

associated with pesticide use and disposal among vegetable growing farmers in Kisii County and come up with practical recommendation options [4] (Table 1).

Objectives of the study

The study was to achieve the following objectives;

To evaluate practices employed in storage of pesticides and disposal of pesticide containers among vegetable farmers.

To establish how farmers manage hazardous effects of pesticides on human health in vegetable farming in Kisii county.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Kisii county.

Kisii County has an estimated population of 8,581 persons out of which 690 are small scale farmers (Ministry of Agriculture, 2007). Crops grown in Kisii County include; maize, cowpeas, pigeon peas,

During the group discussion it was established that some vegetable farmers use the empty pesticide containers for storing food items such as salt and sugar, and as containers for kerosene. This practice appears to be common among local communities in Kisii County. This result agrees with WHO (1990) that also reported a widespread re-use of containers for storing food or water for humans or livestock [10].

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The research sought to find out the ill effects after spraying or handling pesticides member of family experienced on the skin.

Results from Table 2 show that, the most common pesticide poisoning side effects mentioned by the vegetable farmers were itching and burning sensation 143(60.0%), headache 52(22.1%), body weakness (14.9%) and dizziness (6.8%). Some farmers also mentioned numbness, vomiting, stomach pain, unconsciousness, itching of eyes and body pains as hazards associated with use of pesticides. The findings of this study therefore are in agreement with that of Ntow et al. who reported that the most common side effects of pesticide poisoning among farmers include skin irritations, headaches, general body weakness, difficulty in breathing and dizziness [11].

Ending from key informants and group discussions indicates that many vegetable farmers have not adopted safer pesticide application practices such as spraying against the wind direction, not eating or smoking during spraying so as to prevent respective potential dermal and oral contamination with pesticides. Besides many of the tomato farmers in Kisii County do not display warning signs after spraying so as to prevent public or any member of the family from getting to a sprayed field.