

Cleaning seeds in a botanic garden – tasks and contribution of occupational medicine

Tasks:

Seeds of numerous plants (several thousand different ones) have to be gained out of the dry plant for scientific reasons and for the reproduction of the plant.

Plants have to be treated mechanically by hand on a work-bench with suction; bigger parts of the plant fall down, smaller ones and organic dust are being aspirated

Occupational exposures:

- organic dust
- skin hazard to the hands (irritation by plant-material; wearing of gloves)
- musculo-skeletal hazards by constrained posture #
- repetitive manual work
- noise

Protective equipment:

- dust mask
- gloves
- dust protecting clothes

Health demands:

No relevant disorder of

- cardiovascular system
- pulmonary system

Medical preventive testing:

- lung function
- sight
- clinical examination

Occupational medical expertise:

- Understand task, exposure and demands
- Medical advice to individuals and groups of employees on
 - work related risks to health
 - health prevention and maintaining workability
- Advice to employer on
 - improving conditions to reduce workplace related risks and environmental risks