



## Study on agricultural accidents in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state

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### ABSTRACT

Farm mechanization along with increased application of other agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides etc. has enhanced the productivity and production on farms. It also needs energy, suitable tools and implements along with operators for carrying out different agricultural operations. Agriculture workers are the main forms of energy used in agriculture for various activities besides the use of electric power, mechanical power and other non-conventional energy sources. The present investigation was undertaken with the objectives to collect the information on agricultural accident and severity of injuries due to accident and to study the magnitude and type of agricultural accidents and to identify the various cases of agricultural accidents. A survey was conducted in the selected four districts of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. For collection of the agricultural accidents, data in survey were such as indirect and direct observation, archival records, interview, and questionnaire and analysis of data was done. Proforma formulated by CIAE, Bhopal was used for data collection. Analysis of accident data indicated that the tools/machines that needed immediate intervention were tractor, thunder bolt, chaff cutter, electric motors and pump sets. Among other sources, snakebites was observed to be one of the major causes of fatal accident and necessary action for educating workers and making available anti-venom injections at village level health centers are needed. It is very necessary that proper attentions to be given to minimize occupation health and safety problems in agriculture and also to provide due compensation to agriculture workers for their rehabilitation/ family sustenance in case of accidents.

### INTRODUCTION

Farm mechanization along with increased application of other agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides etc. has enhanced the productivity and production on farms. It also needs energy, suitable tools and implements along with operators for carrying out different agricultural operations. Human workers are the main forms of energy used in agriculture for various activities besides the use of electric power, mechanical power and other non-conventional energy sources. About 8 per cent of the power used in crop production and about 220 million workers contribute related activities in the country. Female workers constitute 30 per cent of total agricultural workers. At present, agricultural machinery population in the country is estimated at about 150 million,

which includes about 3 million tractors and other self-propelled equipment. In addition, there are more than 400 million hand tools such as spade, hand hoe, sickle, crowbar, axe etc., which are extensively used by agricultural workers (Kathirvel and Sivakumar, 2003).

Use of agricultural tools and implements and other machines is always risky to human safety, if they are not used properly. Accidents are very common in various agricultural operations due to ignorance, lack of training, lack of knowledge about the operation at improper design of tools and implements (Mehta, 2004).

Agricultural accidents are increasing day by day with increase of mechanization in agriculture due to handling of machines by untrained personnel. Study of magnitude and type of agricultural accidents are essential to spell out the man