

Occurrence of Ochratoxin A in Raw Coffee for Export from Several Producing Regions in Brazil

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SUMMARY

The proposal of setting limits for Ochratoxin A (OTA) in coffee by the European Community has raised a need to verify the toxin levels in raw coffee exported by producing countries. The present survey investigated 37 samples of raw coffee prepared for export, from several producing regions in Brazil and two different harvests. In all, 97% of samples presented OTA concentration below 5 ng/g confirming the good quality of Brazilian raw coffee in respect to OTA contamination. The values found in this OTA investigation show a low occurrence of Ochratoxin A in a broad range of coffee producing regions, below the limits suggested for OTA in foods in the EU.