

The scientific poster

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Occupational Related Health Problems in Sisal Industry in Tanzania

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Introduction
 Sisal is derived from the genus *Agave sisalana*, an (amaryllid family). Sisal industry has existed in Tanzania since early 1900s when most of the estates were established by 1967 there were 201 estates. Tanzania Sisal production ranked 3rd in the world after Brazil and Kenya 2004. Occupational authorities in the country are worried of the health effect the production process has to the workers.

Methods
 Physical visits were conducted at three sisal estates between 18th December 2014 - 19th January 2015. Walk through surveys were done in cutting, decortication, drying, brushing and baling departments of these estates. Direct observation and interviews with management and some workers in the visited sections were performed.

Results
 Around 600 workers are employed in the three visited estates. The various sections have different tasks and possibility of different exposures, as shown in the table below.

Task group	Task	Number of workers	Exposure to Sisal dust	Exposure to Sisal fibre	Exposure to Sisal bark
Cutting	Cutting	25	High	Low	Low
Decortication	Decortication	125	High	High	High
Drying	Drying	25	Low	High	Low
Fibre baling/storing	Fibre baling/storing	25	Low	High	Low

Workers in decortication and brushing sections seemed to have higher occupational risks of respiratory and dermal agents compared to other workers.

Conclusions
 1. The workers at the sisal estates experience both dermal and respiratory exposure to sisal dust, sisal fibre and sisal bark. The type of exposure differ between the different tasks performed by the worker.
 2. A well planned epidemiological study will be very useful as the literature is scarce in the area, provide occupational health authorities in Tanzania and estate owners basic information from which further studies on applicable cost effective interventions can be planned.

Fig 1: Showing various sisal fibres production processes



Dust exposure and respiratory symptoms; cross sectional study in coffee factories

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Introduction
 Exposure to coffee dust is associated with respiratory symptoms among workers in secondary coffee processing in industrialised countries. Only three studies have been done in primary coffee factories in developing countries. Respiratory diseases and much of coffee processed coffee, fibres of dried coffee have been found in the coffee factories.

Methods
 This study was carried out to describe the dust exposure and assess respiratory health status among workers in 10 primary coffee factories processing coffee.

Results
 Workers in primary coffee factories have higher prevalence for respiratory diseases and high dust exposure than controls.

Conclusions
 Workers in primary coffee factories have higher prevalence for respiratory diseases and high dust exposure than controls.

Prevalence of chronic respiratory symptoms between coffee workers and controls

Chronic respiratory symptoms



Preparations

- Abstract
- Guidelines from the conference; size, fonts, rules
- Template
http://kapd.h.uib.no/profilmanual/02Maler/e_02bb1_PPT_Presentasjon.html
- Be concentrated upon the work
- Be an artist!!



Making the poster

- What is your message? Show it!
- Design
 - Layout, title, colors, text vs illustrations
 - Simple normal structure (introduction/purpose, methods, results, conclusion)
- Give highlights
- Self explanatory (readable in the right order)
- Check details
- Remember logos
- Few references



Practicalities: Printing the poster and transport

- Plan in time
- Printing cost; check your funding/supervisor help
- Printing on paper; laminated - on cloths
- Remember to prepare for transport (transport cylinder)
- Typical hand luggage



Presenting the poster

- Be at the poster during «poster sessions»
 - Sell it by a 10 second statement
 - Look good!
- Sometimes there are 1 min poster presentations
 - Be prepared
- Business card, copies of the poster
- Any visitor can be important – networking!

