

CONTAMINATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY RADIOACTIVE ^{137}Cs ISOTOPE AND FOOD SAFETY

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Summary. After nuclear explosions in the atmosphere and the accidents in nuclear power plants, the environment was contaminated by huge amount of ^{137}Cs isotope. In 1981 the nuclear explosions in the atmosphere were banned. Radioactive ^{137}Cs dispersed in the atmosphere contaminating the soil and the crops, because radioactive ^{137}Cs has a long half life.

We have summarised the data concerning accumulation of ^{137}Cs in soil and the transition of the radionuclides to plants and animals. The presented survey gives some information about the distribution and accumulation of ^{137}Cs in different organs and tissues of animals, about the possible methods of reducing the amount of radionuclides in the organism of animals and in products of animal origin.

Keywords: ^{137}Cs , contamination, soil, forage crops, animal products.