

P37. KNOWLEDGE ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES AND SAFE PESTICIDE APPLICATION BEHAVIORS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA REGION

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Objective: In this study, it was aimed to explore the safe pesticide application behaviours, symptoms reported by applicators, and knowledge level on pesticide health effects in Southeast Anatolia. **Methods:** In this presentation, data of multi-purpose cross-sectional study named GAP Agricultural Health Study/2013 were analysed that the sample was chosen the probability cluster sampling method. **Results:** Field study was conducted with 1071 households (response rate was 91%). Approximately 77% of participants reported that the empty pesticide boxes were destroying unsafely, they burned (49%), or used for other purposes (9%). Majority of them were not wearing implementing bags (72%), boots (63%), a face-mask (50%), and 28% were smoking during the application. 40% didn't read the prospectus, 16% of them didn't asked the type and amount of pesticides to sailer. One in five people reported the children were around. 33.1% of the 918 women and 64.6% of the 937 men applied or helped applicators. They used pumps and tractors. 37.7% of women, and 36.1% of men were reported some symptoms almost all, headaches, burning eyes, shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness and weakness. 54.5% of women and 44% of men did not know the health effects of pesticides. From those who said 'known'; 85% of those were poison or headache, dizziness, reported acute effects such as vomiting. Responses related to long-term health effects were under 10% including cancer, hormonal disorders, such as effects on intrauterine period. **Conclusion:** Although potential hazards by pesticide exposure high, the reported safety measures and knowledge of pesticide health effects were poor. Health education program on safe pesticide application behavior, monitoring, and enforcement practices is required in collaboration with Provincial Public Health Directorates, Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorated and the GAP Regional Development Administration in Southeastern Anatolia.

Keywords: Safe-pesticide application behavior, health effects, knowledge level, Southeastern Anatolia