**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILIZATION OF PESTICIDES AND SAFTEY PRACTICES OF THE FLORICULTURE INDUSTRIES: THE CASE OF THREE FLORICULTURE FARMS AT SEBETA TOWN, OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA.**

Submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the M.A in Rural Development to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any course of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILIZATION OF PESTICIDES AND SAFTEY PRACTICES OF THE FLORICULTURE INDUSTRIES: THE CASE OF THREE FLORICULTURE FARMS AT SEBETA TOWN, OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA.**

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**Acronyms**

ASP.................................African Stockpile Program

CoC..................................Code of Conduct

CSR .................................Corporate Social Responsibility

EHPEA..............................Ethiopian Horticultural Producers and Exporters Association

EUREP...............................European Retail Organization

FAO...................................Food and Agriculture Organization

GAP ..................................Good Agricultural Practice

ILO ....................................International Labor Organization

IPM......................................Integrated Pest Management

MoA ...................................Ministry of Agriculture

MPS.....................................Milieu Project Sierteelt

SQ .......................................Socially Qualified

MOLSA................................Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

MRLs.....................................Minimum Residue Levels

PCBs…………………… polychlorinated biphenyls

PIC ……………………Prior Informed Consent

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POPs...................................Persistent Organic Pollutants

PPD ...................................Personal Protective Device

PPE ...................................Personal Protective Equipment

UNEP.................................United Nations Environmental Program

USEPA...............................United States Environmental Protection Authority

WHO ................................World Health Organization Program

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**ABSTRACT**

This thesis attempts to explore in describing the safe working conditions exercised in pesticide handling, mixing, spraying and disposal mechanisms by the three floriculture farm workers located in Oromia region, Sebeta town administration. The study used a cross sectional descriptive design and primary data collection was made from 28 respondents between August 04-11, 2011 from Tal flowers Plc. Saron Rose Agro farm Plc. and Ethio-Passion Agro Plc. Interview schedule and observation were used as major data collection tools from the respondents and semi-structured questionnaires were also prepared to collect relevant information from different stakeholders including the farm managers of the three farms.

Different safe working practice indicators that ought to minimize the exposure of risk factors to pesticide danger in areas of: the proper use of personal protective equipment’s, the availability of washing facilities, the re-entry interval to green house, working hour to provide adequate period of rest, knowledge of workers on pesticide management and handling, provision of trainings on pesticide management, medical health care and checkup provision to the workers, chemical waste disposal mechanisms were all descriptively analyzed and besides the self-reported health symptoms of the workers were also described.

The overall study result indicates, though there were efforts to minimize the exposure risk of workers from chemicals through the provision of different safe working conditions, there has to be a way and mechanism by way of controlling the different hazard exposure risk in particular the re-entry time interval management, medical health provision, provision of quality and standardized PPE and awareness raising of the workers under risk through different trainings.

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