



ASAJA- AGROPREVEN organized a Seminar on Main Occupational Risks in Agriculture. "Rollover Accidents"

Last Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th of June a *Seminar on Main Occupational Risks in Agriculture* organized by AGROPREVEN was held in Casa Gurbindo, in Pamplona.

This seminar was organized to inform about the main agricultural labour risks, because it is considered essential to make known the existing hazards in primary sector and with a special focus in one of the leading causes of death, such as rollover accidents.

In the first day of the seminar Mr. Félix Bariain, President of UAGN (Agriculture Trade Union of Navarra) and AGROPREVEN, made a presentation of the Association and addressed the general problems of labour risks in agriculture.

After lunch break, the speakers Mr. Guillermo Dachary, Regional Director of Labour Inspectorate, and Mr. Sergio Bescós Rubio, labour inspector, addressed the performance of Labour Inspectorate in the national campaign with regard agricultural machinery and work equipment, focusing on the importance of coordination in prevention between companies working in the same workplace to avoid accidents and the surveillance of health to reduce occupational diseases.

Later, Mr. Mariano Gallo Fernández, of Labour and Public Health Institute of Navarra, presented the different preventive types of organization and management of joint prevention services in agricultural sector and concluded that SPMA (Joint Prevention Services) "are an indispensable tool to



address all preventive needs in the sector, because occupational accidents must be prevented through a proper administration of resources and in compliance with regulations". Mr. Carmelo Pérez de Larraya, of Labour and Public Health Institute of Navarra, revised the issues of agriculture sector from the point of view of accidents and potential solutions.

At the end of the day, there was a round table showing different points of view on data of tractor rollover accidents presented. The round table was moderated by Mr. Jose Luis Ponce de Leon Esteban, expert at the OECD, and the speakers were: Mr. Jesús Villar (FEAGRA-CCOO), Mr. Emilio Gonzalez Vicente (UGT), Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (ANSEMAT) and Mr. Juanjo Álvarez (ASAJA-CEOE). The conclusions of the round table were as follows:

- Nowadays there is a high accident rate in the agricultural sector, due to rollover risk.
- Using a tractor without rollover protection implies a permanent death risk due to crushing or suffocation in case of rollover.
- Rollover protection structures must be in operating conditions and in upright position, so that they can protect the operator.
- It was agreed the need to involve Government, Trade Unions and Agricultural organizations in a common front to address the high number of injured people and deaths in this sector through specific training, economic aid to update the machinery, and equipment retrofitting with effective and safe protection systems.



- It was also agreed to urge manufacturers to assume the consequences of accidents from overturned equipments (because there are proven solutions to minimize these accidents, like automatic rollover protection structures).

The second session, on the 18th of June, started with the analysis of current situation of European Regulations on new machinery by Mr. Efrén Sánchez Galindo, Legislative Officer at DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the European Commission. Later, there was a technical presentation of future projects at the Working Group for Tractor Codes in the OECD, made by Mr. Thierry Langle, member and chair of the mentioned working group.

After a short break, there was a presentation of different types of ROPS made by Mr. Eugenio Cavallo of IMAMOTER (Institute for Agricultural and Earth-Moving Machinery) and Mr. Francisco Javier Perez de Larraya of AIR-ROPS. Besides, Mr. Isidro J. Ibarra Berrocal, of Polytechnic University of Cartagena (Murcia) along with Mr. Tomás Ballesteros and Mr. Ignacio Arana of Public University of Navarra, talked about automatic ROPS. These presentations ended with a demonstration of the Air-Rops system. Finally, there was a question and answer session moderated by Mr. Tomas Ballesteros, where all speakers of the day participated.



As final conclusions of the Seminar we can highlight the following:

- In order to reduce or avoid the high number of deaths caused by rollover accidents with tractors not equipped with protective structures, it would be necessary to make compulsory the retrofitting of all tractors with rollover protective structures, as it already happens in France, Italy, Germany, whatever the age of the tractor is and whatever the situation of the operator is (employed, self-employed, and other users).
- Also, foldable ROPS have proved to be dangerous systems because their activation depends on operator. Consequently these should be replaced or supplemented with automatic protection systems.
- Current regulations don't include the installation of rollover protective structures in tractors under 600 Kg. Given the proven danger of these equipments and the existence in the market of automatic protective structures, it is requested to study these systems to protect the mentioned equipments.
- In order to speed up the protection of unprotected equipment, it would also be desirable that the sector had specific technical and financial support to be able to fit these mentioned automatic protective structures in a established term. It is essential and necessary the support of National Institutions (Ministries of Agriculture and Industry) to facilitate and accelerate standardization of automatic systems, not only in National Technical Committees (CTN) but also in international committees (OECD and ISO). The Heads of these Ministries are requested to support the development of standardization for these systems.



- All these conclusions may be achieved with an agreement between all Ministries involved in the problem: Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Industry.
- On the other hand, there is a need to develop a regulation to apply the Law on Prevention of Labour Risks in the agriculture sector.
- It would also be desirable that Agropreven, Trade Unions and workers ask the Ministry of Industry about the possibility of installing automatic protection systems in tractors already homologated with standard ROPS, as an implement or additional protective structure without being affected the homologation.