².

The development of a guidance document for the implementation of Commission recommendation 2013/165/EU is needed to ensure a level playing field between all operators within the EU. The guidance document should be clear and facilitate

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2481.pdf>

² Commission recommendation 2013/165/EU on the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in cereals and cereal products

implementation, yet it needs to avoid adding further restrictions to the text of recommendation.

The non-regulatory nature of the benchmark levels set by the T-2 and HT-2 recommendation should be reinforced in the guidance document. This is necessary to avoid their transposition into contractual conditions. Any such transposition would make these benchmark levels become mandatory requirements for maize millers, against the original scope of the recommendation.

Euromaisiers is the organisation representing the European maize milling sector. The maize milling sector produces natural and healthy maize-based ingredients, which are used for the production of food and drink products, including breakfast cereals, snacks and beer. The members of Euromaisiers are 21 small and medium enterprises, in most cases family-based, located throughout the European Union and representing the great majority of the sector. They produce about 1.5 million tons of maize flour and grits every year.

Table 1:
Repartition of total samples into maize and maize milling products

Harvest year	Number of total samples	Total number of samples per category of products			
		N° of maize samples	N° of maize grits samples	N° of maize flour samples	N° of animal feed samples
1999-2003	188	47	51	56	34
2004	64	24	19	21	-
2005	105	56	23	20	6
2006	225	128	49	46	2
2007	34	17	7	10	-
2008	94	36	30	28	-
2009	114	49	42	23	-
2010	114	41	47	15	11
2011	64	55	4	3	2
2012	69	25	27	17	-
Total	1071	478	299	239	55

Table 2:

Results of the Euromaisiers mycotoxins monitoring plan for T-2+HT-2 (LOQ 50µg/kg combined): number of samples per range of T-2+HT-2

T-2+HT-2 (µg/kg)												
Harvest year	N° of MAIZE samples (µg/kg)				N° of MAIZE GRITS samples (µg/kg)			N° of MAIZE FLOUR samples (µg/kg)			N° of ANIMAL FEED samples (µg/kg)	
	<50	50-100	100-200	200-300	<50	50-100	100-200	<50	50-100	200-300	<50	50-100
1999-2003	47	-	-	-	51	-	-	56	-	-	34	-
2004	18	4	2	-	19	-	-	20	1	-	-	-
2005	52	2	2	-	23	-	-	20	-	-	1	5
2006	121	4	3	-	49	-	-	45	1	-	1	1
2007	13	2	-	2	7	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
2008	35	1	-	-	30	-	-	28	-	-	-	-
2009	48	1	-	-	42	-	-	23	-	-	-	-
2010	40	1	-	-	45	1	1	13	1	1	11	-
2011	53	2	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	2	-
2012	25	-	-	-	27	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Total	452	17	7	2	297	1	1	235	3	1	49	6