

## P19. Occupational health and disease of seasonal agricultural worker's

Nazan Akçali<sup>1</sup>, Sevim Sibel Demir<sup>2</sup>, Muhsin Akbaba<sup>3</sup>, Alper Acil<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Adana Public Health Directorate

<sup>2</sup>Osmaniye Public Health Directorate

<sup>3</sup>Çukurova University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health

Agricultural sector in Turkey is the most important employment outside the services sector. The actual people working at any stage of agricultural production, that coming from outside, with or without contract are called seasonal agricultural workers. It is a known fact that seasonal migratory workers have difficult conditions. Workers aren't in a position to achieve minimum standards in areas such as organization because of their working and social life conditions and their educational level. Therefore to develop a strategy and action plan for improvement of working and social life conditions of seasonal migrants'the identification of true and sufficient data is crucial for the location of the solution proposals.

The problems of seasonal agricultural workers are multi-dimensional: education, health, transportation, security, etc. Agricultural workers, exposed to significantly higher levels of accidents and lethal injuries than other workers, and they have very limited resources for treatment costs. In agricultural sector structure there is the most of informal workers. In many countries agricultural workers don't benefit from a work accident aid or insurance plan. Agricultural workers are faced to significant risks of cancer, respiratory diseases, injuries and accidents. According to Social Security Institution statistics of 2014, respiratory tract diseases are seen 23.3%, musculoskeletal system diseases 4.7%, skin diseases 1.2% and other diseases 2.2%.The fact that agricultural land is often far from the center so it is difficult to reach them. Working environment contains "physical hazards" from air, landfill and machinery, "toxicological hazards" caused by pesticides, fertilizers and fuel and hazards arising from dusts.

The most important problems of seasonal agricultural workers for security and health are respiratory tract hazards, dermatological hazards, toxic and neoplastic hazards, accidents and injuries, mechanical and thermal stress and behavioral hazards, reproductive health problems, musculoskeletal system diseases, infectious diseases, cancers and psycho-social problems.

**Keywords:** agriculture, workers, health