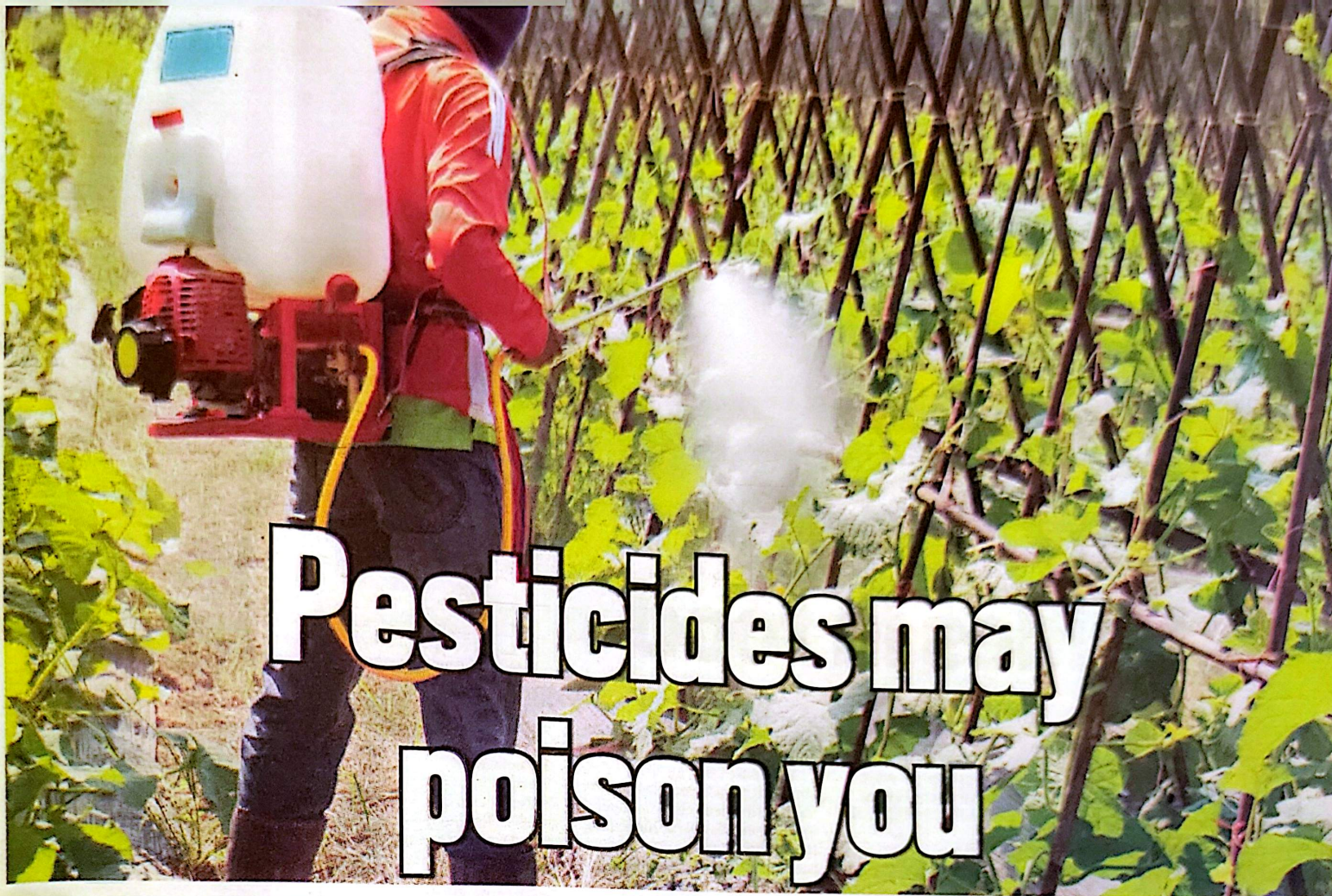




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There are persistent reports that some of the foodstuffs we eat are unsafe. Such information has left many worried and a number of questions unanswered. Ideally, when farmers grow crops, they spray them with pesticides to control insects, flies, weeds and microorganisms.

Julius Peter Ahangaana, an agronomist and acting farm manager at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute, Kabanyolo, says chemicals have both positive and negative effects on crops.

On a positive note, the chemicals help eradicate pests and diseases in plants while on a negative side, the spray residues left on the crops can cause a number of health complications to humans.

Toxication process

Ahangaana says the effects depend on how a particular chemical was used during the farming stage.

"For instance, if a farmer sprayed a high concentration of a particular chemical on a crop than recommended, the effects could be severe after consumption," he says.

He adds that when spraying is done when the crops have matured, the biodegrading

(the breaking down) process of the chemical becomes difficult.

"In such a situation, the crop has already matured and will no longer be able to break down sprayed chemicals. Such crops will, therefore, lead to health complications after ingestion," he says.

CONTINUED ON PG 24

Fitness | Good hygiene habits at the gym P30