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Topic: Malnutrition treatment and prevention

Title: Mycotoxin occurrence in red meat and red meat products

Presentation Type: Poster

Introduction

South Africa is a country experiencing a nutrition transition, where both under- and over-nutrition increasingly co-exist. South African National Health and Nutrition Survey (SANHANES-I) reported stunting as the most common nutritional disorder. The causes of growth retardation remain under hypotheses, but include, exposure to toxic substances such mycotoxins.

This desktop study aims to describe the possible exposure to mycotoxin contamination through the intake of red meat and red meat products.

Methods

A literature review was conducted and expanded to include unpublished information and data available regarding mycotoxins in feed and food, and the regulations that are in place in South Africa.

Results & discussion

Meat can be contaminated with mycotoxins via two methods: if the animal is fed mycotoxin contaminated feed or after packaging. Although current regulations for feed and food in South Africa does exist, mycotoxin exposure in animal source foods are prevalent in South Africa. There is a lack of knowledge of the role that mycotoxins exposure plays in South African diets.