Informed Consent Form (Quantitative study)

Project title
Exposure to pesticides among farm workers in Saskatchewan

Study investigators
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Funding source
This study is funded by Health Canada using internal funds.

Invitation to participate
You are being invited to participate in a research study on exposure to pesticides among farm workers in Saskatchewan. Choosing whether or not to participate is entirely your choice. If you decide not to participate, there will be no negative impacts on your relationship with the researcher. The information provided in this form tells you about what is involved in the research, what you will be asked to do, and any potential risks or benefits. Please read this form carefully, take all the time you need, and ask any questions you may have.

Consent is an ongoing process. During the research study, we will tell you about any significant finding that could affect your willingness to continue to participate in this study.

Purpose of the research study
Some diseases such as cancers and neurological disorders have been associated with exposure to pesticides. This study will assess the chemicals farm workers are being exposed to, the impact of different measures to reduce exposure and the health consequences involved.

What you will be asked to do
If you decide to take part in this research, you will be asked to attend one visit at the local Health Canada Environmental Safety Laboratory. This visit will take approximately one (1) hour in total. The study procedures will include the following:

- We will measure your weight and body fat percentage using a scale and measuring tape. We will also take your blood pressure and your heart rate.
- We will then conduct an interview that will last about 30 minutes. This interview will include questions focusing on your overall health, medical history, exposure to pesticides, whether and how you protect yourself from exposure, and general lifestyle information.
- We will take a blood sample of 30 mL (about 6 teaspoons) by inserting a needle into a vein in your arm.

- We will also collect a urine sample.
- Your blood and urine samples will be used to assess your exposure to pesticides. The blood sample may also be used to conduct genetic tests that will allow us to assess the impact of this exposure on your genes and your susceptibility to develop certain diseases.

Who can take part in the research study?
We are recruiting 100 farm workers from across Saskatchewan with at least two years of experience working on a farm. Participants must be at least 18 years old. We hope to cover a wide range of ages and include an equal number of women and men.

Possible risks and benefits
Risks: Some sections of the questionnaire will focus on personal topics that may make you uncomfortable. You are free to refuse to answer any questions. The needle for the blood sample may cause some pain, however, the risks associated with this procedure are low. An infection and a hematoma (bruise) at the collection site are rare but possible. If you feel uncomfortable, you are free to withdraw at any time.

By agreeing to participate in this research you are not giving up or waiving any legal rights in the event that you are harmed during the research.

Benefits: There is no guarantee that you will benefit directly from participating in this study. However, your participation will advance knowledge about the health risks of exposure to pesticides among farm workers.

Compensation / reimbursement
You will receive a $50 gift card as compensation for your time and to help cover any travel expenses.

Privacy and confidentiality
We will assign each participant an ID code which means your name will not appear on any interview questions or biological samples. This ID code will be marked on a separate document from your name and contact information and will be kept in a password-protected encrypted electronic file. Only the researchers involved in the study will have access to this document. Your data will also be stored in an encrypted electronic file protected by a password. Your blood and urine samples will be kept in a locked freezer at Health Canada's main laboratory in Ottawa.

The personal information collected in this research project is handled in accordance with the *Privacy Act*. We only collect the information we need to carry out the research as authorized under section 4 of the *Department of Health Act*. In addition to protecting your personal information, the *Privacy Act* gives you the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information. For more information about these rights, or about our privacy practices, please contact the Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada's Privacy Management Division at 613-954-9165 or hc.privacy-vie.privee.sc@canada.ca. You also have

the right to file a complaint with the Privacy Commissioner of Canada if you think your personal information has been handled improperly.

Data and sample retention: We would like to keep your data and samples indefinitely for future research purposes. These data and samples will be used to measure things like exposure to additional chemicals, health markers and genetic testing. If you do not want us to keep your data or samples, please indicate so on the signature page below.

Reporting of results
Although the project outcomes will be determined by the research findings, possible research products will include: articles in scientific journals, a report for Health Canada's internal use, and a brief to health care providers. We will only report group results, therefore, you will not be identified in any way in our reports. If you wish to be informed of the results of the research, please indicate this on the signature page below.

Withdrawing from the study
Your participation is completely voluntary. You are under no obligation to participate and are free to withdraw at any time without consequence. Your decision to withdraw will not influence your relationship with the researcher in any way. If you chose to withdraw, we will use your ID code to locate your data and samples and they will be destroyed. If we have begun reporting results, we will not be able to remove your data or samples.

Conflicts of interest
None of the researchers have any conflicts of interest in this study.

Questions and contact information
If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

Dr. Jane Smith
613-555-1212
jane.smith@canada.ca

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact:

Health Canada-PHAC Research Ethics Board Secretariat
70 Colombine Driveway, Room 941C, PL: 0909C
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Telephone: 613-941-5199
Facsimile: 613-941-9093
Email: hc.reb-cer.sc@canada.ca

This research study was reviewed and approved by the Health Canada-Public Health Agency of Canada Research Ethics Board.

Signature Page

Project title: Exposure to pesticides among farm workers in Saskatchewan

Lead researcher: Dr. Jane Smith

Statement of consent

By signing this form, I agree that:

- The study has been explained to me
- All my questions have been answered
- Possible harm and discomforts and possible benefits (if any) of this study have been explained to me
- I have been told that my personal information will be kept confidential

In addition, I understand that:

- I have the right not to participate and the right to stop at any time
- I may refuse to participate without consequence
- I have a choice of not answering specific questions
- I am free now, and in the future, to ask any questions about the study
- No information that would identify me will be released or printed without asking me first
- I will receive a signed copy of this consent form

You can still participate in the research if you select no:

I consent to being contacted in the future for participation in research studies ☐Yes ☐No
I agree to have my samples and data retained for future research ☐Yes ☐No

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

Please provide an email address below if you would like to be sent a summary of the study results.

Email address: _____

Signature of the person obtaining consent

By signing this form, I attest that:

- I have explained the study to the prospective participant
- I answered all of their questions
- I provided a copy of this consent form to the participant
- The participant seemed to understand the consent form and agreed to participate

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

Canada