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Disease outbreaks due to mycotoxin poisoning in developing countries: Risks and challenges of food safety management

Aflatoxicoses are diseases caused by aflatoxins in livestock, domestic animals and humans throughout the world. Exposure to these mycotoxins is mostly by ingestion but also occurs by the dermal and inhalation routes. The susceptibility of individuals to mycotoxins varies considerably depending on species, age, sex and nutrition. Acute mycotoxicoses can cause serious and sometimes fatal diseases also. The possibility of mycotoxin intoxication should be considered when a sudden acute disease occurs in a large population when there is no evidence of infection with a known etiological agent and there is no improvement in the clinical picture following treatment. The global nature of the mycotoxin problem is based on well-documented human mycotoxicoses such as ergotism in Europe, alimentary toxic aleukia in Russia, acute aflatoxicoses in South and East Asia and human primary liver cancer in Africa and South East Asia. Ochratoxin A is suspected to play a role in Balkan endemic nephropathy in Yugoslavia and chronic interstitial nephritis in North Africa. The present paper reviews the disease outbreaks of aflatoxicoses in developing countries with an emphasis on Indian cases, due to the ingestion of contaminated food and feed with aflatoxins.

Biography

B N Reddy has Published 75 research papers, contributed chapters in books brought out by reputed publishers. He is the author of *Systematics and Occurrence of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi* brought out by Lap Lambert Academic Publishing. He has presented 114 research papers at national and international conferences, organized 14 seminars/conferences, delivered Plenary Lectures on invitation in the international conferences/symposia held in Austria, China, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Turkey, USA and interacted with many Nobel Laureates.

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