

**FACTORS INFLUENCING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES  
AMONG FARM WORKERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA FARM**

**BY**

**NAME OF STUDENT: G.R MTENGWA**

**STUDENT NUMBER: 11629709**

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**MAIN SUPERVISOR: PROF. H.A. AKINSOLA**

**CO-SUPERVISOR: DR. A.K. TUGLI**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Agriculture ranks among the most dangerous trades worldwide, with fatal and non-fatal injuries. Farm workers are exposed to hazards ranging from chemical, physical, ergonomic, biological to psychosocial hazards, which lead to disorders like psychiatric disorders and musculoskeletal disorders.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the study was to explore and explain factors which influence occupational health and safety practices among farm workers at the University of Venda farm.

**Methodology:** Data were collected from a total population of 11 farm workers at the University of Venda farm. In-depth interviews were conducted through the use of an unstructured interview guide. A voice recorder was utilised to capture all the information given by the participants. Observed actions and non-verbal communication were noted in writing. Data were analysed in narrative form.

**Results:** The findings of the research revealed that personal, environmental and operational factors influence occupational health and safety practices among farm workers. A lack of work ethics and non-compliance, negative attitudes and behaviour towards rules and regulation, heat stress experienced by farm workers and regular inspections and monitoring were among the factors found.

**Conclusion:** At the University of Venda farm, unavailability of protective equipment is not the major reason for not following regulations of health and safety in the work place. The working environment, personal and organisational factors influence knowledge, behaviour and application of health and safety measures.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, factors, farm worker, occupational health and safety practices