

International Association of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health

Andrew Wojtyla  
General Secretary

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Dr Chizuru Nishida  
Department of Nutrition for Health and Development

Dear Dr. Nishida,

International Association of Agricultural Health and Rural Medicine, estimates the draft report called “Diet, nutrition and prevention of chronic diseases”, which was prepared by Joint WHO/FAO experts as very important one. Those points presented in the report are in conformity to our Declaration of Pec, which was taken at the XIVth Congress of IAAMRH-May 25-27, 2000. According to that document the development of the health of the rural populations is one of the most important and stressed attention and care-deserving questions. This arises from the fact that the number of the village population according to the WHO report of 1999 is over 2.5 billion and this will multiply in the following decades.

We would like to pay your attention on the fact that problems of the people living in the rural areas are specific, not only in the high development countries but also in the countries not development. For example:

- 1) In the Post-Communist countries dynamics of increasing the Chronic Diseases is higher in the rural areas than in the cities, however nowadays we can see that total index in the cities is higher than in the few years ago.
- 2) In the High developed countries like USA and Western Europe, the living conditions of the rural residents strays from the living conditions in the cities. Mostly it's because of the low range of the education and

environment's problems. The obesity problems are more popular than in the other areas.

- 3) In the Countries of the "Third World" most part of the population is illiterate and they have problem with getting well Healthcare and provision of fresh, clean water. There are many cases of malnutrition and infectious diseases.

More than 1.3 billion people, who work in agriculture, pursue hazardous jobs. The registered number of the occupational death cases is over 170.000. The number of deaths caused by accidents, pesticides and other poisoning is extremely high. The rate of occupational mortality and morbidity is substantially underestimated due to the poor and inadequate notation and registration systems. Appropriate occupational health care is provided only for approximately 5-10% of the agricultural workers in the developing and for 20% in the developed countries.

It appears as a particularly serious problem that there is no provision of safe fresh water for more than 800 million rural residents. Hygienic collection and removal of waste and garbage is not solved for the 52% of the village communities

The fact that the information about health and health promoting life styles is insufficient, deserves exceptional attention. While the liquidation of conventional and re-appearing infectious diseases is in progress, the number of chronic non-infectious diseases, mainly caused by corresponding life styles, is steadily increasing. Possibilities of successful prevention and health promotion are almost missing. Increasing of the agricultural production and retaining the safety of the food chain are particularly important in the field of environmental protection.

According to this it is necessary to take special care and treat seriously, and in a specific way problems of the people who live in rural areas.

Our organization, which has as members health professionals, physicians, nurses, etc. from all over the world is available for The World Health Organization to put in life the points from The Draft Report.

Thank You very much for giving us an opportunity to be involved in this project.

Your sincerely

Andrew Wojtyla

IAAMRH General Secretary

