

## Risks and health hazards among rural families in Uttarakhand

**RAKHI SAXENA\* AND PROMILA SHARMA**  
G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology,  
Pantnagar, U.S. Nagar (Uttarakhand) India

### ABSTRACT

Women have long occupied a central place in agriculture production in developing countries, ensuring food security for their household and communities, but this role is not performed without adverse consequences for health. The major consequences include health risks owing particularly to women's use and exposure to hazardous agro-chemicals/ pesticides, farm-related accidents due to use of poorly designed agricultural implements which leads to physical risk and injuries. Indoor air pollution in developing world from biomass smoke is considered to be a significant source of public health hazard, particularly to the poor and vulnerable women and children. Another source of high risk of ill health in rural India is exposure to spray of pesticides in the fields. In India, 70% of the population is farmers and they are the target group to be affected by the hazards of pesticide applications. Descriptive cum experimental research design was chosen for the study. The study was carried out in district Udhampur. Purposive cum Random sampling design was used to select the study area. The unit of enquiry was family and the key informant was rural women. Total sample size was comprised of 240 women from rural areas of Uttarakhand state in India. Experimental data was recorded through various scientific instruments and descriptive data was collected through interview schedule, awareness scales, and observation sheet.

**Key Words :** Risk, Hazards, Interior environmental pollution, Pesticide spraying, Personal protective equipments

### INTRODUCTION

In developing countries, women and children face the greatest exposure to the harmful health effects of pollution. Women traditionally carry out most household chores and spend a considerable part of their time indoors. The pollution also affects young children under their mothers' care. In India, 70% of the population is farmers and they are the target group to be affected by the hazards of pesticide applications. Moreover, in developing countries the users are rather careless in handling pesticides. The high risk groups exposed to pesticides include the production workers, formulators, sprayers, mixers, loaders and agricultural farm workers. During manufacture and formulation, the possibility of hazards may be more because

**How to cite this Article:** Saxena, Rakhi and Sharma, Promila (2016). Risks and health hazards among rural families in Uttarakhand. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.*, 3 (1 & 2) : 25-29.