

Determination of Heavy Metals Contamination in Some Vegetables and Fruits Samples from the Market of Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh State

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Abstract : This study has been conducted to determine the concentration of heavy metals lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), copper (Cu) iron (Fe), cobalt (Co) in ten commonly used vegetables and fruits available in local market of jagdalpur. (Bastar) Comparing the results of heavy metals in vegetables and fruits by using Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, (Thermo scientific Pvt. Ltd. India Model No. AA 303) double beam with their respective natural level. Fe concentration varied considerably in spinach, tomato, cauliflower and lady finger are crossed permissible limits. Copper concentration in cauliflower, spinach, apple, grapes are below than the safe limit. Overall, this study indicates that the vegetables and fruits sample are contaminated by toxic heavy metals.

Keywords: Heavy metals, fruits, vegetables.

I. INTRODUCTION

Fruits and vegetables are widely used for culinary purpose. Fruits and vegetables are very important in human diet because of presence of vitamins and minerals salts. They contain water, calcium, iron, sulphur and potash (Sobukola et.al. ,2010). They also act as neutralizing agents for acidic substances forming during digestion (Thompson and Kelly 1990). Therefore fruits and vegetables are very useful for the maintenance of health as a preventive treatment of various diseases (D' mello, 2003). The presence of heavy metals may have a negative influence on the quality of vegetables and fruits causing changes to their taste and smell.

The term "heavy metals" to any metallic elements that has a relative density greater than 4g/cm³. In the group of heavy metals one can distinguish both the element necessary for living organism and elements whose physiological role is unknown and those that are "neutral" for plants, animals and humans. Accumulation of heavy metals by vegetables and fruits may depend on plant species as well as temperature, moisture, organic matter, Ph, nutrient availability and concentration of heavy metals. The total concentration of heavy metals in soil and water however varies from local to regional and further to continental level. The uptake and

accumulation of Cd, Cr, Fe were higher during the summer due to high transpiration rate as compared to winters whereas Cu, Ni, Pb accumulated more in winter. Heavy metals exert toxic effect on soil. Metals are industrious natural contaminants, have long biological half lives and potential for accumulation in different body organs leading to unwanted side effect. Metal toxicity in plants is aggravated at higher temperature and low ph as it facilitates the mobility from roots to shoots hence results in the change of the diversity population size and over all activity of soil microbial communities. Heavy metals concentration may inhibit some vital plant processes i.e. photosynthesis, mitosis and H₂O absorption. The consumption of heavy metal contaminated food can seriously deplete some essential nutrients in body that are further responsible for decreasing immunological defenses, growth retardation disabilities associated with malnutrition and high prevalence of upper gastrointestinal cancer rates.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY

A. Study Area

The study was conducted around Jagdalpur city of Bastar district Chhattisgarh during March 2017. This is one of the tribal districts of the state. Location of city is between 19.107 degree north latitudes and 81.953 degree east longitude. The district is located in southern part of of Chhattisgarh situated at the height of 2000 m above plateau MSL

Various small scale industries situated in this town. A large area around industries have less access to clean water resources, so farmer use treated and untreated waste water for irrigation. The hypothesis behind the present study is that the irrigation with waste water transportation and marketing site of vegetables is contaminated environment may elevate the levels of heavy metals in vegetable through surface deposition.

B. Sampling

The edible portions of vegetables i.e. tomato , cauliflower , lady finger, spinach that brought from near by

villages of jagdalpur i.e. bakawand, pushpal, adawal, lohandiguda to Jagdalpur were collected from transport vehicles during march 2017 which were shifting the vegetable and fruits to local market. They were classified according to their common name and scientific name:

Common name	Scientific name
Vegetable commodity	
Spinach	Spinicia Oleracea
Tomato	Tomato(Solanum lycopersicum)
Lady finger	Abelmoschus Esculentus
Cauliflower	Brassica Oleracea Botrytis
Fruits commodity	
Water melon	Citrullus Lanatus thumb.
Grapes	Vitis Vinifera
Apple	Malus Domestica
Mango	Mangifera indica

C. Sample Preparation And Digestion

Vegetable samples were brought back to the laboratory and washed under clean tap water followed by double

Table 1: Concentration of heavy metals (mg/kg or ppm) in vegetables.

Commodity	Cu	Cd	Fe	Co	Pb
Spinach	0.32	0.27	16.83	5.32	0.26
Tomato	0.511	0.77	8.427	2.245	0.2
Green pepper	0.47	0.94	0.042	2.97	0.19
Lady finger	0.14	0.02	11.4	1.49	0.32
Cauliflower	0.6	0.2	9.65	5.75	0.92

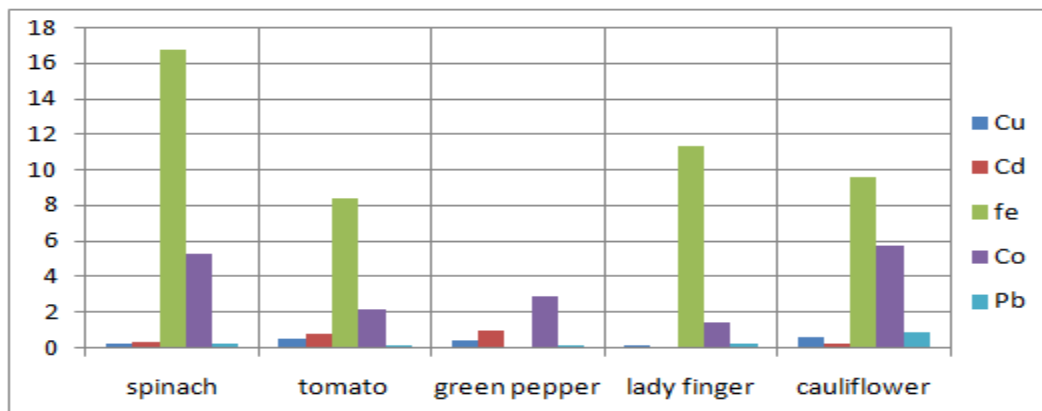


Figure 1: Represents the heavy metal concentration in the edible parts of five vegetables.

distilled water to eliminate soil and air-born pollutants. After removing the extra water from the surface of fruits and vegetables with the help of blotting papers, samples were cut into pieces packed in separate bags and kept in oven until a constant weight was achieved. The dried samples were grinded and passed through a sieved of 2mm size and then kept at room temp for further analysis. 0.5 gram of dried sample was digested in microwave Digester 3000 SOLV at 1400 watt for 3 hours in working solution of H₂SO₄ (65%), HClO₄ (65%) and HNO₃ (70%) with ratio of 1:1:5 was prepare till the solution became transparent. The resulting solution was cooled and filtered with whatman filter paper. Finally volume of the extract was made up to 50 ml using double distilled water.

III. ANALYSIS

Concentration of heavy metals was carried out by using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, (Thermo Scientific Pvt. Ltd. India Model No. AA 303) Double Beam and deuterium background hollow cathode lamps of Fe, Pb, Cd, Zn, Cu were used at specific wavelengths. All samples were run in triplicates.

IV. RESULT

Table 2: Concentration of heavy metals (mg/kg or ppm) in fruits.

Commodity	Pb	Fe	Zn	Cu	Co	Cd
Water melon	0.51	0.03	5.11	1.19	0.141	0.510
Grapes	0.4	0.05	1.33	2.03	0.521	0.631
Apple	0.2	0.06	2.34	1.5	0.43	1
mango	1.824	0.362	0.635	3.186	0.56	5.143

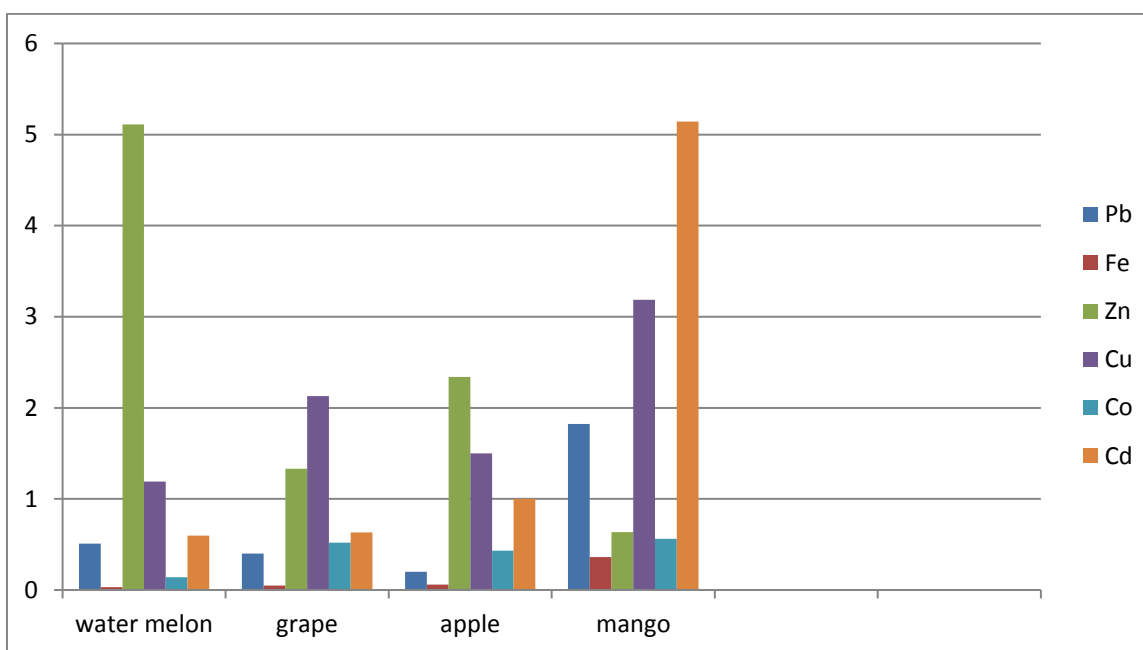


Figure 2 : Represents the heavy metal concentration in the four different fruits.

The results of this study showed that the average concentration detected range from 0.2 to 5.75 mg/kg for given samples of fruits and vegetables. The highest mean of Cd, Fe, Zn, Cu, Co, and Pb respectively. Fe concentration varied considerably in spinach, tomato, cauliflower and lady finger are crossed permissible limits. Copper concentration in cauliflower, spinach, apple, grapes are below than the safe limit. Overall, this study indicates that the vegetables and fruits sample are contaminated by toxic heavy metals. The level of these metals found in our study are compared with those reported for similar fruits and vegetables from some other part of the world.

V. CONCLUSION

From the given results it clears that Fe, Cu, Cd, Co, Pb, Zn are present in the sample. These metals shows toxic potential with injury to human health. The results of the present study showed that consumers are at great risk of purchasing fresh

fruits and vegetables with this level of heavy metals beyond permissible limits as defined by the Indian Prevention of food Adulteration Act 1954.

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