

A number of animals died over a period of one to five days after the attack. One water buffalo and three cows died after eating contaminated leaves. The water buffalo was seen to have a clear water fluid flow out of its mouth and nose. It then went into convulsions and died. It was not known if the water buffalo had had diarrhoea or not. Five pigs died after apparently drinking contaminated water. A large number of chickens, but no ducks, also died from unknown causes. Cats and dogs that lived with the households did not die.

Various plants were also affected by the chemical substance. Leaves of tapioca plants dried up and died. Those who ate tapioca tubers afterwards were not affected since the tubers had not been exposed to the open air. Any banana leaves that were covered with the yellow sticky substance dried out within three or four days. Some leaves fell off while others only had holes through them. The banana trees themselves did not die.

While Vang Mai was actually collecting samples, he took care to cover his nose and throat with a cloth. Nevertheless, he was affected. He developed a constantly runny nose, his eyes became swollen and he became tired enough to want to go to sleep. The only medicine that he took was quinine. The samples were collected from tables, trees, leaves and rocks. Wherever possible, a bamboo stick was used so as not to come into contact with the yellow powder. At the time of interview, Vang Mai appeared to be healthy and alert.