

Occupational Health and Safety Implications of Flower Farming on the Local Communities in Central Uganda

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Abstract : This study examines Occupational Health and Safety implications in flower farms in Central Uganda. An exploratory sequential mixed method design and methodology was employed, with multiple data collection methods, including interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys. The findings show that occupational health and safety issues remain a major problem in flower farms. While the majority of workers agreed that the farms provided them with protective equipment, the data collected from the workers point to either the improper use or ineffectiveness of this equipment. A number of workers reported skin irritations, sore and painful eyes, stiff necks, back pains, and occasional headaches that were presumably argued to have arisen from their work environment. The study also found that farms have been adjusting in an attempt to correct some of these anomalies. These included the use of biological approaches to control pests and diseases and restricting the use of some chemical formulations that are deemed to be harmful to applicators and the environment. Alongside these efforts, the study recommends increased vigilance by the flower farm owners in the provision of personal protective equipment to workers.

Keywords : flower farms, personal protective equipment, agrochemicals, rural communities, occupational health and safety

Conference Title : ICOHSA 2024 : International Conference on Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture

Conference Location : Tokyo, Japan

Conference Dates : July 22-23, 2024