



CHEMICALS

FACT SHEET | PRINCE PROJECT 2022

A photograph of various laboratory glassware including test tubes, beakers, and a graduated cylinder, all containing liquids of different colors (red, yellow, green, blue, orange). The background is white with a diagonal split.

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Chemicals are in the products we buy and consume, in industrial processes, in agricultural production; they are all around us when we live and work. The environmental and health problems arising due to their use are being addressed by a growing number of goals, policies and strategies at multiple levels of government.

To monitor macro-level progress in light of such initiatives, a gap analysis in phase 2 of the PRINCE project has developed time series for several consumption-based indicators in the area - the use of veterinary medical products (VMP, i.e. antibiotics), pesticides for food production and the use of hazardous chemical products (HCPs).

For VMPs and pesticides, the analysis has demonstrated the possibility for producing official statistics with the methods developed. The experimental time series for consumption-based VMPs and pesticides show that the majority of use arises due to Sweden's imports instead of from domestic production.

These findings are coherent with the fact that Sweden has amongst the lowest levels of antibiotic and pesticide use in the world. This is further in spite of the fact that economically Sweden's domestic food production is still larger than food imports. Between 2008 and 2019 VMP use due to Swedish consumption has decreased by almost 50%. Over the same time period, pesticide use has decreased by 12 %.

The analysis also showed that a majority of Sweden's consumption-based use of hazardous chemical products also arose due to imported products. Further methodological development is necessary before consumption-based HCPs use are considered for official statistics.

