

Farm Environment – A Safe Workplace



The farm should make a safe workplace.

1. No unattended children should be allowed in the farm.
2. Farm buildings and fixtures should be checked regularly and maintained structurally safe.
3. Farm machinery, equipment and tools should be well calibrated and maintained. Farm workers should receive adequate training before operating them and take great care when working with them.
4. Chemical pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals should be kept in covered and designated areas. Farm workers should take great care when working with these chemicals, and should wear a face mask and/or other protective clothing as appropriate to minimize the risk of contamination and poisoning.
5. Organic fertilizers, litter and waste should be kept in covered and designated areas. Litter and waste should be cleared from farm regularly.



About “GAP- CROP”

The GAP-CROP provides guidelines on local sustainable production of safe, healthy vegetables and fruits. It focuses on reducing the risk of chemical contamination (e.g. by pesticide and heavy metal) at farm level. This article is the first of a series of 12 Codes of Practice (COP) making up the GAP-CROP. Farmers may voluntarily follow this COP, identify potential problems in their farms, take appropriate control/mitigation measures, and monitor the effectiveness of such measures.



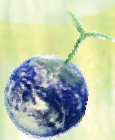


6. Farm workers should not work in field in stormy and thundering weather. During hot summer days, farm workers should be aware of the potential danger of heat stroke, and be trained to recognize its early symptoms (fatigue, thirst, nausea, headache, paleness, weak and rapid pulse, convulsions). The following preventive measures should be taken in hot summer days:

- Plan work as far as possible to take place in early morning or late in the day.
- Provide shaded area for farm workers to take regular breaks.
- Cool drinking water should be made available to farm workers at all time.
- Farm workers should wear light-coloured clothing made of natural materials, which minimizes heat absorption and improves heat dissipation, and wide-brimmed hats which shade their face, neck and back from direct sunlight.

7. First aid supplies should be made readily available in the farm, and farm workers should know where these supplies are located.

8. Toilet and shower facilities in the farm should be easily accessible and kept clean. Farm workers should observe good personal hygiene practices such as washing hands after handling chemicals or after going to the toilet.



Next COP:
Farm Environment –
Water and Soil

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