

## **P45 : PESTICIDE SELLERS' KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOURS**

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### **Introduction and Aim**

Pesticides are used widespread nowadays. Inappropriate usage damages environmental health and consequently human health. There are important duties of pesticide sellers to minimize these harmful effects.

This research aims to search pesticide sellers' knowledge, attitude and behaviours about their jobs.

### **Method**

This descriptive research is done interviewing 51 pesticide sellers face-to-face in Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Ceyhan and Tarsus. A questionnaire interrogates participants' socio-demographic features, their knowledge, attitude and behaviours during pesticide use is applied to them. Data is analyzed using SPSS 19.0

### **Findings**

Average years of work of the participants is  $11.6 \pm 8.1$  (min=2, max=40). Main occupation of the pesticide sellers; 69.4 % agricultural engineers, 8.2% farmers , agricultural technician 4.1%. 66.7% believe that they have a risk of pesticide poisoning during work while 31.4 % don't. 92,2 % of participants conform with safe storage conditions, while 5.9% do not and 2% partially do. 68.6% of sellers don't use any protective equipment while 31.4% use. 9.8 % of participants were exposed to pesticides' harmful health effects somehow.62% of participants don't think pesticides are used facultatively by consumers, 26% think they are, 12% think they partially are. 56.9% know the phone number of UZEM, 43.1% don't. Sellers that instruct consumers about content, usage, dose, poisoning symptoms etc are 96.1% and that don't instruct are 3.9%. 82.4% follow the legal progress about pesticides while 17.6% don't. 66.7% participate educational programmes while 33.3% don't.

### **Result**

Inadequacy about participation in training programs, informing consumers ,following legal progress and compliance with safe storage requirements has been identified in our research. Pesticide sellers have an important role at campaign against harmful health effects of pesticides

**Key words:** Pesticides, Pesticide Sellers, public health