



Press Release

COCERAL publishes Mycotoxins Survey: Synthesis Report 2009

Brussels, 30 August 2010

The biannual survey carried out by COCERAL associating agrosupply distributors (specialised technicians advising farmers all along the production cycle), grain collectors and international traders shows that in the 98% of case technicians advise farmers on agricultural practices to prevent mycotoxin formation (47%), on specific fungicides treatment (46%) or by recommending specific fusarium-resistant seed varieties (6%). Collectors and traders, at the other end of the field production stage, also contribute to mycotoxins prevention by sampling the traded lots in the 95% of cases and analysing the samples for several mycotoxins both internally (30%) and/or in external labs (89%).

Mycotoxins are potentially dangerous substances developed after the infection of cereals by *fusarium* fungi, which proliferate in certain conditions both during field production and after harvest. The development of *fusarium*-resistant seed varieties as well as specific fungicides treatments is essential to build an effective toolbox for the control of mycotoxins in the field.

COCERAL members have an active role in managing the risk of mycotoxins development: agrosupply distributors provide professional advises to farmers on good practices aimed at minimizing the risk of contamination in field, while collectors and international traders are responsible of controlling the hygienic quality of grain lots through sampling and analysis.

The engagement of COCERAL members in mycotoxins risk management comes to light in the data and charts collected in the COCERAL Mycotoxins Survey: Synthesis Report for the year 2009 which is published on the COCERAL website at: <http://www.coceral.com/cms/beitrag/10019236/327226>

The update of the state of actions will be launched in 2011 during the next survey.

For more information please contact COCERAL Secretary General, Ms. Teresa Babuscio or Ms. Gloria Gabellini, Policy Advisor - Sustainability and Plant Protection at secretariat@coceral.com or at +32.2.502.08.08.

