health status of farmers who have been using pesticides for the past years. Laboratory examination of blood was also done, including blood cholinesterase to determine organophosphate exposures.

Results

Majority were males (53.4%), married (80.5%) with a mean age of 47 years old. The most commonly used pesticides were Tamaran (36.1%), Dithane (34.1%), Sumicidin (29.0%), Selectron (24.9%) and Lannate (15.2%). Tamaran, being the most commonly used, has an active ingredient of methamidophos and classified as an organophosphate pesticide. Meanwhile, Dithane, a mancozeb, is a dithiocarbamate pesticide and Sumicidin is a pyrethroid with an active ingredient of fenvalerate. In addition, Selectron is composed mainly of ingredients of prochloraz and spinosad, respectively (Table 2). During their agricultural work, farmers used pesticides mainly for three to six hours per day (51.2%), one to two days weekly (86.8%) and three to four weeks per month (82.3%). 40.9% who underwent the physical examination were diagnosed to have abnormal assessment results. Analyses indicated that pesticide use and risk factors were found to have association at p = 0.05 with easy fatigability, weight loss, loss of appetite, cerebellar function, creatinine levels, haemoglobin, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular haemoglobin count, and platelet count. 3.3% of the farmers were found to have abnormal platelet count. Platelet count may indicate whether the patient is having bleeding problems, infectious processes, bone marrow depression, malignancies or anemia. For RBC cholinesterase activity, it was found that 50.8% of the samples showed depression in activity.

Conclusions

This study has demonstrated the interaction between the farmers’ pesticide exposure and work practices, as well as physical, neurological and laboratory assessment findings. The study shows that farmers are at a considerable risk of either acute or chronic pesticide poisoning because of improper work practices. Around 40.9% of the farmers were diagnosed to have abnormal physical examination findings while 4.6% presented problems in their neurological functioning and less than 10% of the farmers exhibited abnormal laboratory results. The author recommends the use of the information gathered in this study to improve current policies and standards with regards to surveillance of pesticide use.

0007 TRENDS OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY IN THE PHILIPPINES: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY

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Objectives

This study aimed to review and assess the prevalence and incidence of occupational injuries in the Philippines. It declined to 4 cases per full-time worker in 2003, and 3 cases for every 88 workers in 2007. Based on hospital records, there was a total of 9521 injury cases reported for the first quarter of 2010 in 77 government and private hospitals in the country. The cause of injury mostly occurred on the road (44.4%), and workplace-related injuries were reported at 7.8%.

Conclusions

The review of occupational injuries in the Philippines showed major trends in injuries, causes of injuries and rates and severity of injury. However, the data lack more specific and segregated information per industry and occupational grouping, as well as identification of risk factors associated with these injuries. Therefore, improvements in injury surveillance and documentation of injury cases as well as research into risk factors at work should be done. All these efforts should lend towards prevention strategies and guidelines on occupational injuries in the Philippines. Also, there is a need to have a standard nomenclature of occupational injuries, starting from the primary data sources (company clinics) which are the bases of the national data. It is suggested that data collection on occupational injuries be a national scale, and not merely randomised collection of data for small, medium and large industries.