

Multinational R&D Efforts by the Tobacco
Industry Relative to the Problems of
Agricultural Chemical Residues

Tobacco is an important international commodity grown in many countries under a wide range of agricultural conditions. Efficient production requires the extensive use of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, suckering agents, etc.). Some of these chemicals are persistent and leave residues on the tobacco which may be directly transferred to smoke, ~~which may be directly transferred to smoke~~. In some cases health authorities are concerned about the exposure of humans to the residue materials.

The problem first became acute in Germany where tobacco products are classified as foodstuffs and come under food and drug regulations. There the industry negotiated with the governmental authorities a 5-year moratorium on application of the food regulation. The time was used to define and resolve the technical problems so that the proposed requirements might be met. Various research programs were established: intracompany by multinational tobacco firms, intercompany by associations of national units, and internationally through CORESTA, the international cooperative research association of the tobacco industries and monopolies.

In several years of intensive effort much progress has been made. Research studies have permitted identification of residue sources,

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