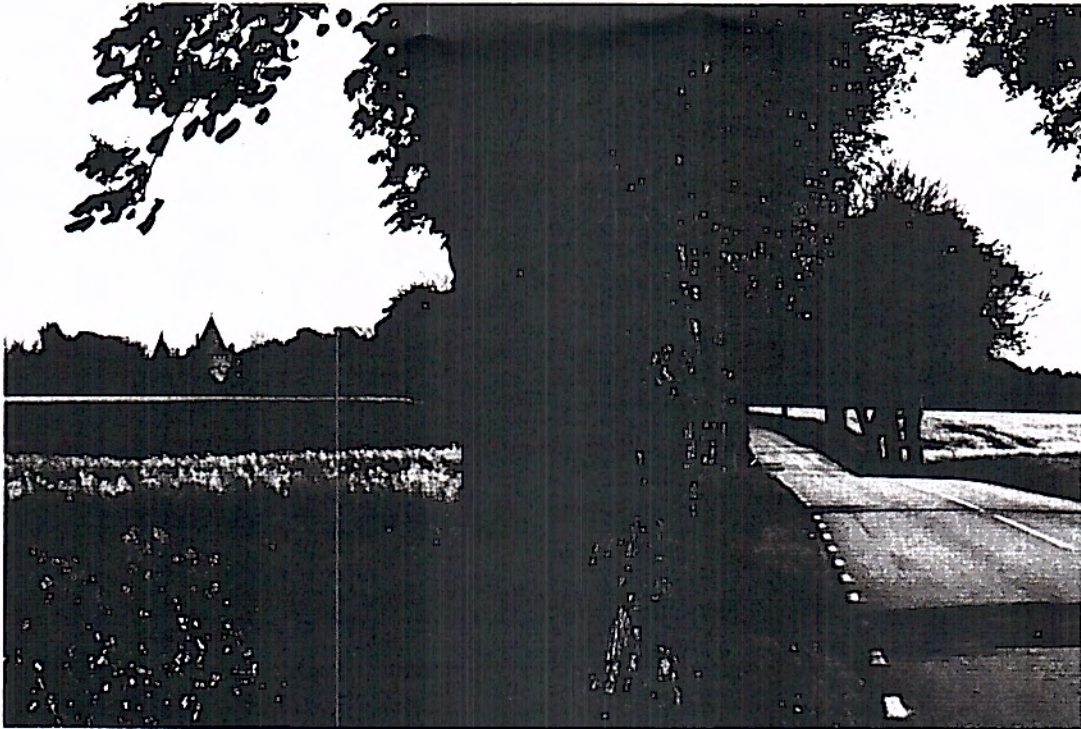




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Rapportserie



HEALTH AND SAFETY IN AGRICULTURE

Nordic and world-wide perspectives

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Tracing new occupational diseases in agriculture

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Continuous changes in work and working conditions give rise to new occupational health risks and new occupational diseases. The health consequences of new technologies, as well as the currently unknown effects of existing technologies, create reasons for concern among the working population, people professionally involved in work and health, policymakers and insurers. Detection of new occupational consequences of work on health and ways towards better OHS-vigilance is of utmost importance.

New occupational or work-related diseases can be detected and categorized in various ways: incident notifications of cases or clusters of possible occupational diseases that are assessed, weighted and translated into preventive actions, the 'Disease First approach' and by epidemiological studies. This OHS-vigilance approach is comparable with analyzing and learning from occupational accidents and pharmacovigilance methodology. Some examples of new occupational diseases in agriculture will be presented:

New syndromes caused by changes in work and working conditions: Progressive Inflammatory Neuropathy (PIN) in swine slaughterhouse workers, Allergy to biological pesticides

New risks from known forms of stress: Cardiovascular diseases caused by fine dust

New: old and re-emerging: Several zoonoses (Q-fever)

Consequences of parents' occupational exposure on their offspring: Delayed neuropsychological development, cancer in children, congenital abnormalities

Better awareness of possible health risks in farming can be achieved by incorporating occupational health in primary health care. The Basic Occupational Health structure (BOHS)-approach, enabling general practitioner's in rural areas to address specific workers health issues has shown promising results in different countries. The ICOH Scientific Committee in rural health will stimulate the accessibility of targeted information and knowledge (reviews, guidelines, protocols, learning materials, key documents) in connection with the Occupational Health[e]Foundation (www.healthefoundation.eu)

International knowledge exchange in this field is essential for a rapid response. A European consortium is already established: MODERNET: **M**onitoring trends in **O**ccupational **D**iseases and **N**ew and **E**merging **R**isks **N**et work and supported by the European Union within the COST Program. This will make the best possible use of nationally of existing expert groups, as well as promoting internationally the cooperation between the institutes in the various countries that are charged with the detection and evaluation of new health risks.

References: http://www.occupationaldiseases.nl/sites/default/files/documents/Theme-publication-on-signals-of-new-occupational-health-risks-130309_0.pdf