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ENASP Presidents Empl and Spahn: Climate change leads to more accidents at work

Climate change threatens agriculture and is already putting additional pressure on people working in agriculture: higher temperatures lead to greater physical strain and stress.

This increases the risk of occupational accidents, especially in the summer months. Work in forestry is particularly affected. "We are registering an increasing number of serious accidents in Europe, especially in forestry. The reason for this is the activities caused by forest dieback, which often have to be carried out under time pressure. Despite intensive prevention work by the agricultural social insurance institutions, this bad trend could not be stopped," says Arnd Spahn, Vice-President of the European Network of Agricultural Social Protection Systems (ENASP), who is also Chairman of the Board of the German Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau (SVLFG). "The intensifying debate on climate change should not lead to one-sided blame, but to good sustainable solutions," demands ENASP President Martin Empl. The excessively high number of industrial accidents in European agriculture and forestry is only the statistically recorded sign of a rising stress situation experienced by many farmers and foresters," Empl said. We urgently want reliable framework conditions and broad social acceptance. Farmers and foresters have always been used to coping with changing weather conditions and certain political changes of direction. In the meantime, however, both threatened to get out of hand. Empl: "The agricultural social security systems see considerable health problems coming to people, which now require joint action. Politicians and the profession must also take these effects into account".

ENASP

European Network of Agricultural Social Protection Systems

Mail: enaspsecretariat@svlfg.de
Internet: www.enasp.eu

Contact: Dr. Erich Koch
Phone: +49 561-785 12142