MENTAL HEALTH OF FARMERS OCCUPATIONALLY EXPOSED AND NOT EXPOSED TO PESTICIDES: A PILOT STUDY

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Introduction

Agrochemicals are complex mixtures that may contain active ingredients, **affecting** the health of farmers. Although **depression** and **anxiety** are global problems, it is known that there are neurotoxic effects of pesticides.

Objective

To study, through **self-reported questionnaires**, the depression profile in farmers exposed to agrochemicals and its association with secondary data.

Methods

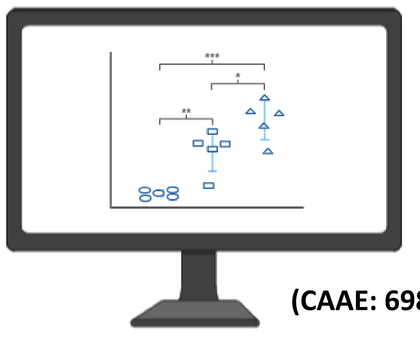
AGR N = 17

AEC N = 17

FEMALE FARMERS

FEMALE AGROECOLOGY

Questionnaires for People Exposed to Chemical Agents (QEAQS)



(CAAE: 69865417.1.0000.5347)

Results

Group	Depression	Poisoning
Agroecology (n = 17)	4 (23,5%)	4 (23,5%)
Farmers (n = 17)	5 (29,4%)	9 (52,9%)

Table 1. Despite not using pesticides, **23%** of the agroecology showed **3 or more symptoms** compatible with probable farmers and **52.9%** of those exposed to agrochemicals demonstrated **acute poisoning** in the last 90 days (p = 0.07).

Agrochemical	Depression	Poisoning
Glyphosate (n = 10)	2 (20%)	3 (30%)
Fipronil (n = 4)	1 (25%)	2 (50%)
Imidacloprid (n = 4)	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
2,4-D (n = 4)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)
Chlorpyrifos (n = 5)	2 (40%)	4 (80%) (p=0,03)
Bifenthrin (n = 1)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)

Table 2. All pesticides were associated with **neurological damage**. Chlorpyrifos was significantly associated with cases of poisoning (chi-square test, p = 0.03)

Conclusion

This study demonstrated that through research with secondary data and retrospective questionnaires it is possible to draw **associations** between **poisoning** and **depression**, contributing to research in the area of **occupational toxicology** and support the taking of measures.

Acknowledgements

UFRGS LATOX CAPES FAPERGS

References

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