

## CHAPTER 6

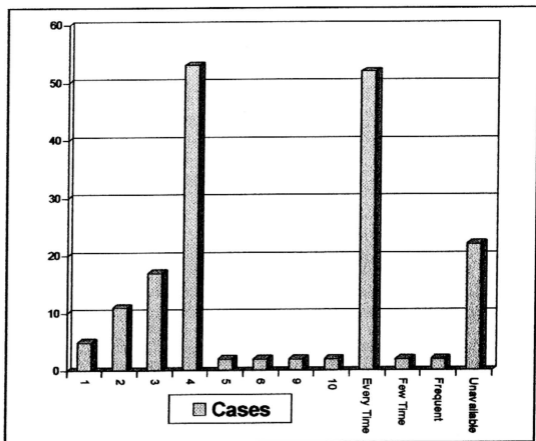
### RESULTS: OCCURRENCE OF DERMATITIS AMONGST THE PADDY FIELDS FARMERS

#### 6.1 Recurrence of infections

Among the infected farmers 84.3 per cent of the farmers were infected for more than two times with the majority of the farmers stating that they have been infected at least 4 times (30.4 per cent), whereas 30.2 per cent of the paddy field farmers stated that they were infected every time they went to the paddy field to work. About 12.8% of the farmers did not respond to this question on re-infection.. Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 show the number of cases and the number of times the farmers were infected.

**Table 6.1: Number of Times Being Infected (Occurrence of Re-infection) and Number of Infected Cases**

<b>Times Infected</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>%</b>
1	5	2.9
2	11	6.4
3	17	9.9
4	53	30.8
5	2	1.2
6	2	1.2
9	2	1.2
10	2	1.2
Every time went to field	52	30.2
Few time	2	1.2
Frequent	2	1.2
Unavailable	22	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 6.1: Number of Times Being Infected (Occurrence of Re-infection) and Number of Infected Cases**

### 6.2 Number of cases of infections for 1991-1995

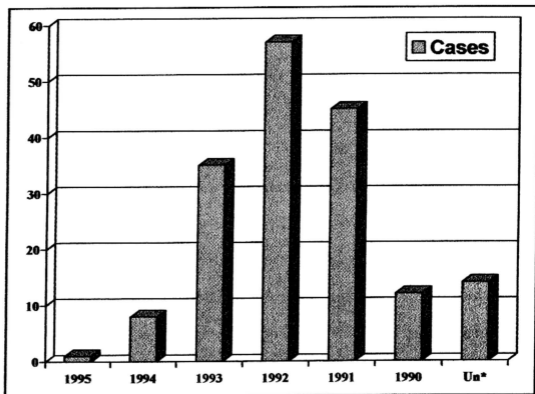
84.9 per cent of the infected cases happened within the last four years, 91.9 within the last five years and within the last one year only nine cases (5.8 per cent) of infection occurred. The number of infected cases for each year from 1991-1995 are shown in Table 6.2 and Figure 6.2.

### 6.3 Body Parts Infected

Among the infected farmers, 94.8 per cent of the cases that occurred were infections on both the legs and the hands with only one case (0.6 per cent) infecting the legs only and four cases (2.3 per cent) infecting the whole body whereas 2.3 per cent (four cases) data were unavailable.

**Table 6.2: The Number of Infected Cases for the study period (1990-1995).**

Year	Number of Infected Cases	%
First half of 1995	1	0.6
1994	8	4.7
1993	35	20.4
1993	57	33.1
1991	45	26.2
1990	12	7.0
Unavailable	14	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 6.2: The Number of Infected Cases for the study period (1990-1995)**

[Un\* = Unavailable]

#### **6.4 Occurrence of itch**

In about 95.0 per cent of the infected cases (165 cases), occurrence of the itch happened when they came out of the wet paddy field and about 65.7 per cent (113 cases) complained of a terrible itch whereas 23.8 per cent (41 cases) responded that they had only a slight itch. As for the time of itch 79.1 per cent (163 cases) complained that the itch occurred day and night once they got infected, 12.8 per cent (22 cases) responded that they only have the itch during the night and four cases (2.3 per cent) complained that the itch only occurred during the day. Among the infected farmers 91.9 per cent of the cases (158 cases) had a repeat itch occurring and 80.8 per cent (139 cases) complained that the repeat itch occurred only when they go back to work in the wet paddy field.

#### **6.5 Occurrences of Rashes and Scars**

Most of the infected respondents noted that the red dots turn to rashes in 15 days or less (84.8 per cent). However no rashes developed in two cases. The rashes developed into scars and in most cases (85.5 per cent) these scars disappeared within 30 days of infection and there was only one case of permanent scarring reported. Table 6.3 shows the numbers of days by which the red dots turn to rashes whereas Table 6.4 shows the number of days taken for the scars to disappear.

**Table 6.3: The Number of Days the Red Dots Turns to Rashes**

Number of days	Number of Cases	%
1	10	5.8
2	4	2.3
3	7	4.1
4	5	2.9
6	2	1.2
7 (one week)	54	31.4
8	6	3.5
9	1	0.6
13	1	0.6
14 (two weeks)	4	2.3
15 (half a month)	43	25.0
20	1	0.6
30 (one month)	8	4.7
No Rashes Occurs	2	1.2
Unavailable	15	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 6.4: The Number of Days Taken for the Scar to Disappear**

Number of Days	Number of Cases	%
7 (one week)	7	4.1
10	4	2.3
14 (two weeks)	9	5.2
15 (half a month)	9	5.2
18	2	1.2
20	37	21.5
21	2	1.2
25	5	2.9
30 (one month)	72	41.9
35	6	3.5
40	3	1.7
50	1	0.6
Scar not lost	1	0.6
Unavailable	14	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6.6 Treatment

83.7 per cent (144 cases) of the infected cases were treated. Out of these 144 cases, 87.5 per cent (126 cases) were treated in government clinics. 6.9 per cent (10 cases) used traditional remedies, while 2.8 per cent (four cases) went for both government and private clinics for treatment, three cases (2.1 per cent) sought treatment at private clinics and for one case data is unavailable.

The type of medicine received were swab types (18.8 per cent or 27 cases) for application on the rashes and oral medication (one case or 0.7 per cent), while 72.9 per cent received both oral medication and swabs. There was one case where swabs and injection were given, while in three cases all the three methods of medication were received. For seven cases data were unavailable.