

ABSTRACT

The fruits and vegetables of Bahawalpur market were analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues on them. In total, thirty samples of six different fruits and vegetables (Mango, Guava, Dates, Okra, Brinjal and Tomato) were collected from five different sites (Sabzi mandi Bahawalpur, Main market Bahawalpur, Sabzi mandi Yazman, Main market Dera Bakha and Main market Ahmadpur East) of Bahawalpur district. The samples were extracted with acetone, cyclohexane, ethyl acetate and sodium sulphate. After extraction Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) was used for the detection of pesticide residues in all the samples. Only one vegetable sample, i.e. okra was found contaminated with pesticide residues and none of the fruit samples contained any pesticide residue. The pesticide detected in okra was chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate type of pesticide, commonly used on fruits and vegetables. The level of contamination was higher than the MRLs (maximum residue Limits).