



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The First Half Century

1957-2007

Radiation processing for materials and environmental applications, Algeria

The challenge...

Algeria's Radiation Technology Laboratory was established in 1982. In 1983, the IAEA provided support through a project which promoted pilot small scale research aimed at the commercialisation of some food products.

The project...

A pilot irradiator was commissioned in 1984, and radiation processing activities started in 1984. Laboratory facilities are in place for biochemistry, chemistry, microbiology and dosimetry. Legislation on radiation protection has been in place since 1986, and legislation on food irradiation has been in place since 2005. Technical cooperation activities aim to facilitate and promote concrete applications of radiation technology in environmental studies and for processing selected material for industrial applications. The laboratory undertakes a range of pilot activities, including food preservation by gamma irradiation, radiation sterilization of single use medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and radiation sterilization of biological tissues such as bone grafts. It also prepares amnion membranes and hydrogels.



The impact...

Since 1982 more than 40 scientists, engineers and high technicians have been trained in various applications of radiation technology. At the present, 24 of them are working in the field of radiation processing. A public awareness programme has led to public acceptance of radiation sterilisation of single use medical supplies. Food irradiation has also been officially approved in Algeria. This approval, published on 11th April 2005 in the Official Journal, is based on Codex General Standards for Irradiated Foods.