

WORLD-WIDE UTILIZATION OF FOOD IRRADIATION

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A steady increase of research and pilot-scale irradiation facilities accentuates growing interest in various countries in food irradiation applications. Major technological developments are in the fields of the radiation disinfestation of sub-tropical fruits and dried fish, sprout inhibition of root crops, and reduction of microbial contamination and elimination of pathogenic organisms in spices, and frozen foods.

Although the technical feasibility of such applications are well established, industrial utilization of the process depends on two conditions which are beyond control of the users, namely unconditional acceptance of food irradiation by national and international public health authorities, and harmonization of national legislation of the process to secure international trade in irradiated foodstuffs. Achievements generated at the national level, and the involvement of the FAO/IAEA in facilitating practical applications will be summarized.

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