

Occupational Health

The overall goal of the work package Occupational Health (OH) is to reduce the occupational health risk of farmers and labourers, with a special focus on women. There are various factors that contribute to occupational health risk. However, the most significant occupational health exposure for agricultural workers is the unsafe use of pesticides. This hazard is also the most difficult to convince and get farmers and labourers to change their behaviour to more responsible pesticide use and effective use of protection and mitigation measures.



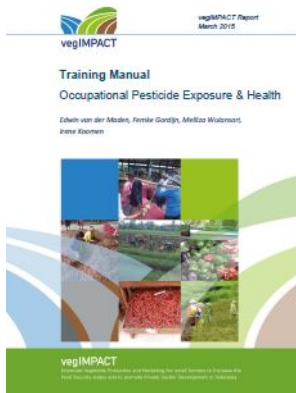
In Indonesia, pesticide use is one of the most significant occupational health exposures for agricultural workers. Pesticides are used extensively based on the idea of preventive spraying to protect the crop to ensure good yields. In addition pesticides are often handled and applied irresponsible and incorrect. Farmers, labourers, and society around the vegetable production are jeopardized by the high dependence on pesticide in vegetables production and are exposed to pesticides on a daily basis. Farmers often do not use effective Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and labourers, often women, are present in the field during spray activities. This leads to unacceptable levels of exposure and related health effects. Furthermore, at the moment there is limited awareness about

the chronic negative health effects of exposure to pesticides. Especially women receive no or limited information on pesticides. Major steps have to be taken regarding pesticide exposure, handling and application in order to reduce pesticide related occupational health risk in Indonesian agriculture.

Initially activities of the OH work package have mainly focussed on an extensive situation analyses in the Brebes district located in central Java, to understand the local conditions, pesticide use, exposure routes and related occupational health issues. Contact with relevant stakeholders has been made, especially with the Ministry of Health, Department of Environmental Health, and Ministry of Agriculture, Extension Department. A literature study has been compiled to obtain better understanding of occupational pesticide exposure in agriculture.



The OH work package intends to implement several activities to reduce occupational health risks and pesticide hazards and exposure. A pilot study is carried out in shallot and pepper for two specific regions in Java, followed by the implementation of an extensive intervention plan focussing on farmers, labourers, extension workers and other relevant stakeholders. Intervention activities consist of among others focus group discussions, training and coaching activities, development and distribution of awareness raising material and implementation of mitigation measures. After implementation and evaluation of the pilot study, and based on the experiences, a strategy will be developed that can be rolled out to other areas.



The Occupational Health activities are also closely related to and support the work packages Product Market Combinations, Knowledge Transfer, Potato and Permveg. Specific Occupational Health training modules will be developed for inclusion in the ToT activities within these work packages.

Below you can now download a soft copy of the training manual on occupational health. If you would like to receive the training presentation on Powerpoint, please send us an email. [Click here to send email.](#)

Below you can now also download a flipchart as a toolkit to disseminate information of occupational health, even without electricity. This flipchart will help you remember the key points on explanation page, while you are showing the picture to the attendee. It is simple and easy to share.

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