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## ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 3, SPECIAL ISSUE

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### ABSTRACT

#### **Farmer Workers and Pesticide: Knowledge, Impact on Health, and Precautionary Measures. A Descriptive Study From Gaza**

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**Background:** Pesticides are used in agriculture in an unsafe and indiscriminate manner, posing a serious threat to the environment and human health. The aim of this study was to assess knowledge, attitude, impact on health, and precautionary measures toward pesticides among a sample of farmworkers in Gaza.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1.To describe knowledge, associated Occupational Pesticides by a focus on farmers
- 2.To describe practice associated Occupational Pesticides by age, and gender.
- 3.To describe impact on health associated Occupational Pesticides by exposure details, pesticide applicators and rural workers, agricultural pesticides, and age ranges.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional descriptive study The target population was agricultural farm workers in the Gaza Strip working in open or closed fields, or both, and applying pesticides during the summer of 2021.The sample size of 250 farm workers. The questionnaire consisted of five

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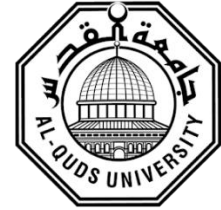
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main sections: socio-demographics, effect of pesticides on human health, other alternatives to pesticides, and attitudes regarding the use of pesticides and protective equipment or clothes during preparation, application of pesticides, finally activity and Physical Information.

**Results:** Only one farmer out of all was diagnosed with cancer, only 22(8.80) had a chronic disease. Most farmers have a vision problem 159 (63.60%) and have been using glasses or contact lenses to correct farsightedness from an early age 235 (94%). Comparing the use of pesticides ten years ago until the present time, we find that there is an increase in the use of pesticides and also an increase in the use of preventive Tools.

**Conclusion:** Findings from this preliminary study showed that farmworkers were aware of possible problems associated with exposure to pesticides because they deal carefully with their contaminated clothes and also aware of spillage or leakage of pesticides. Yet some of them did not employ safe practices in their application of pesticides.

**Research Keywords:** Farmer workers, Pesticides, Descriptive Study, and Gaza strip.