

Pesticides

Information for VAG Leaders and health committees

Preparation:

- In this factsheet, the members will learn how to use pesticides in a safe way. After the meeting, the members should understand why it is important to use pesticides in a safe way and how to ensure this.
- This factsheet is composed of a debate and a discussion. First, let the members debate for 5 – 10 minutes and then discuss the questions with the members.
- The VAG leader should read through the factsheet and make sure that he/ she understands the content.

Exercise: Debate - What do you know about pesticides?

Have a discussion with the members about what they already know about pesticides. Questions that could be asked are:

Do many people in our community use pesticides?

Let the members of the group discuss freely about this question

Why do you use pesticides?

- You use them to keep crops healthy.
- They help control diseases, insects and weeds that harm or destroy our crops.
- It helps to produce more crops and higher profits

Why should you be careful with pesticides?

Pesticides are toxic, this can lead to

- Water pollution
- But especially important: Health problems (stinging eyes, irritated skin, breathing problems and even diseases like cancer)

Does poisoning by pesticides cause illness in our community?

(Let the members of the group discuss freely about this question. Do they know how they are exposed and what symptoms could be?)

How do you use pesticides?

Important to ask the members is how the members use pesticides. Use a flipchart to write down the answers that are given, so you can use them again in the debate exercise at the end of this 'course'. Question that could be asked:

- Do they wear protection?
- Where do they store leftovers?
- Do they shower after working with pesticides?

- Do they wash their food if it was grown with pesticides?

Exercise: Poster – Good and bad

Which one is the good example and which one is the bad example?

Now show the members the two drawings of a good and a bad example.

Ask the members which of the drawings shows the bad example. Then point at the different pictures and let the members discuss what is wrong or good about it. You may use a flipchart to note down the points the members have discussed. You could ask the members if they do any of the things we see in the drawing.

Bad Example	Good Example
<div> </div> <p><u>Explanation 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never use more pesticides than you need - If you have a leftover, never throw it away near a water source, since the water will get polluted. - Store the leftovers in a safe place - Not only is using too much costly, this also increases the dangers of poisoning. It is very important to use the right amount of pesticide. <p><u>Explanation 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not use a bucket (or other tools) that is used for domestic purposes to prepare the pesticides -The bucket could be polluted 	<div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use the same tools every time - Keep polluted objects away from your living area
<div> </div> <p><u>Explanation 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always use protection. - Pesticides enter your body through your mouth (when breathing) and through your skin. - Symptoms: stinging eyes, irritated skin, breathing problems and even diseases like 	<div> </div> <p><u>Explanation 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always wear protection. - Always cover your skin and your mouth when using pesticides.

cancer.

Explanation 2:

- Never spray pesticides on yourself or other people.
- This is bad for your health.

Explanation 2:

- Greet or touch kids and spouse after you have showered.



- Wash yourself (hands and body) after using pesticides.
- When not washing, your skin could get irritated.



- Be careful with food that has been grown with pesticides.
- There could be rests of pesticides on the crops.
- Wash the sprayed food before eating it.

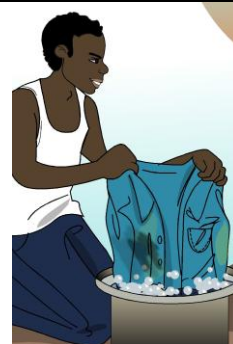


Explanation 1:

- Wash your clothes separately.
- You might take the pesticides into your home and expose your family to the pesticides.
- Leave your clothes to dry in the sun, this helps get rid of any remaining chemicals.

Explanation 2:

- Wash your clothes every time you use pesticides.
- Pesticides buildup on your clothes and get exposed to your skin. This can lead to skin irritations.



- Wash your clothes after using



- Never drink from cans used to preserve pesticides.
- There could always be leftovers in the can and the water could be polluted.
- Store the pesticide-cans in a safe place.



- Only spray when there is little wind. It is also important to spray with the direction of the wind.
- The wind could blow pesticides through the air and onto yourself or others.
- Especially kids are vulnerable to pesticides.

Exercise: Final discussion

Next is a general discussion.

How are you exposed?

- Farm workers are exposed to pesticides during work (mixing and applying pesticides), via breathing and bare skin.
- Their families can also be exposed, since the farm workers can track pesticides into their homes on their shoes and clothing.
- Food grown with pesticides.
- Pesticides cause pollution by running off agricultural fields. Rain water washes the chemicals into nearby water sources.

Why should you be concerned?

- You can get ill from pesticides.
- Especially children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides.

How can we protect our children from the dangers of pesticide?

- Keep pesticides out of touch of children.
- Do not play with children after handling pesticides if we have not washed ourselves and our clothes.
- Wash clothes used when working with pesticides separately from other, especially children's clothes.
- Keep children away from the places we are working or have been working with pesticides.

Prevention:

- Use protection (especially parts of the body where the skin shows)
- Wash food grown with pesticides before eating.
- Storage of containers

How to use pesticides?

Important to know when using pesticides

- Only prepare what you need.
- Use protection.
- Never spray pesticides on yourself or others, since it is bad for your health.
- Only spray when there is little wind and spray with the direction of the wind.
- Wash sprayed food before eating
- After using pesticides, take a shower.
- Wash the clothes separately.
- Preserve pesticides in a closed room.

What to do

Discuss how the situation is in the community; Do we use pesticides in a safe way?
Do we need to take any action to change this in the future?

Let the members discuss freely about any actions that are possible, or desirable and agree which actions need to be followed up by who. Write the actions down in the action list in the VAG meeting report.

Concluding notes.

- *Remind the members about the action points they have just decided on.*
- *Ask if there are any further questions.*
- *Agree on the date, time, place and topic of the next meeting.*
- *Close the meeting.*