

Research and activity for prevention of pesticide poisoning in Asia

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Introduction

In Japan, pesticides have been used at an increasingly fast pace after World War II, and pesticide poisoning has been a major issue for rural medicine. In other Asian countries, pesticide poisoning also seems to be a matter of great concern, not just to rural medicine but to occupational and environmental medicine as well. We reviewed the results of research and activity for the prevention of pesticide poisoning in Asia.

Materials and Methods

We reviewed the results of research and activity for the prevention of pesticide poisoning in Asia, referring to articles that have appeared in medical journals and also to reports by international organizations and the Asian governments. We took note of hospital-based surveys done by regional WHO headquarters in East and South Asia on pesticide poisoning cases, and following studies. Also, we noted concepts and activities of "community integrated pest management (CIPM)" explored by FAO in Asian countries, and following activities.

Results and discussion

Hospital-based surveys time and again pointed out pesticides at issue, such as highly toxic organophosphorous insecticides (methamidophos and monocrotophos), organo-chlorine insecticide endosulfan, and herbicide paraquat.

Activities for CIPM in Vietnam produced so fruitful results that farmers began to refrain from using hazardous pesticides of their own accord. And in Thailand, the rice producing procedure under the CIPM scheme served to change from chemical pesticides to biological ones, and saved the cost without a drop in production.

Conclusion

These researches and activities are expected to complementarily contribute to the prevention of pesticide poisoning. We resumed a hospital-based survey of pesticide poisoning in 1998, and worked out a pamphlet to prevent chemical burns with calcium polysulfide. In order to reduce pesticide poisoning in Japan and other Asian countries, we are interested in rendering cooperation in those researches and activities.