

Pesticide Exposure, Asthma and Diabetes in Uganda (PEXADU)

As part of the PHE III project (Pesticide use, Health and Environment), UNACOH has entered a collaboration with an international group of researchers from Denmark, Switzerland and Makerere University to study the possible effects of pesticide exposure on lung function and blood sugar levels among small-scale farmers in Uganda.

While it is well known that high-level exposure to pesticides can lead to acute intoxication, the chronic effects of lower-level exposure are more controversial. Previous studies have suggested associations between chronic pesticide exposure, asthma symptoms, lung function deterioration and risk of diabetes mellitus. Because of the potential public health importance of these issues, it is crucial to carry out new scientific studies to investigate the associations further.

UNACOH and its partners will carry out data collection among conventional and organic farmers from the central like Wakiso district in the third and fourth quarter of 2018. Examinations will include questionnaire-based interviews, objective assessment of lung function measurements, objective assessment of pesticide exposure levels, and measurements of blood sugar levels. Study results are expected to be ready for publication and dissemination by mid- to late 2019. They will be integrated in UNACOH's educational activities targeted towards small-scale farmers and other people exposed to pesticides with the ultimate goal of improving pesticide handling practices and the health of the population.

List of partners:

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