

**AWARENESS ON OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS
AMONG AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
IN MAUBIN TOWNSHIP**

**AYE HNIN PHYU
M.B.,B.S**

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture provides the basic needs of human and their civilization by means of food, clothing, shelters, medicine and recreation. In Myanmar, agricultural sector has about two third of total country's workforce and it is important to raise the health status of agricultural workers. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to find out the awareness level of occupational hazards among agricultural workers in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region. There were 193 participants and interviewed by pre-structured questionnaires concerning about occupational hazards including physical, chemical, biological, mechanical, psychological and ergonomic hazards and their preventive measures. Mean age of the respondents was 47.26 ± 12.197 years and 33.7% of agricultural workers are in a range of 41-50 years and nearly half of the respondents were middle school level. Half of respondents had duration of farming less than 20 years and all are cultivating paddy. Information about occupational hazards mainly gets from agricultural department (86.0%) and mass media (79.3%). All of the respondents knew that farming job has occupational hazards. Only 34 respondents (17.6%) fell into high awareness group. Although 43% of the respondents knew about occupational hazards, only 4.1% had high awareness in preventive measures. Among different types of awareness, over 40% of the respondents had high awareness on chemical, mechanical and ergonomic hazards but only 10.4% had high awareness on psychological hazards. Agricultural workers with longer duration of farming had higher awareness than shorter ones and higher educated persons had high awareness on physical and biological hazards. Male respondents had more awareness on mechanical hazards than female respondents. Awareness on ergonomic hazards was significantly associated with types of cultivating crops. Because of obvious low level of awareness about occupational hazards among the respondents in the study area, it still needed to give effective and adequate health education and training program for the agricultural workers.