

APPENDIX IV

Natural Occurrence of Mycotoxins in Thailand1.0 Introduction

Mycotoxins are toxic metabolites of fungi and may contaminate food of people or animals and thereby may cause diseases called mycotoxicoses. Several mycotoxicoses of humans and livestock have been recognized for many decades, or even centuries. Mycotoxins occur worldwide, but the climatic-geographic variables determine whether certain types of mycotoxins occur more frequently in one region than in another¹⁾.

2.0 Mycotoxins and Mycotoxicoses in Thailand

The Thai's are quite aware of the potential natural existence of mycotoxins in their country. The occurrence of aflatoxin is well documented since Udorn Encephalopathy²⁾ in Thailand was associated with aflatoxin in 1971. Outbreaks of aflatoxin-poisoning in pigs in particular are a common experience³⁾, and a vast number of Thai foods

1) For a comprehensive review of the topic of mycotoxins and mycotoxicoses, see "Mycotoxic Fungi, Mycotoxins, Mycotoxicoses. An Encyclopedic Handbook" 3 vols. T.D. Wyllie and L.G. Morehouse, eds. Marcel Dekker, New York and Basel, 1978.

2) Shank, R.C. et al. (3 co-authors). Aflatoxin in autopsy specimens from Thai children with an acute disease of unknown etiology. Food Cosmet. Toxicol., 9, 501-507, 1971.

3) Somboon Sutherat, Luckhana Naha and Chatuporu Smitanon. Aflatoxicosis in swine (Abstract) 20th Ann. Conf. Kasetsart University, Feb. 4-5, 1982, page 56.

Thirayudh Glinsukon. Mycotoxins as a veterinary problem. Kasetsart Veterinarians, 2, (#3, Oct.) 211-223, 1981 - a general review article that also includes descriptions of trichothecene mycotoxins.