Presence of mycotoxins in food has raised the importance of standardized criteria and analysis systems throughout the whole region. Starting from 2004 the Health Department of Emilia-Romagna District has defined a regular program to put under survey the contamination from mycotoxins of grains, flowers and cereals for human and animal nutrition, as well as products from dairy industry and other food stuffs of vegetable origin for human consumers. The Health Department has ruled official controls as well as guidelines for production and storing to prevent the risk of mycotoxins.

Sampling has been performed by custom officers and specialists of Health Department while analysis due to ARPA on food stuff for human consumers and IZS on feeds, milk and milk derivates.

During 2004 has been performed about 350 food samples at production and commercial level, 250 feeds where sampled and more than 300 cattle breeding with the purpose of checking contamination by aflatoxin M1: in the period between May and December where thus checked about 2300 farms through a total of 6000 in the regional district of Emilia-Romagna.

Next two years (2005-2006) sampling has been reduced according to the results of previous campaign.

In vegetable matrices besides Aflatoxin M1, has been investigated the presence of Aflatoxin B1 and total, Ochratoxin A and Patulin, while starting in 2006 also Fusariotoxines where evaluated.

Tables and graphs illustrate the results of the survey performed.