Aflatoxin M1 in Fresh Dairy Milk from Small Individual Farms in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This present study was aimed to investigate the presence of aflatoxin M1 (AFM1) residue in fresh dairy milk collected from small dairyl farms. A total of 104 samples of fresh cow's milk were collected in Pangalengan-Bandung and Sukabumi (West Java province), and Tanggamus (Lampung province) in April and September 2012. All samples were analyzed by a high performance liquid chromatography and detected with fluorescence detector after extraction with organic solvents. Contamination of AFM1 was found on 1.96% (1/51) from the samples collected in April 2012 at concentration of 1.20 ng/L and 39.63% (21/53) from the samples collected in September 2012 at concentration of 1.0 – 34.1 ng/L. Those positive samples were obtained from Pangalengan and Sukabumi, but none for those samples collected from Tanggamus both on collection time April nor September 2012. In those positive samples for AFM1, there is no sample contained AFM1 above the maximum level (ML) regulated in Indonesia (500 ng/L or 0.5 µg/L). Low contamination levels of AFB1 in the range of 0.38 to 6.64 µg/kg found in supplemental feed samples from the same sampling time and locations. The findings of AFM1 contamination in raw fresh milk from this study caused no harm to the consumers. However, regular monitoring on the presence of AFM1 in dairy milk and aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) in dairy cattle feed is necessary to ensure the protection of human health.

Key Words: Residue, Aflatoxin M1, Milk, Small Individual Farms, HPLC

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as a tropical country has a climate characterised by high humidity and high temperature which favours the growth of fungi in food products, and therefore the potential for the production of mycotoxins. Aflatoxins especially aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) is the most toxic and carcinogenic mycotoxin. Aflatoxin B1 is metabolised into aflatoxin M1 (AFM1) and excreted in milk (Agus et al. 2010). There is a relation between food contaminated with aflatoxins and that fed to animals, and aflatoxin M1 in milk (Kang’Ethe & Lang 2009). About 0.3 to 6.2% of AFB1 in animal feeds is converted to AFM1, and it can be found in milk 12 hours after first ingestion and decreases to an undetectable level 72 hours after last ingestion of AFB1 (Creppy 2002). Sumantri et al. (2012) revealed the conversion of AFB1 to AFM1 in Indonesia cattle was low (0.1%) compared than that in sub-tropical countries (around 1 to 3%). In addition, Agus et al. (2013) suggested that low conversion value
A variety of supplemental feed samples for AFB1 analysis were also collected at the same time and same location of milk sampling. Those samples composed of 6 coconut cakes and 14 rice hulls, 3 cocoa pods and 2 concentrate feeds were collected from Pangalengan (Bandung) and Sukabumi in April 2012. Whereas 17 rice hulls, 3 cocoa pods and 5 coconut cakes were collected from Bandung and Sukabumi in September 2012. None of supplemental feeds were obtained from Tanggamus (Lampung) in both sampling collection times. Each sample of 500 gr were brought in a plastic bag, and transported to the laboratory and then stored at -20°C until analysis.

Sample extraction for preparation of AFM1 analysis in milk

All milk samples were thawed gradually at 4°C and then vigorously mixed. The extraction method of AFM1 was modified from the Association of Analytical Chemists (AOAC) (Widiastuti et al. 2006). Ten mL of

(0.32 to 0.82%) of Indonesian Friesian Holstein cattle is related to its low milk yield level. Mahmoudi & Norian (2015) suggested that the contamination levels of AFM1 in raw milk are dependent on the amount of AFB1 contained in feed animal (especially corn silage) to dairy cattle.

Aflatoxin M1 occurrence in dairy products may be considered as a possible hazard for public health and also can its residue be found in human breast milk (Kilic Altun et al. 2017). Its occurrence had been reported and reviewed from many countries. In 2012 a Working Group of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) finally concluded that there was sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of aflatoxins (including aflatoxin M1) and classified as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1) (Ostry et al. 2017). AFM1 was reported stable on pasteurization process or other milk processing such cheese making and storage (Fernandes et al. 2012; Sanli et al. 2012). Because of health concerns and regulatory limits, there is a Codex maximum level (ML) for a contaminant (including mycotoxins of AFM1) in a food or feed commodity, that is the maximum concentration of contaminant be legally permitted in that commodity as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex Alimentarius 2015). The ML for AFM1 in milk is vary ranging from 0.02 to 0.05ng/mL depending on the country. The ML of AFM1 in Indonesia is 0.5 ng/mL (BSN 2009) which is similar to the MLs adopted in other Asian countries such as China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam (Anukul et al. 2013). Additionally, the Indonesian regulation also governing the maximum limit of AFM1 in milk and milk based products (including pasteurized milk) at 0.5 ng/mL as stated by the Head of Indonesia National Agency of Drug and Food Control No. HK.00.06.1.52.4011 (BPOM 2009).

Fresh raw milk in Indonesia produced by cows that managed by individual smallholder farmers (owning about 3 to 10 cows). Milk arecollected to the local dairy center known as the dairy farmer cooperative (koperasi susu, Ind) before sent to the dairy processing companies. It is important to determine AFM1 levels in milk and dairy products in order to protect consumers of various age groups from its potential hazards. It is a necessitate for monitoring of AFM1 in fresh dairy milk before it processed further. Unfortunately, only few studies on AFM1 contamination in fresh dairy milk had been reported from Indonesia (Widiastuti et al. 2006; Nuryono et al. 2009). Therefore, the present study aimed to examine the the presence of AFM1 on raw dairy milk collected from small individual dairy farms in three different locations i.e Pangalengan-Bandung and Sukabumi (West Java), and Tanggamus (Lampung) in April 2012 and September 2012. This research was necessary to fulfill lack of supply data for the presence of AFM1 residue in fresh milk in Indonesia. Mahmoudi & Norian (2015) suggested that the contamination levels of AFM1 in raw milk are dependent on the amount of AFB1 contained in feed animal (especially corn silage) to dairy cattle. Prandini et al. (2009) reported the most important risk factor for the AFM1 level in milk was the AFB1 concentration in supplemental feed component such as maize, groundnuts. Therefore the supplemental feeds such as cocoa pods, concentrate feed and rice hulls were also analysed for AFB1 to study its correlation with the occurrence of AFM1 in milk.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection

A total of 104 fresh raw cow milk samples were collected in two different seasons, i.e at the end of wet season (April) 2012 and at the end of dry season (September) 2012. Those samples composed of 15 samples from Pangalengan (Bandung), 17 samples from Sukabumi and 19 samples from Tanggamus (Lampung) that collected in April 2012, and 14 samples from Pangalengan (Bandung), 19 samples from Sukabumi and 20 samples from Tanggamus (Lampung) that collected in September 2012. All samples were collected from small individual farms and carried out in the morning or evening milking time before were sent to dairy milk cooperative in every locations. Each sample of 200 mL in volume brought in a 250 mL plastic bottle, and transported to the laboratory in an ice box at temperatures about 4°C and then stored at -20°C until analysis of AFM1 residue.

A variety of supplemental feed samples for AFB1 analysis were also collected at the same time and same location of milk sampling. Those samples composed of 6 coconut cakes and 14 rice hulls, 3 cocoa pods and 2 concentrate feeds were collected from Pangalengan (Bandung) and Sukabumi in April 2012. Whereas 17 rice hulls, 3 cocoa pods and 5 coconut cakes were collected from Bandung and Sukabumi in September 2012. None of supplemental feeds were obtained from Tanggamus (Lampung) in both sampling collection times. Each sample of 500 gr were brought in a plastic bag, and transported to the laboratory and then stored at -20°C until analysis.

Sample extraction for preparation of AFM1 analysis in milk

All milk samples were thawed gradually at 4°C and then vigorously mixed. The extraction method of AFM1 was modified from the Association of Analytical Chemists (AOAC) (Widiastuti et al. 2006). Ten mL of
thawed milk sample was transferred into a 125 mL glass beaker containing 30 mL hot water (75°C) and shaken for 15 minutes. The sample was then filtered through a Whatman filter paper No. 41 and then slowly passed through to an SPE C18 (conditioned previously with 5 mL methanol and 5 mL deionized water) placed in a vacuum manifold. The cartridge was rinsed with a mixture of deionized water and acetonitrile (95:5, v/v) and the SPE C18 cartridge was removed and the inside of both stems were dried with tissue paper and was primed by adding 150µL acetonitrile to the inlet and let solvent soaked into packing for 30s. The SPE C18 cartridge was attached tandemly with an SPE silica column (activated previously with 5 ml ether) below the SPE C18 cartridge. Both cartridges were washed with 5 mL ether and the SPE C18 cartridge was released. The SPE silica column was rinsed with 2 mL ether. Finally, the AFM1 was eluted with 7 mL mixture of dichloromethane and ether (95:5, v/v) and the eluate evaporated to dryness and stored at -20°C in a freezer until further analysis.

Sample extraction for preparation of AFB1 analysis in feeds

All feed samples were also prepared for AFB1 analysis using the modified method (Widiastuti et al. 2008). Fifty gram sample was added with 200 mL mixture of methanol-water (85:15, v/v) and shaken for about 20 minutes. Forty mL of filtrate was extracted using 40 mL of 10% sodium chloride solution, 25 mL hexane and shake gently for 1 minute, and let the solution separated into 2 layers. The hexane layer (upper layer) was discarded and the filtrate (lower layer) was then extracted two times with 25 mL chloroform. The chloroform layer was then separated into 2 layers. The hexane layer was evaporated and dissolved with 3 ml dichloromethane and then eventually applied to an SPE silica cartridge that previously had been activated with 3 ml hexane and 3 ml dichloromethane. After applying the sample, the cartridge was washed with 1 mL dichloromethane, 3 mL hexane, 3 mL anhydride ether and 3 mL dichloromethane. The residue was eluted with 10 mL of a mixture of chloroform and acetone (9:1, v/v). The eluate evaporated to dryness and also stored at -20°C in a freezer until further analysis.

Chromatographic condition for detection of AFM1 and AFB1

All samples were derivatized before injected to the HPLC by adding 200 µL hexane and 50 µL trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and evaporated to dryness on heating block at 100°C. A mobile phase was added into the derivatized sample and filtered through a 0.22 µm (pore size) and 13mm (diameter) PVDF filter (Waters Corp., USA).

Chromatographic condition for identification AFM1 and AFB1 was performed by using a column of C18 X-Terra RP18 (200 mm x 4.6 mm, 5 µm) (Waters Corp. USA) coupled with a guard column. The mobile phase for detecting AFM1 was a mixture of ultrapure water, acetonitrile and isopropanol (80:8:12, v/v/v), whereas for detecting AFB1 was a mixture of methanol, acetic acid and ultrapure water (15:20:65, v/v/v). All mobile phases were filtered through a 0.45 µm filter membrane, degassed and run isocratically at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Twenty mL of the samples were injected onto the HPLC and detected with a Hitachi fluorescence detector model L 7485 (Hitachi Corp., Japan) which set at 425 nm emission and 365 nm excitation).

Chromatographic calculation

The extraction methods (AFM1 in milk and AFB1 in feed) were accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025. The quality of results is tested in each assay using a negative blank sample. The milk sample spiked with a known level of AFM1 (50 ng/L) in milk and AFB1 (40 ng/kg) in feed sample. Interpretation of positive samples were taken based on the value given by the chromatograms that higher than the quantitation limit obtained on the methods. The quantification limit is the lowest amount of analyte in a sample which can be quantitatively determined with suitable precision and accuracy by using the developed HPLC method (Shrivastava & Gupta, 2011). The quantitation limits were 1.0 ng/L for AFM1 in milk and 1 µg/kg for AFB1 in feed. A calculation result above the quantitation limit gives a meaning as positive sample, whereas lower than the quantitation limit gives a meaning as trace or not detected (ND).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Contamination of AFM1 in raw milk samples

The appearance of AFM1 in milk is within 15 minutes to an hour after the cows consuming AFB1 and decreases below the limit of detection within 72 hrs and returns to baseline levels within two to three days after AFB1 removed from the diet (van Egmond 1989). Agus et al. (2010) suggested that AFM1 rapidly appeared in milk in the range of 0.08 to 0.20% of the AFB1 consumed by the from Indonesian Frisian Holsteins (FH) and still detected until 5 days after AFB1 was removed from the diet.

Analysis results for the occurrence of AFM1 contamination in dairy milk from 3 different locations (Pangalengan-Bandung, Sukabumi, and Tanggamus)
collected in April 2012 and September 2012 presented in Table 1 and 2. Contamination of AFM1 found in 1.96% (1/51) of the samples collected in April 2012 at a concentration of 1.20 ng/L and 39.63% (21/53) of the samples collected in September 2012 at a concentration level of 1.0 - 34.1 ng/L for samples collected from Pangalengan and Sukabumi, but not found in samples from Tanggamus neither collected in April nor September 2012. The highest concentration of AFM1 at 34.1 ng/L was found in one sample from Sukabumi collected in September 2012. Totally, the incidence of AFM1 contamination is 21.15% (22 out of 104 samples) with the concentration range of 1 to 34.1 ng/L. None of those samples had AFM1 greater than the maximum level (ML) regulated in Indonesia (500 ng/L or 0.5 µg/L).

Those data resulted in this study shows a better comparison to the previous research conducted from the same location in Pangalengan-Bandung in 2003, which was reported that contamination of AFM1 occurred in 85% among 20 samples in the level range of 2 to 1200 ng/L (Widiastuti et al. 2006). Fillaeli (2007) observed 95% of milk samples from Yogyakarta were contaminated with AFM1 at concentration level of 33 to 113 ng/L, Nursono et al. (2009) reported 70% of the samples observed contaminated with AFM1 at concentration level ≤10 ng/L and Nurhayati (2014) found 54 out of 57 pasteurised milk consisted of AFM1 at concentration level of 20.77 to 458.87 ng/L. Aflatoxin M1 also was analysed on 20 powdered milk collected from Serang, Bandung, Semarang and Surabaya, and had been reported in the range from undetectable to 0.549 µg/kg and the highest data (55%) was distributed in concentration range of >0.05 µg/kg to 0.2 µg/kg (Wijaya et al. 2018).

Our results were better compared to the study conducted by Nadira et al. (2017) in Malaysia who revealed 19 out of 53 samples (35.8%) were positive with AFM1 ranging from 3.5 to 100.5 ng/L for detection with ELISA method or the study conducted by Ruangwises & Ruangwises (2010) in 240 milk samples collected from central region of Thailand which showed the average concentration in winter was 89±34 ng/L, rainy season was 71±28 ng/L and summer was 50±21 ng/L, and also the study conducted by Goncalves et al. (2017) who found that 40.4% of samples from small dairy farms in Brazil were above the maximum limit allowed by the Brazilian regulation (0.5 µg/L). In the other hand, our results showed a higher incidence compared to the results in Malaysia (4% of the analyzed 102 samples) at contamination levels below of 0.5 ng/kg (Shuib et al. 2017).

**AFB1 contamination in supplemental feeds**

The levels of AFM1 in milk are influenced by both feeding practices and the types of feedstuffs. The feed supplied to dairy herds in those collection sample regions was predominantly fresh grasses and sometimes mixed with concentrate or rice hull. Table 3 and 4 present the occurrence of AFB1 in supplemental feeds (coconut cake, rice hull, cocoa pods, concentrate feed) from every locations of milk sampling conducted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling locations</th>
<th>Sample size (N)</th>
<th>AFM1 contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pangalengan</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1 (6.66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukabumi</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanggamus</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1 (1.96%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. The occurrence of AFM1 in raw fresh milk collected in April 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling locations</th>
<th>Sample size (N)</th>
<th>AFM1 contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pangalengan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukabumi</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14 (77.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanggamus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>21 (39.63%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. The occurrence of AFM1 in raw fresh milk collected in September 2012**
The contamination levels of AFB1 in all types of supplemental feed samples were very low (0.38 to 6.64 µg/kg). The highest incidence (100%) of the presence of AFB1 was found in coconut cake samples collected from Pangalengan in sampling time April 2012 in the average concentration of 4.05 µg/kg.

The results on the presence of AFB1 in supplemental feed as presented in Table 3 and 4 in give strong correlation with low incidence and low contamination levels of AFM1 in milk presented in Table 1 and 2 (ranging 1.0 to 34.1 ng/L). The most probably reason of low incidence on the presence of AFM1 in April 2012 sampling time might be due to the types of feed given to those animals were fresh grass which were not suitable for the growth of $A. \text{flavus}$ and/or $A. \text{parasiticus}$. The results of this study in agreement to the finding of Picinin et al. (2013) in Brazil who reported that rainy season caused less of no AFM1 contamination due to widely available of grass and cattle consumed less concentrate feed.

In contrast, AFM1 presents in 39.63% of samples collected in September 2012 (the end of dry season) indicates that during that time the availability of fresh grass is very limited so that farmers use supplemental feed to fulfill the nutritional needs of cows which in turn lead to the presence of AFM1 in the milk produced, and in agreement with the investigation done by Bilandzic et al. (2017) in Croatia who found that extremely hot temperature during summer and long period of drought without rain may stimulate the development of toxigenic mould to synthesise AFB1 to AFM1 and increased the incidence and the concentration of AFM1. These findings, differ to the investigation conducted in Iran by Mahmoudi & Norian (2015) who found that the average contamination levels of AFB1 from summer were lower than from winter.

Low concentration of AFB1 in supplemental feed supports the fact of low concentration of AFM1 in milk samples. Mahmoudi & Norian (2015) found 82.40% (178/216) of corn silage, alfalfa hay and concentrate samples from difference dairy farmers were positive for AFB1 in the average AF level of 1.55±0.89 µg/kg and mostly related to the corn silage, and 36.51% (65/178) of the samples had AF levels that exceeded 5 µg/kg.

Since that the contamination levels of AFM1 in raw milk are dependent on the amount of AFB1 contained in feed, it is important also to consider the maximum limit of AFB1 in feed destined for dairy cattle. The maximum limit of AFB1 in Indonesia according to SNI 3148.1:2009 is 200 µg/kg (BSN 2009) is too high compared to the recommendation by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in United States of 20 µg/kg (FAO 2004) by assuming the average of transfer rate of AFB1 to AFM1 is 66:1 (or equal to 300 ng/L of AFM1).

**Table 3. The occurrence of AFB1 in supplemental feeds collected in April 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling locations</th>
<th>Sample types</th>
<th>Sample size (N)</th>
<th>AFB1 contamination Incidence, n (%)</th>
<th>Average concentration (µg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pangalengan</td>
<td>Coconut cake</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 (100%)</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rice hull</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 (37.5%)</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukabumi</td>
<td>Rice hull</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 (37.5%)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cocoa pods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 (66.6%)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concentrate feed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 (50.0%)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanggamus</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = not available

**Table 4. The occurrence of AFB1 in supplemental feeds collected in September 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling locations</th>
<th>Sample types</th>
<th>Sample size (N)</th>
<th>AFB1 contamination Incidence, n (%)</th>
<th>Average concentration (µg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bandung</td>
<td>Rice hull</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6 (44.4%)</td>
<td>6.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukabumi</td>
<td>Rice hulls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cocoa pods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 (33.3%)</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coconut cakes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 (20.0%)</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanggamus</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = not available; ND = not detected
CONCLUSION

Contamination of AFM1 was found on 1.96% (1/51) from the samples collected in April 2012 at concentration of 1.20 ng/L and 39.63% (21/53) from the samples collected in September 2012 at concentration of 1.20 ng/L 1.0 – 34.1 ng/L. Those positive samples were obtained from Pangalengan and Sukabumi, but none for those samples collected from Tanggamus both on collection time April nor September 2012. In those positive samples for AFM1, there is no sample contained AFM1 above the maximum level (ML) regulated in Indonesia (500 ng/L or 0.5 µg/L). Low contamination levels of AFB1 in the range of 0.38 to 6.64 µg/kg found in supplemental feed samples from the same sampling time and locations.

The findings of AFM1 contamination in raw fresh milk from this study caused no harm to the consumers. However, regular monitoring on the presence of AFM1 in dairy milk and aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) in dairy cattle feed is necessary to ensure the protection of human health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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