

Investigation of quality standards of milk and milk products in the locality of Kamburupitiya area

The Food Act No. 26 of 1980 and its amendments are the main regulations which concerned with food quality control in Sri Lanka. Even though efforts have to be taken to upgrade the quality of milk and milk products, there is a great possibility to adulterate and contravene the quality standards. By undertaking a market study, this investigation attempts to estimate the fulfillment of extraneous quality assurance regulations by several milk products. Moreover, a case study has been carried out to estimate the extent of adulteration of fresh milk.

In the market study, storage quality, packaging and labeling requirements, general appearance, odour and flavour and two miscellaneous factors were considered with respect to yoghurt, curd, ice cream, cheese, butter and dried milk powder. Results demonstrate that cheese, butter and dried milk powder are milk products that fulfill all of the quality requirements. Further, yoghurt and ice cream have achieved satisfactory level of quality standards. In contrast, curd being of the most common and favourite milk food item, showed the lowest quality standards especially on labeling and packaging requirements. In the case study, the fat and solid non-fat percentages of five milk samples had been compared as three times of each sample with the standards stated by Sri Lanka Standard Institute. Tests were done to detect the adulteration of fresh milk by adding, salt, bicarbonate, starch, cane sugar, formalin and gelatin. The study discovered three types of fresh milk samples, i.e. extraneous water added milk, milk which masked the addition of extraneous water and genuine milk samples. Therefore, it is clear that even there had been proclaimed several control systems under the food acts and regulations, producers tend to adulterate food and further neglect the regulations in several ways. Examination of the samples and adherence to labeling and packaging requirements are much important with respect to milk and milk products. In all, it can be stated that food regulations in Sri Lanka have well formulated and enacted but measuring and inspection services have to be improved to achieve the quality standards set for milk and milk products.