

SAFETY OF ORGANIC HERBS AND SPICES – OVERVIEW OF RASFF NOTIFICATIONS

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

- **Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)** – a fast and efficient way of transmitting information related to food safety, thus playing a crucial role in safeguarding public health



Herbs and spices

– enhancing food flavor
⇒ satisfying the organoleptic needs of consumers

Organic production – exclusion of the use of:

- pesticides
- synthetic fertilizers
- genetic modifications



- **Aim:** to gain insights into the contamination of organic herbs and spices based on data from the RASFF database for the period 2011 – 2023 and thereby determine the risk to public health



METHOD

- Period: **2011 – 2023**
- Product type: **food**
- Product category: **herbs and spices**
- Product type: **organic products**



94 notifications

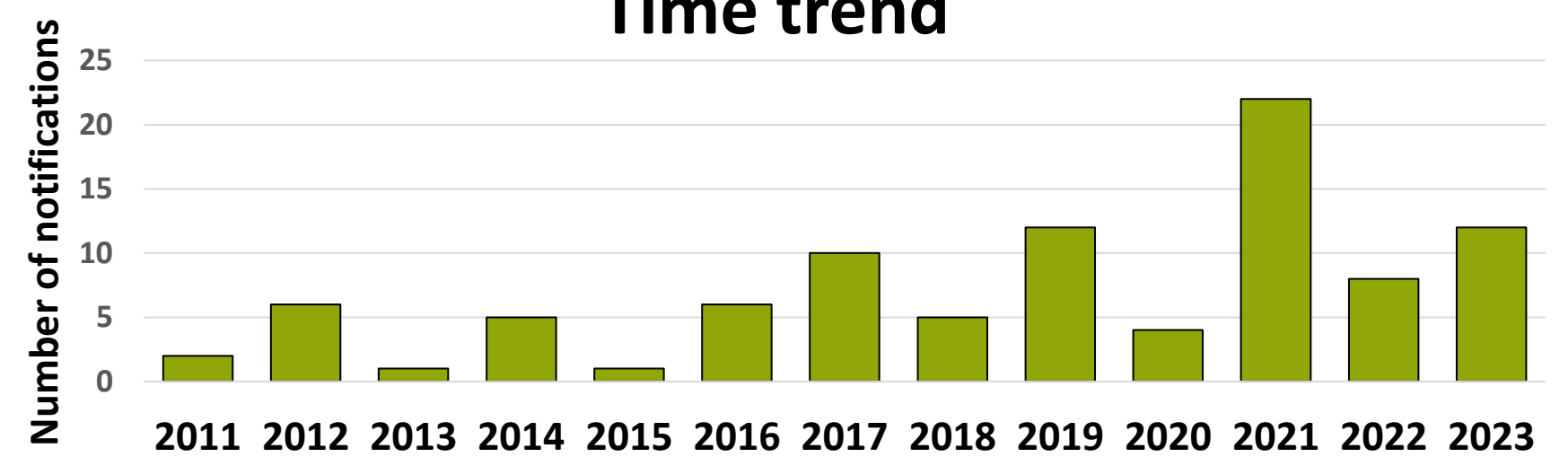
CONCLUSION

- The presented findings should serve as serious warnings to public health protection authorities

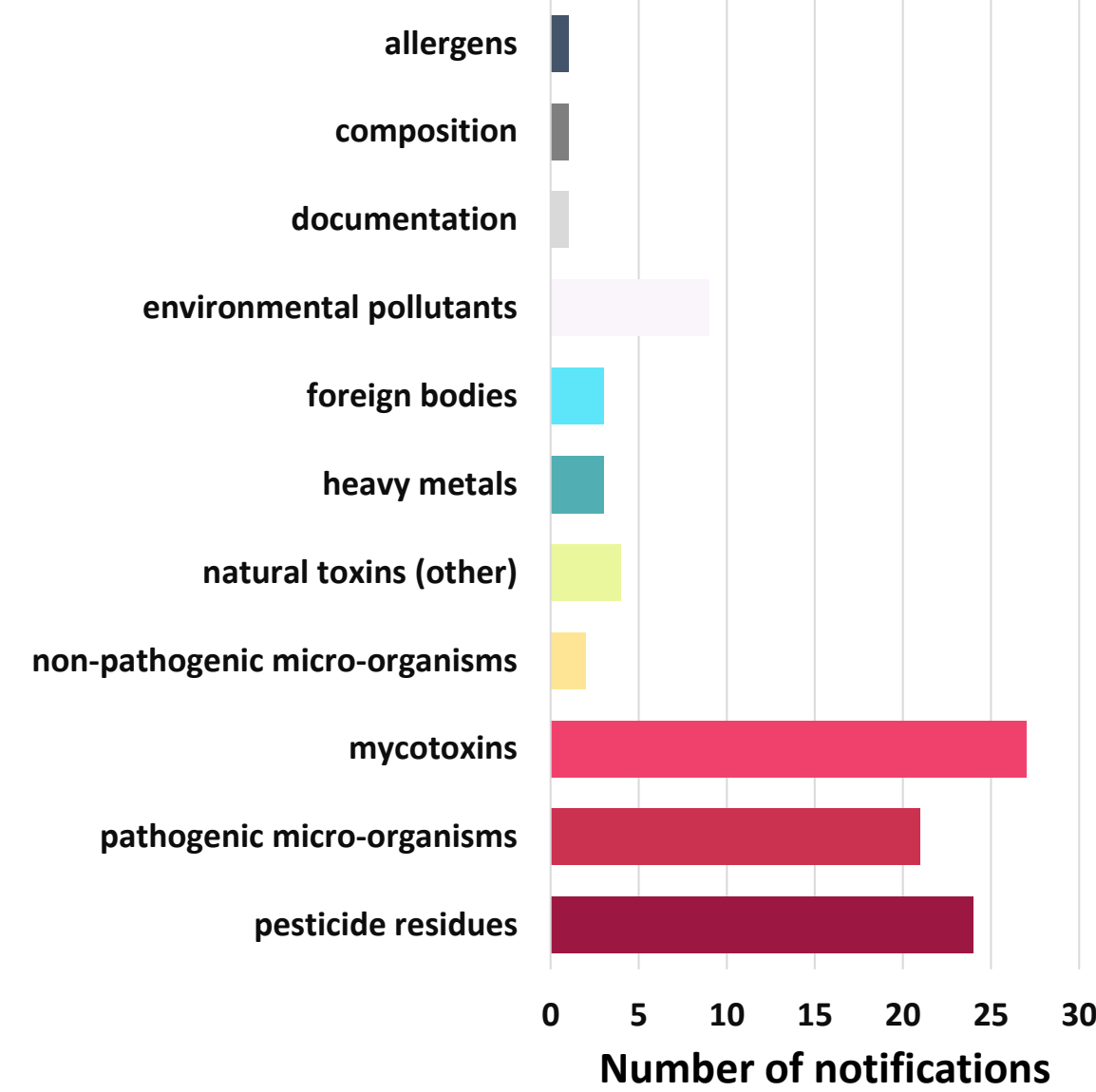
RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Company's own checks (53.2%)
Official control on the market (27.7%)
Border controls (19.1%)

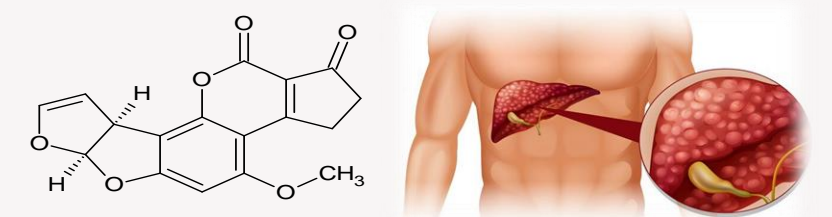
Time trend



Hazard type



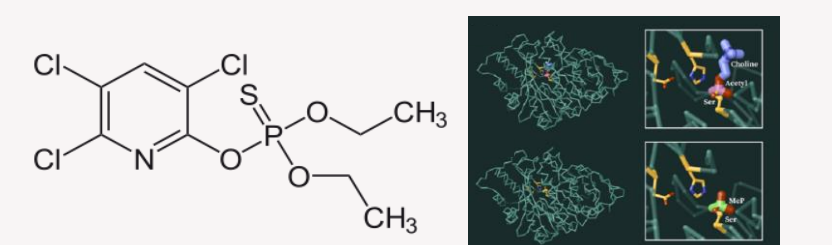
Aflatoxins



Ethylene oxide

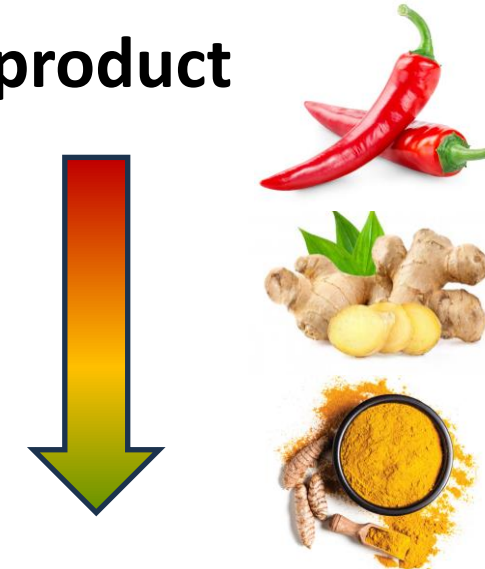


Chlorpyrifos



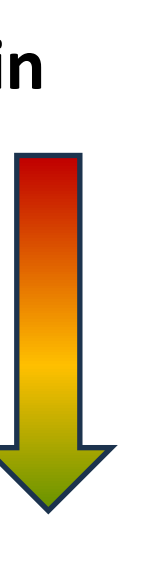
Type of organic product

paprika (19.1%)
ginger (11.7%)
turmeric (7.4%)
...



Country of origin

India (26.6%)
Spain (6.4%)
Egypt (6.4%)
Germany (6.4%)
...



78.7% notifications – SERIOUS public health risk



54.2% ALERT notifications

Action taken

