



Hazardous Child Labour Activities in the Cocoa Sector

Awareness Raising Posters for Broader Engagement



Endorsed by the National Steering Committee on Child labour (NSCCL)
under the Child Labour Unit
of Ghana's Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations



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Hazardous work is the sum of activities which, because of their nature or the conditions under which they are carried out, are likely to affect the child's health, safety or morals.

In Ghana, hazardous activities are listed in the Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for the Cocoa Sector (2008).

The hazardous activities covered are based on description of risks, consequences of activity and some good practices.



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production

Clearing of Forest and Felling Trees

Description of Risk



Children involved in clearing the forest and felling trees are likely to:

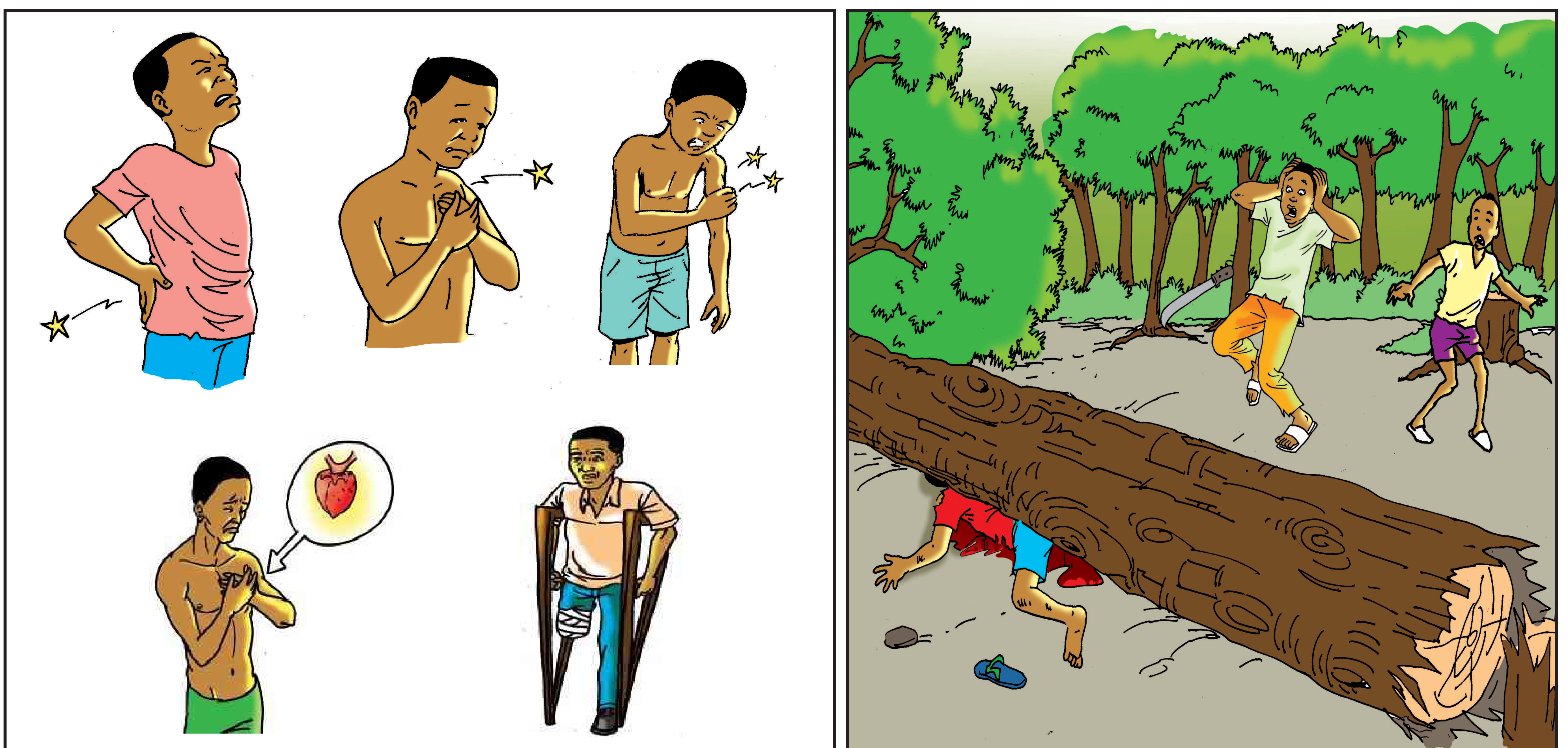
- **Strain muscles due to the repetitive use of cutting tools**
- **Experience muscle ache if they work for long periods of time without a break**
- **Have trees falling on them**
- **Get injured from the process (use of sharp tools, etc.)**



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Clearing of Forest and Felling Trees

Consequences of Risk Exposure



Consequences of clearing the forest/felling trees on health could be:

- **Muscles pain in some parts of the body, especially the hand, arm, wrist, fingers, shoulders and back**
- **Inability to use the affected muscle**
- **Amputations**
- **Temporary or permanent disability**
- **Heart problems due to intensive physical work**
- **Death**

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Clearing of Forest and Felling Trees

Good Practices



- **Always wear closed footwear, long-sleeved shirt, trousers and cap**
- **Use appropriate tools and equipment**
- **Children below 15 years are prohibited from the use of sharp tools**
- **Only children aged at least 15 years can use sharp tool but only if they use an age appropriate cutlass (Sua-ado or small cutlass) for weeding**
- **Incorporate at least 10 minutes break hourly for a working child and he/she should not work for more than 3 hours/day. When you perform a task repeatedly, alternate it with a non-routine task**
- **Always take an injured person to the nearest health center**



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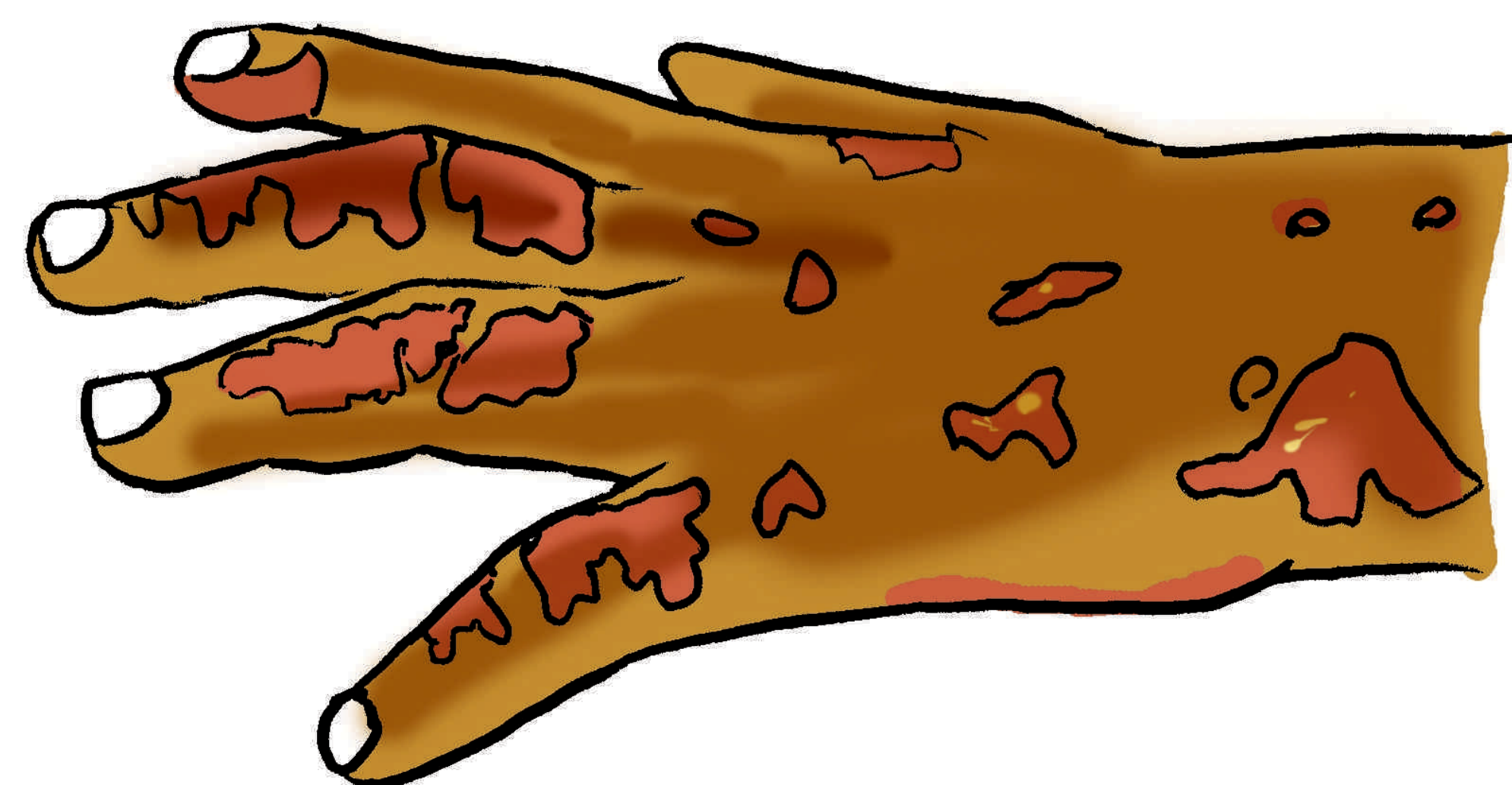
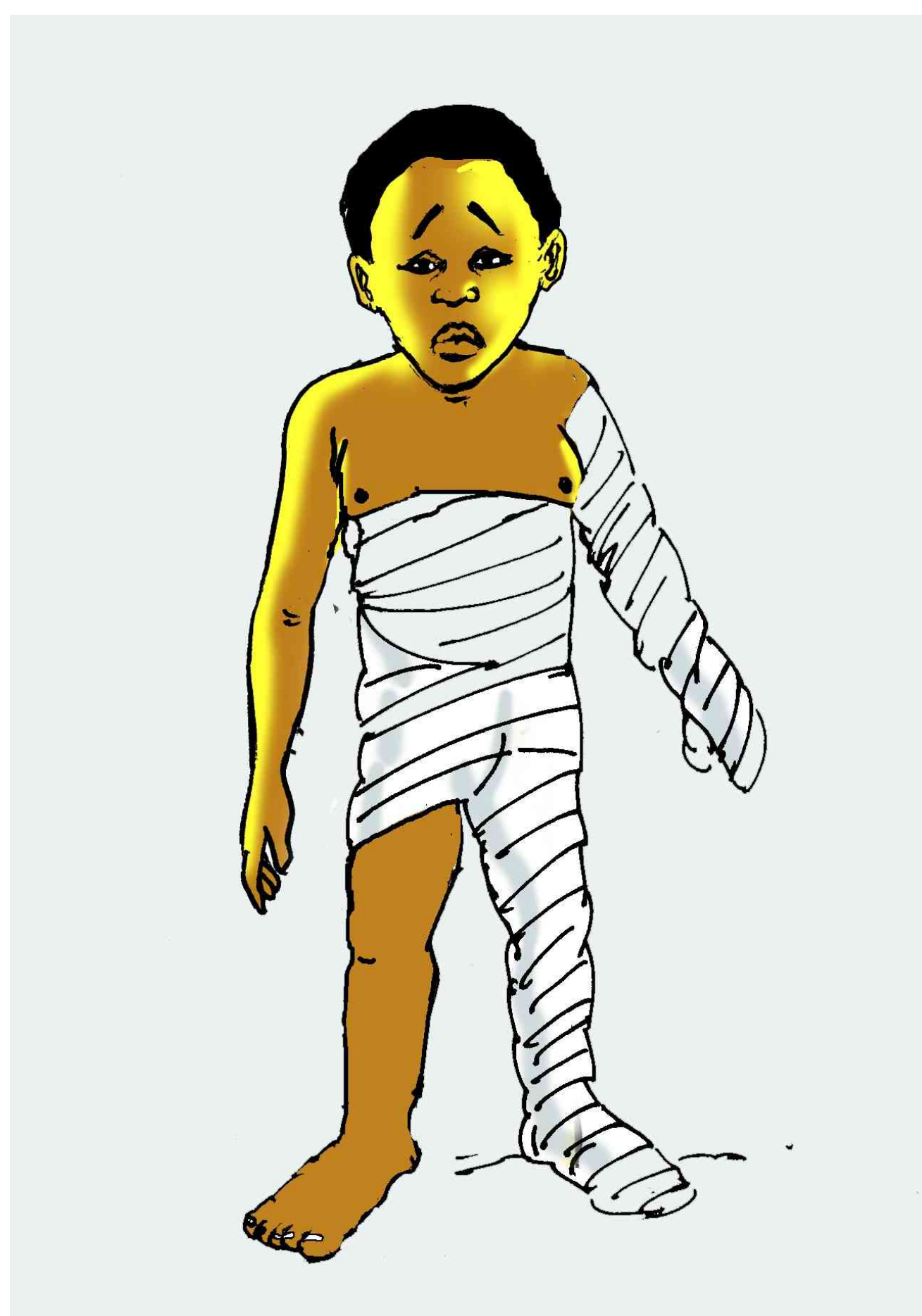
Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production

Bush Burning

Consequences of Exposure to Risks



Unguided bush burning can cause damage to humans and to the environment.



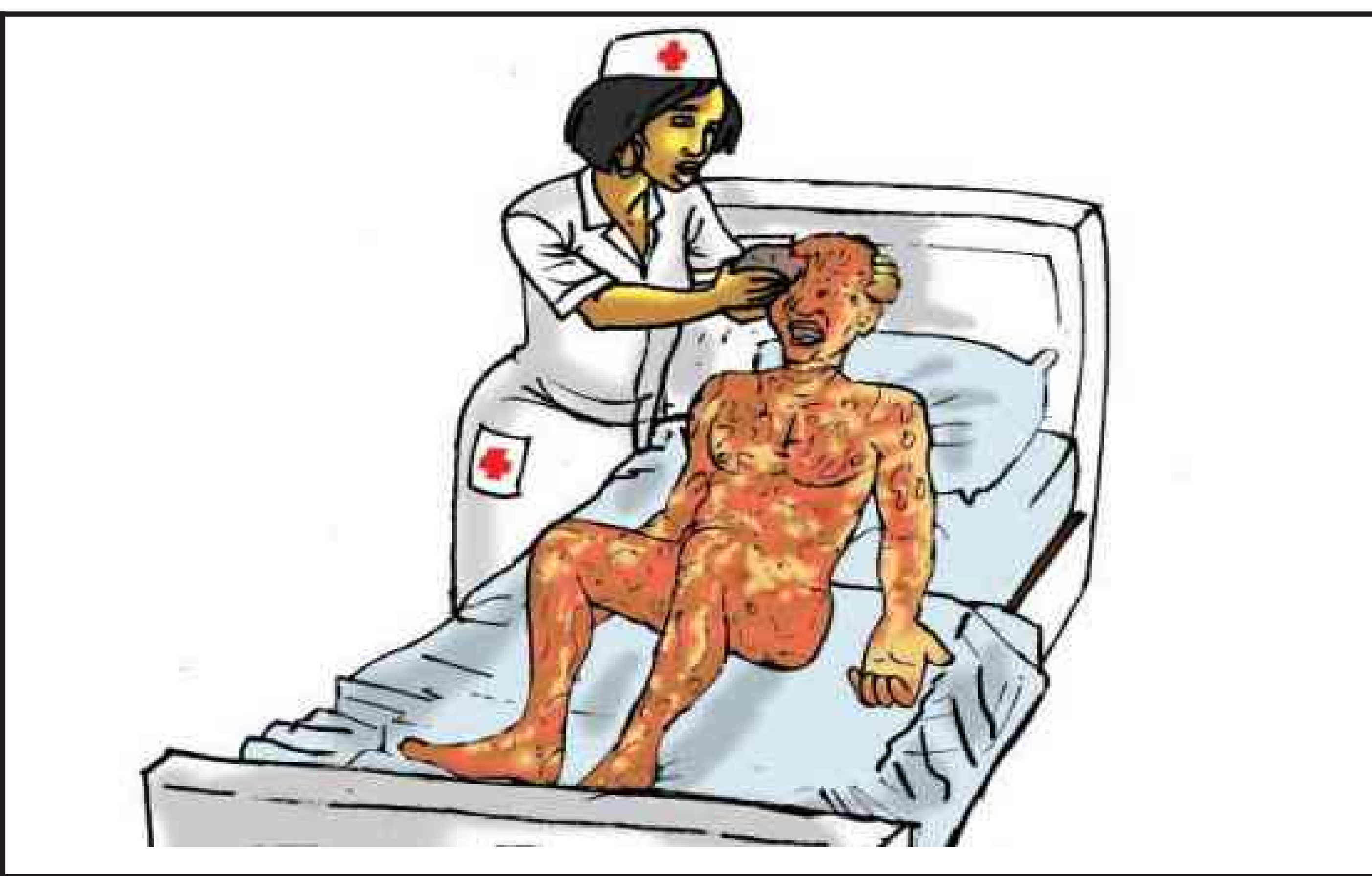


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Bush Burning

Good Bush Burning Practices

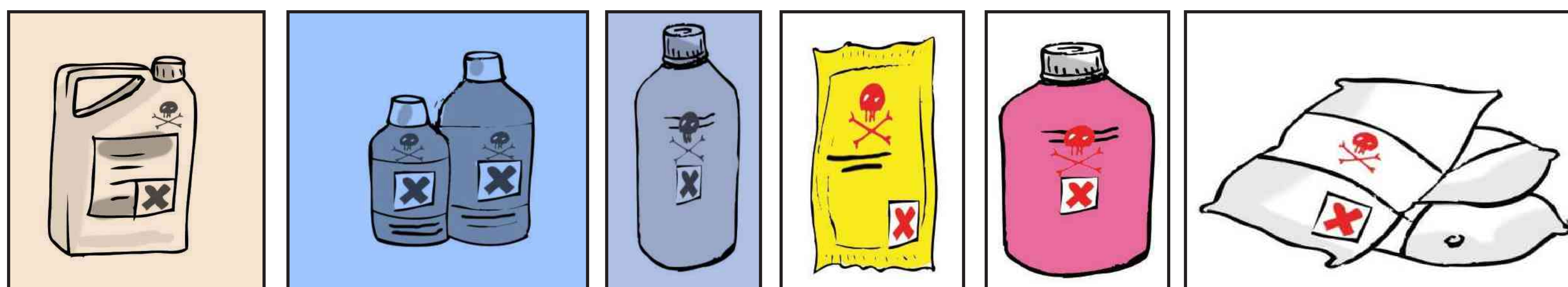


- **Always keep calm when a fire starts**
- **Never engage children in bush burning**
- **Pour running water on affected part of the body and send victims to the hospital**
- **Arrange tilled mounds (fire wall) around the area to be burnt**

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production

Exposure to Agro-chemicals

Description of Risk



Selling



Transporting



Mixing



Spraying

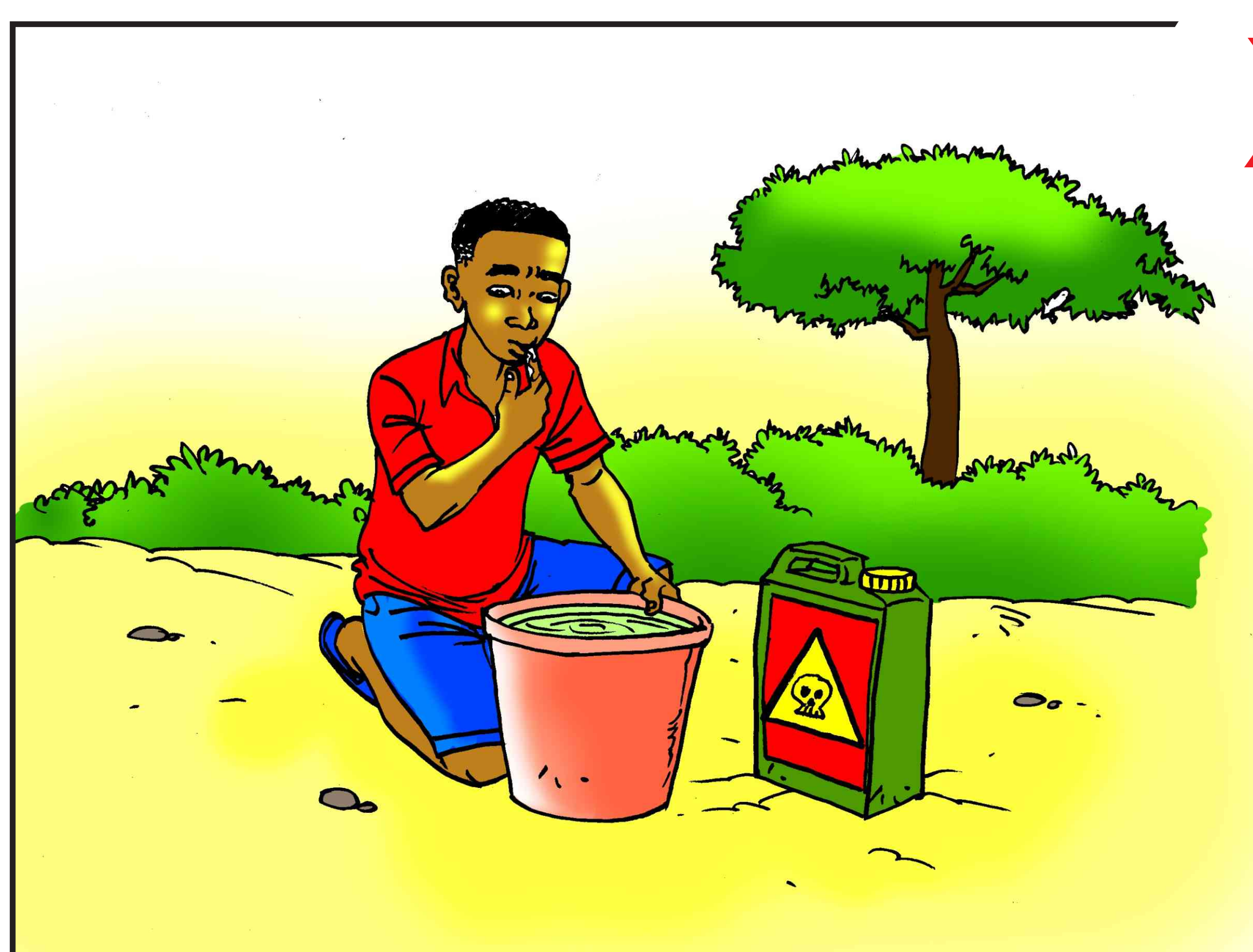
- **Farmers come into direct contact with agro-chemicals when they mix or spray them without using the required personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- **Transporting, mixing and applying agro-chemicals is very risky for children**
- **Children fetching water for sprayers might be exposed to agro-chemicals**
- **Agro chemicals are hazardous to human health if they enter or make contact with the body**



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Exposure to Agro-chemicals

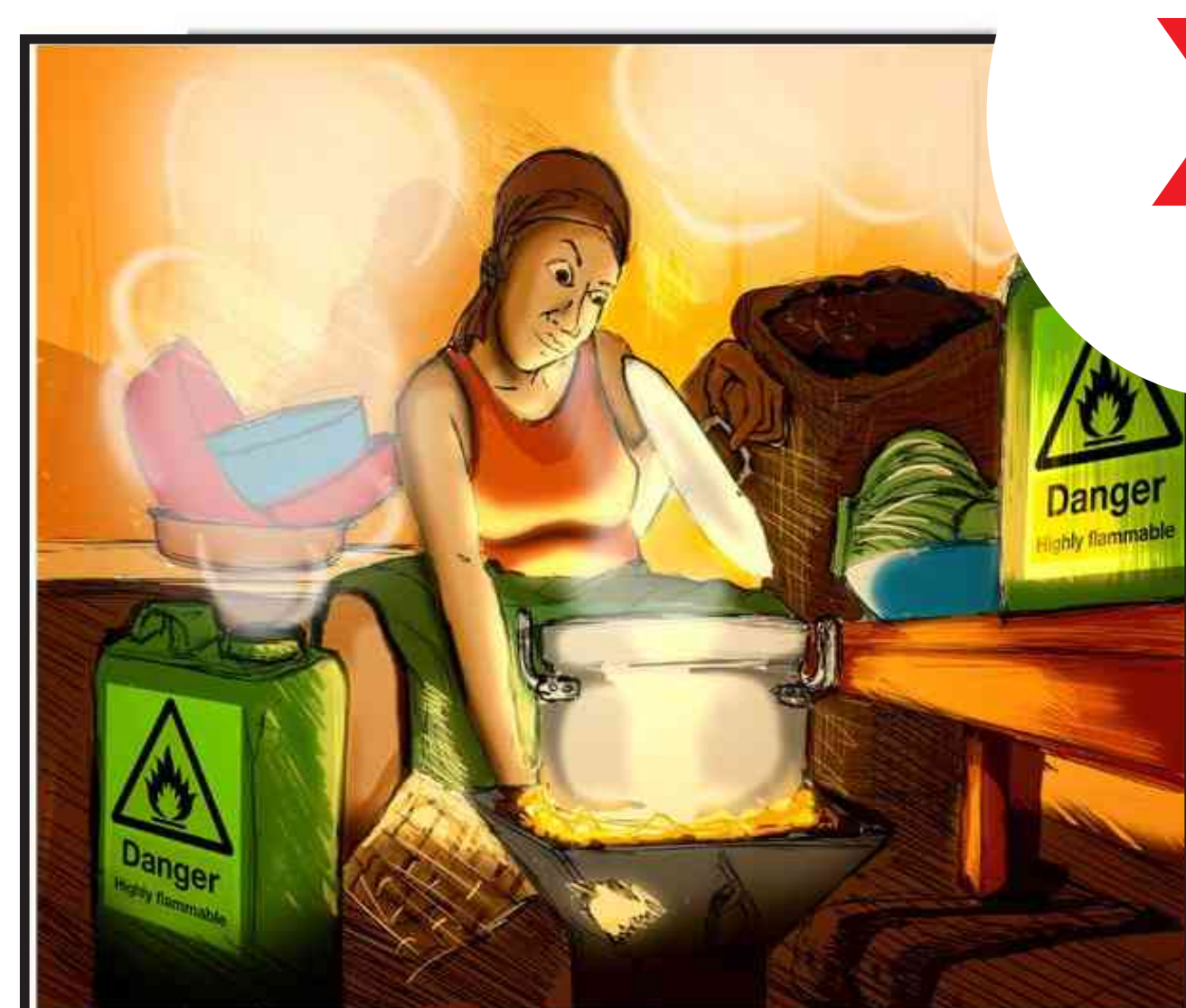
Description of Risks



Tasting



Smelling



Food storage



Agro-chemical storage



Re-use of agro-chemical containers

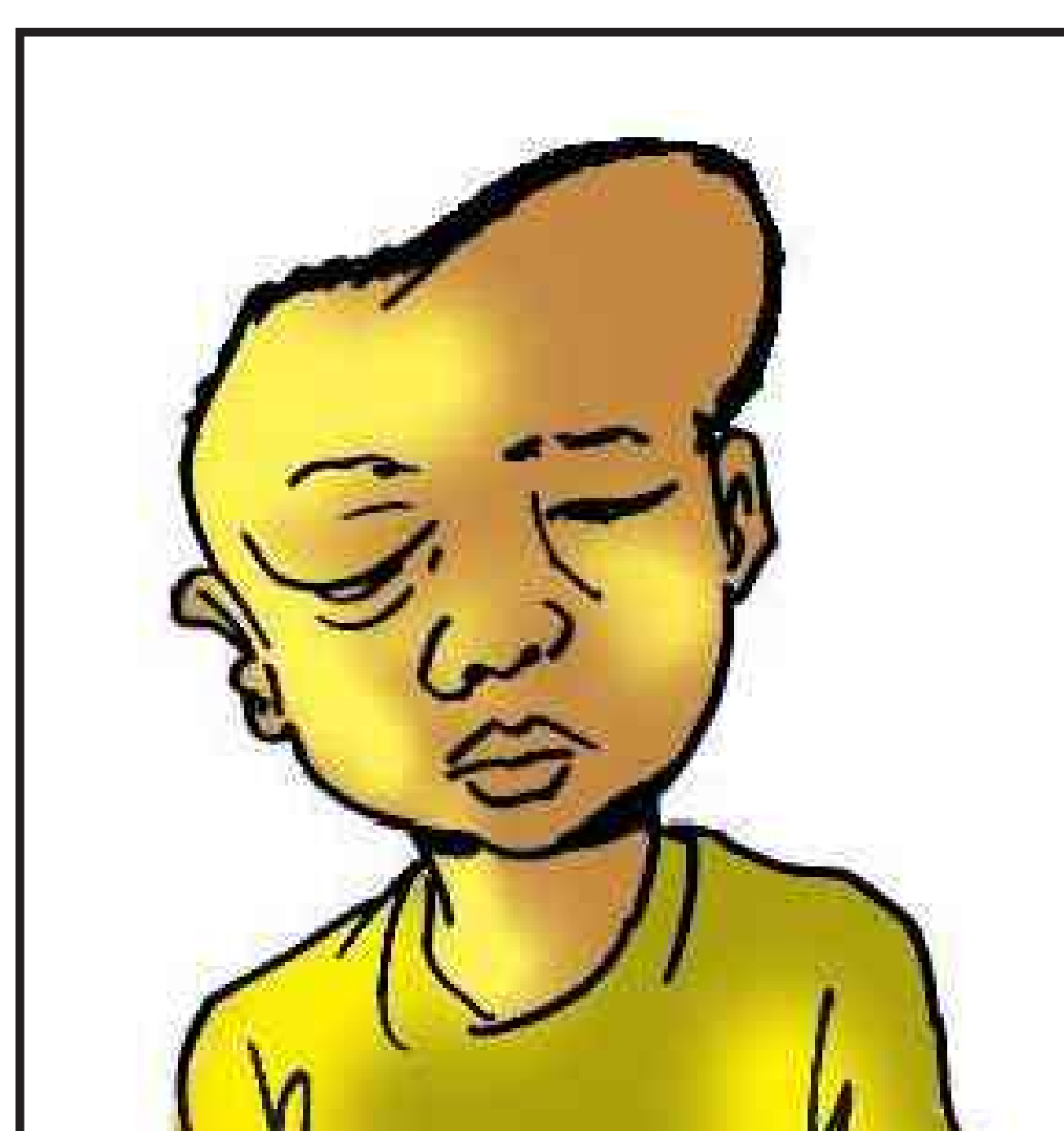
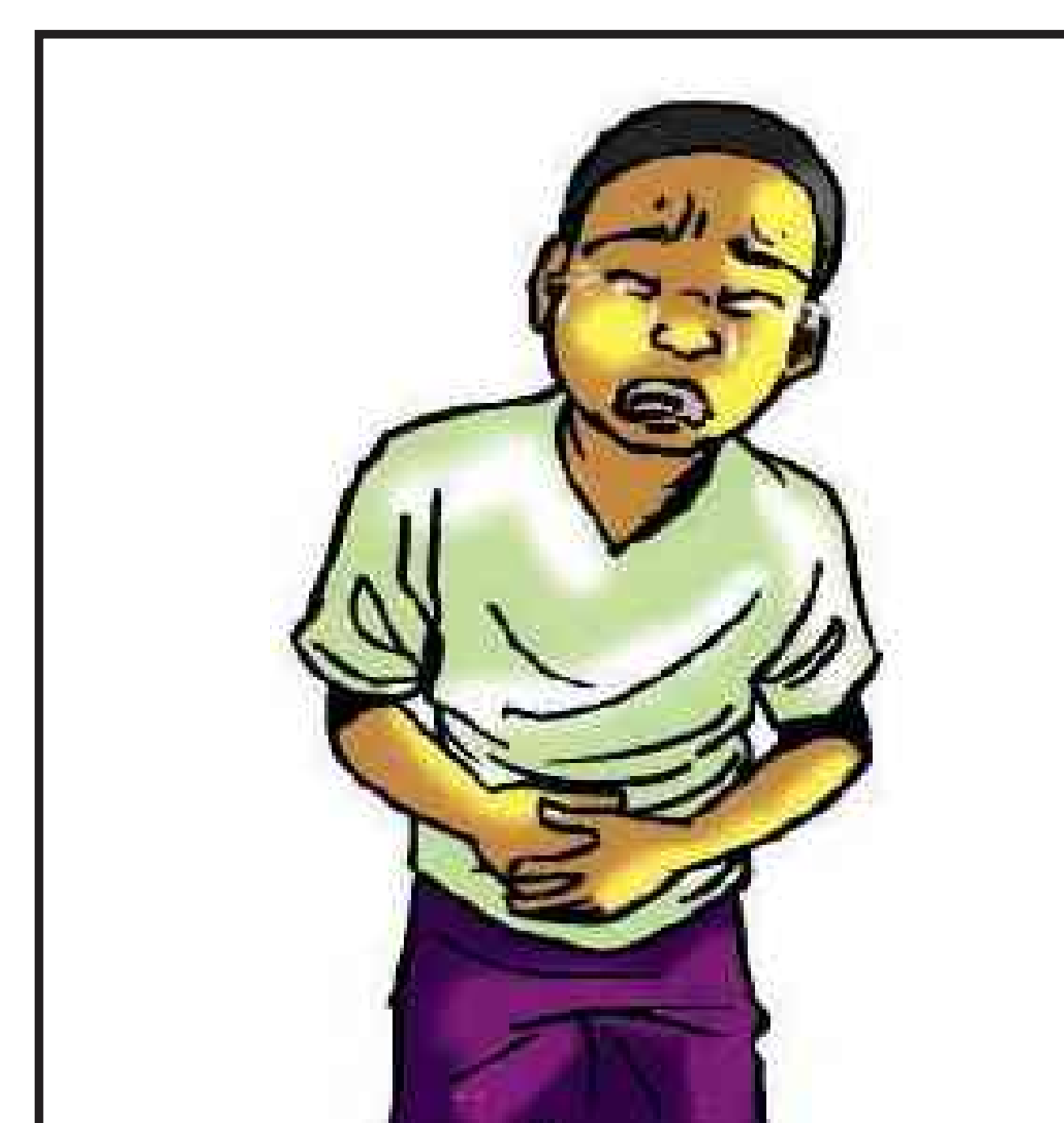
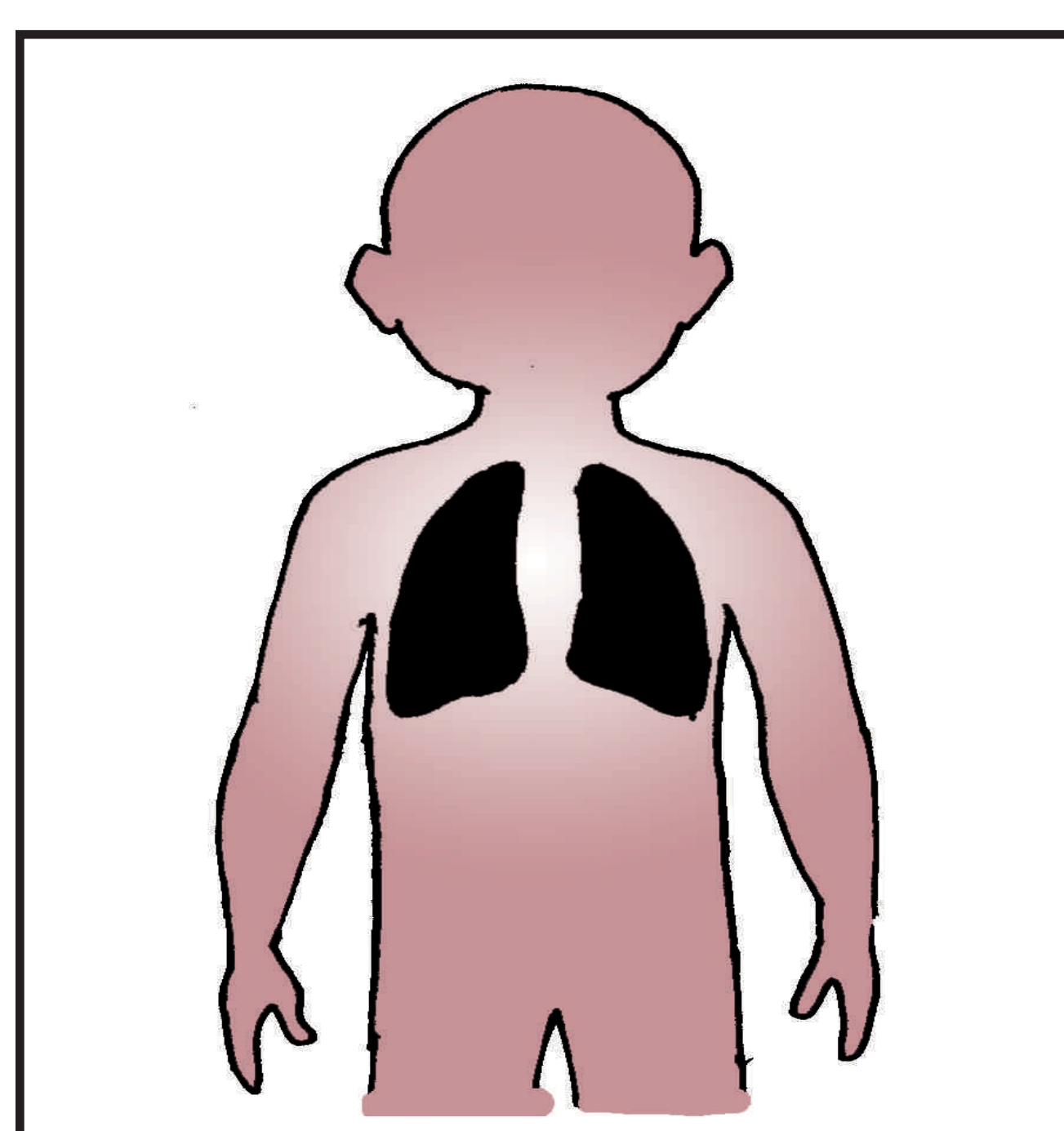
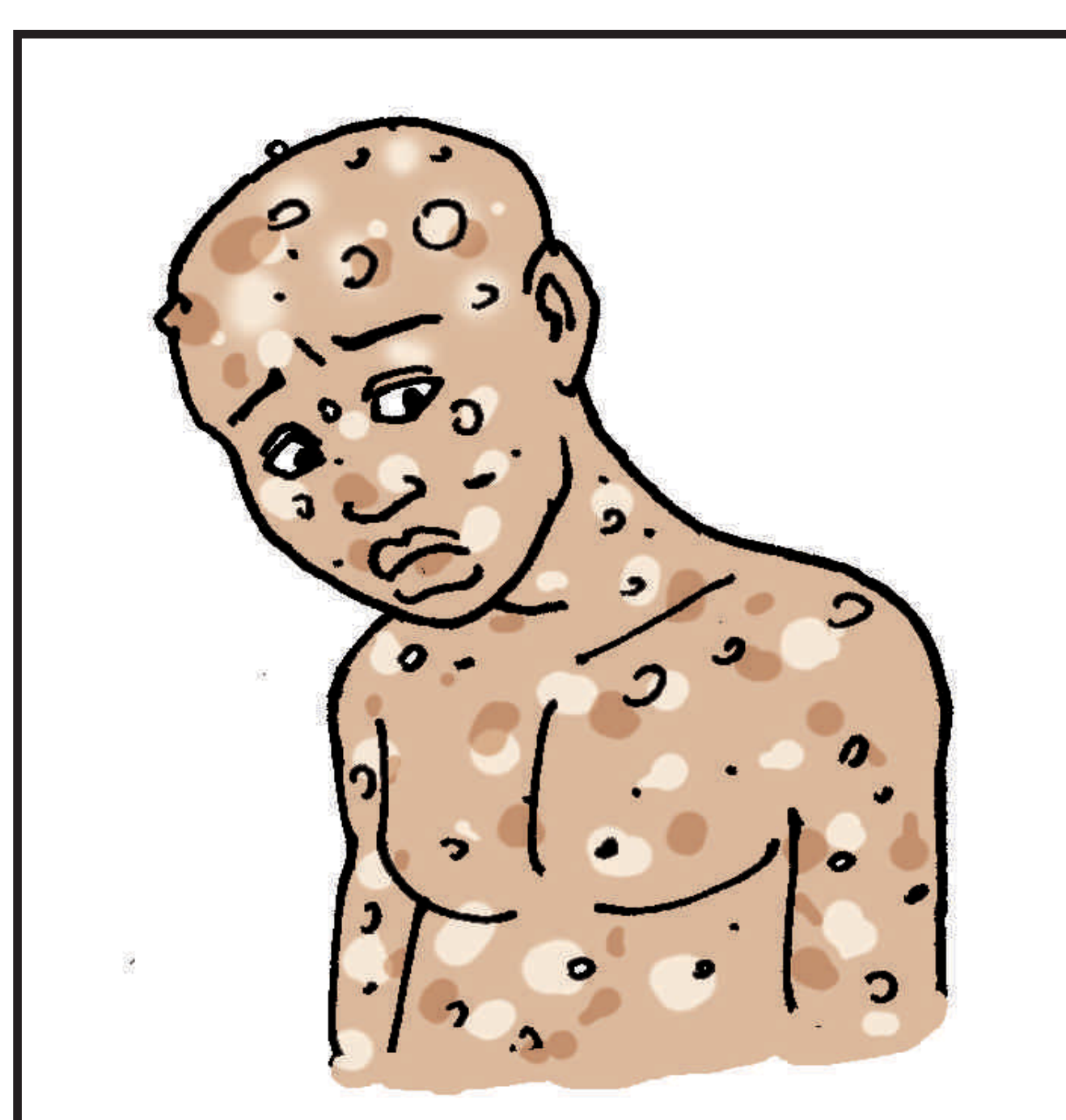


All agro-chemical substances can have adverse effects on the human body and the environment if they are not applied, warehoused and eliminated appropriately.

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Exposure to Agro-chemicals

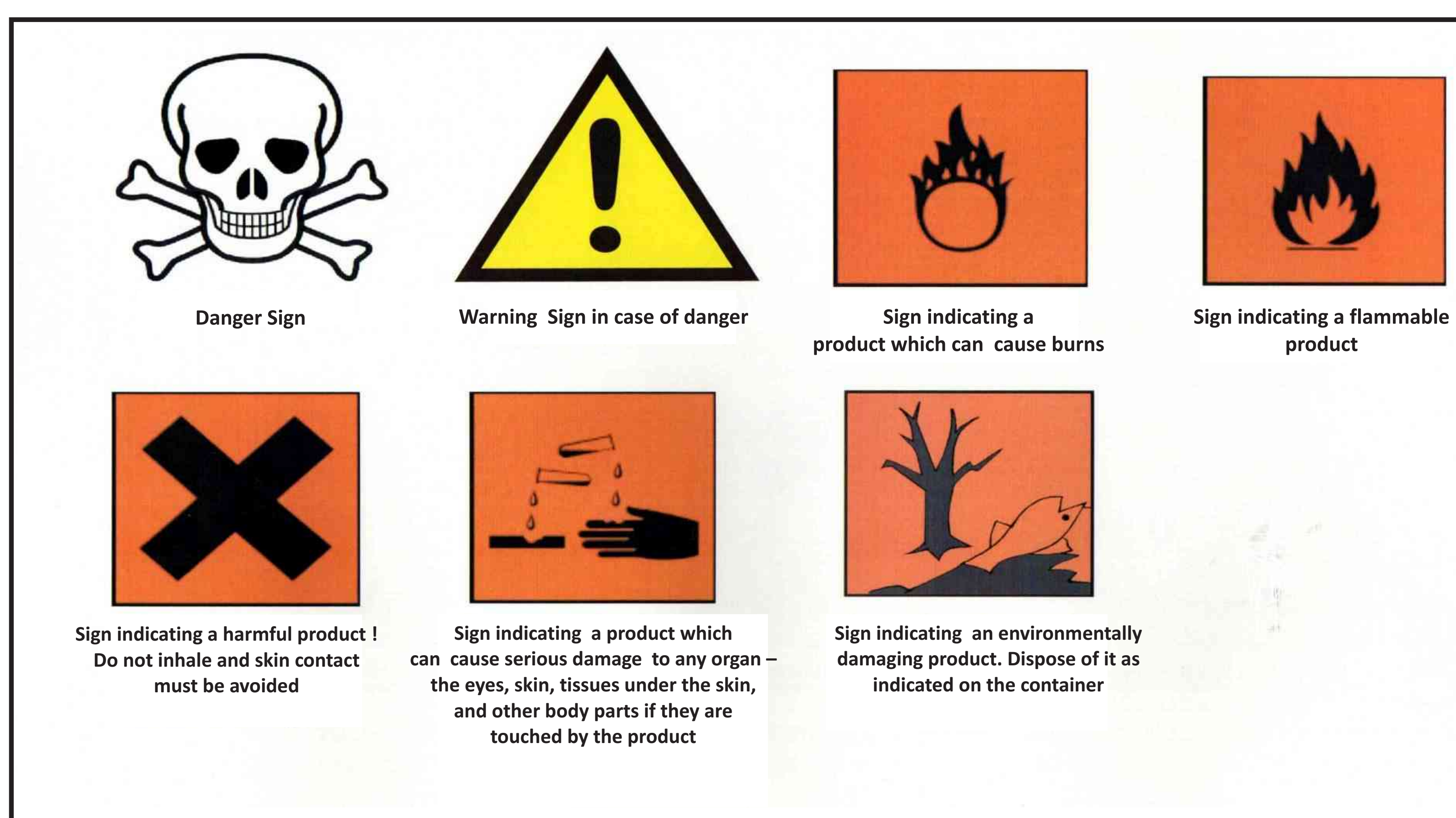
Consequences of Risk Exposure



Skin (burns, sensation tingling), visual, respiratory (asthma) and nervous problems are some of the observed effects in children who have been exposed to agro-chemicals.

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Exposure to Agro-chemicals

Good Practices For Using Agro-chemical Substances



Keep children away from agro-chemicals in order to guarantee their health and safety

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Exposure to Agro-chemicals

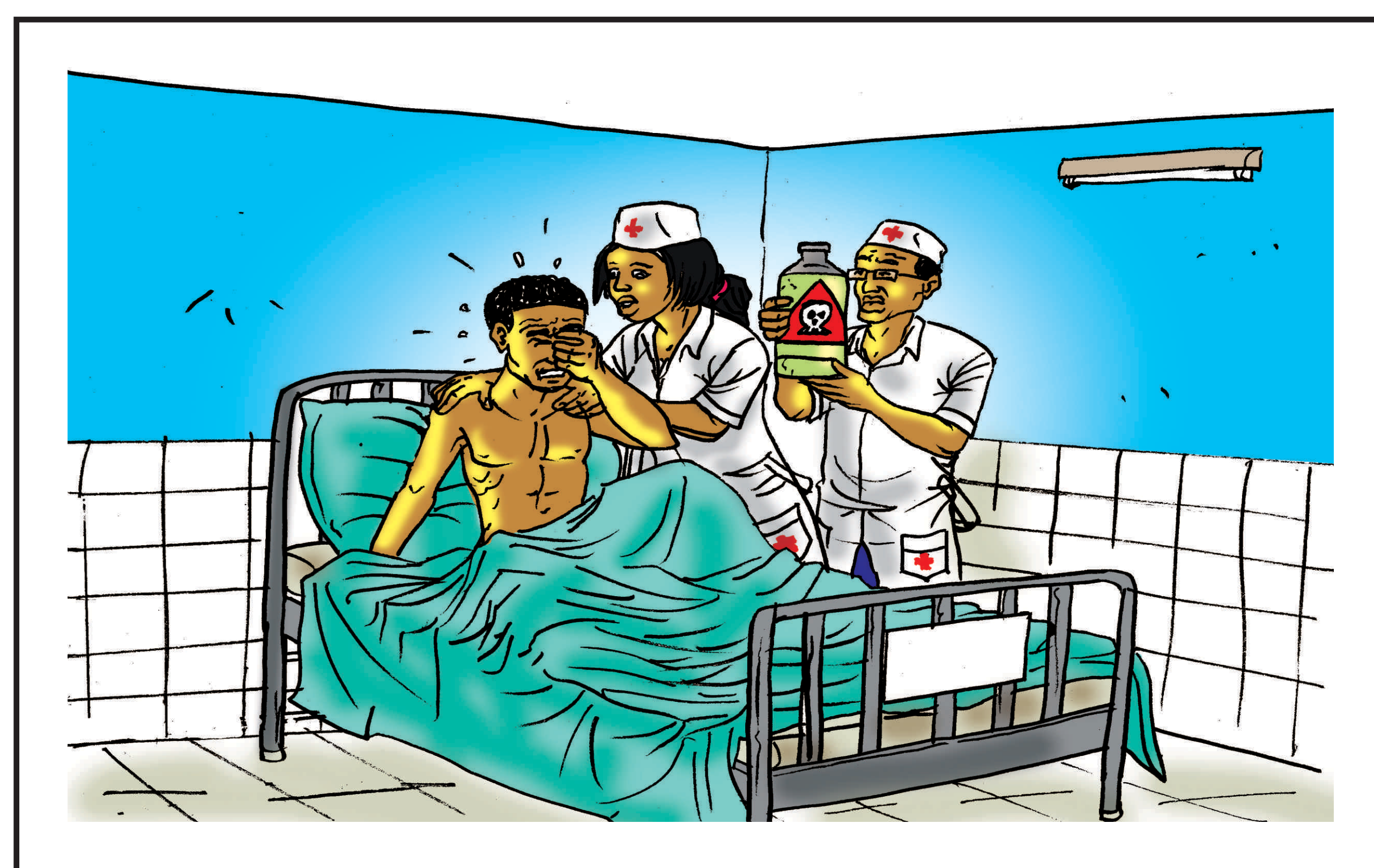
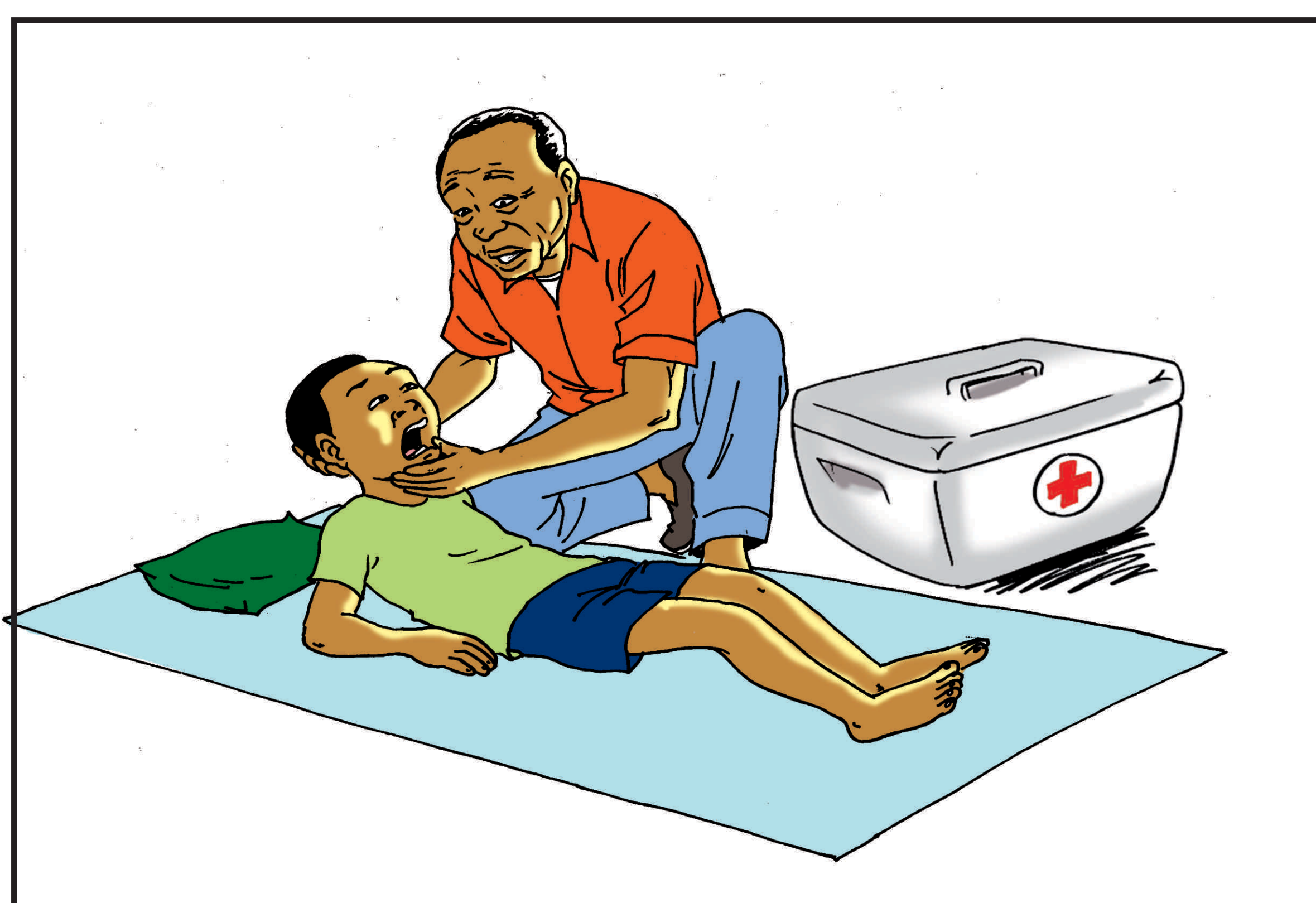
Good Practices



- **Wear personal protective equipment**
- **Keep or destroy agro-chemical containers far out of the reach of children and water points**

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Exposure to Agro-chemicals

Good Practices in the Use of Agro-chemical Substances



- **Each time, after the use of protective equipment, you must wash boots, clothes, gloves and the hat and put them to dry. You must then wash your hands carefully**
- **Replace the equipment when it shows signs of wear**
- **Each community must have an agent trained in first aid**



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Using Sharp Tools and Implements

Description of Risk



- **Farmers use a wide variety of equipment and tools that are designed for clearing the land, sowing, applying agro-chemicals, harvesting, and many other tasks.**
- **Such equipment and machines have all been implicated in accidents resulting in serious injuries or death.**
- **Improper training on the use of tools can result in injuries.**



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Using Sharp Tools and Implements

Consequences of Risk Exposure



Handling implements can be dangerous for children and the consequences can be irreversible



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Using Sharp Tools and Implements

Good Practices in Using Tools



- **Unauthorized persons should not be allowed to operate tools and machinery**
- **Children should be kept away from all agricultural equipment and tools**
- **Use the right tool for the right activity with the right person**

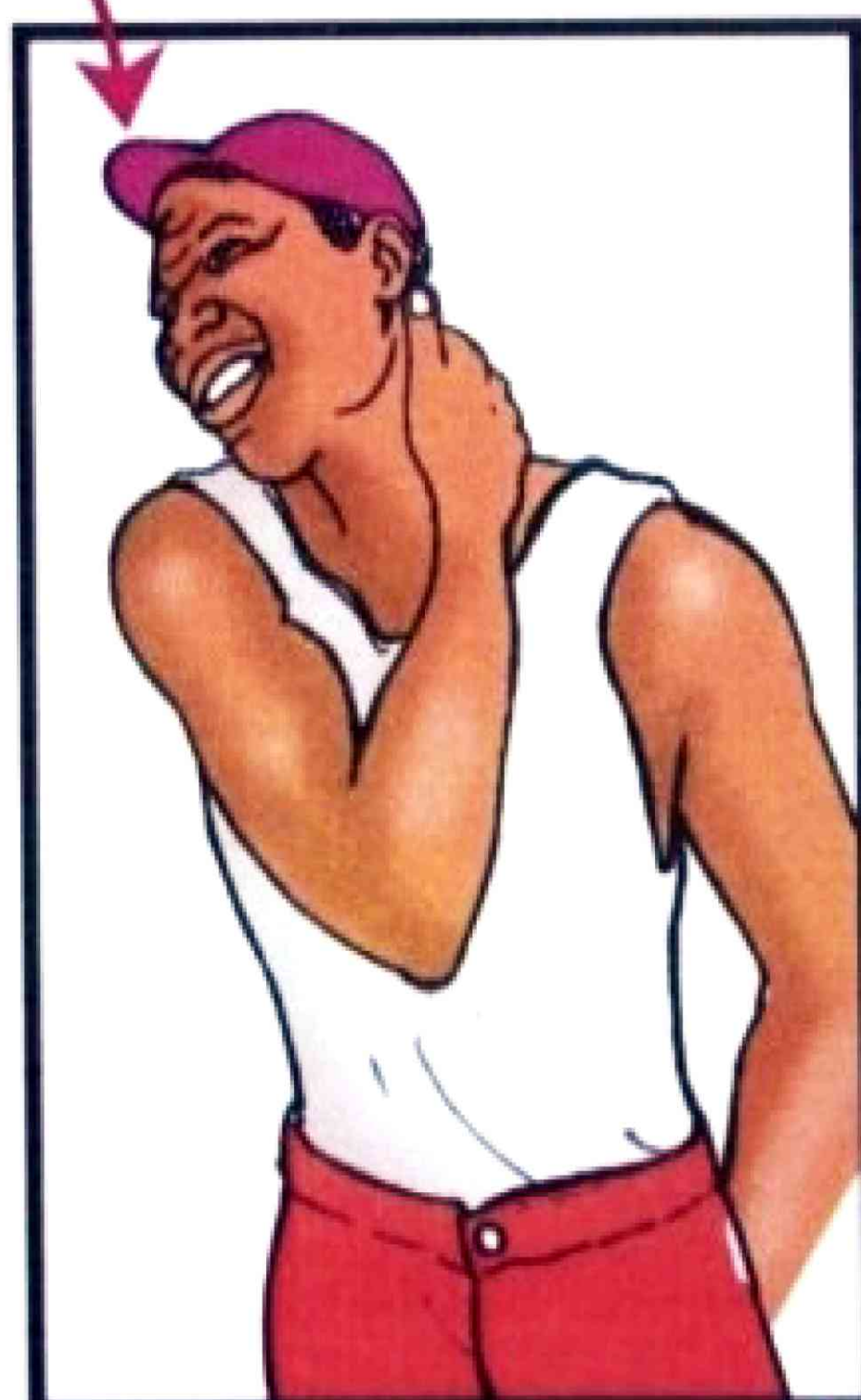
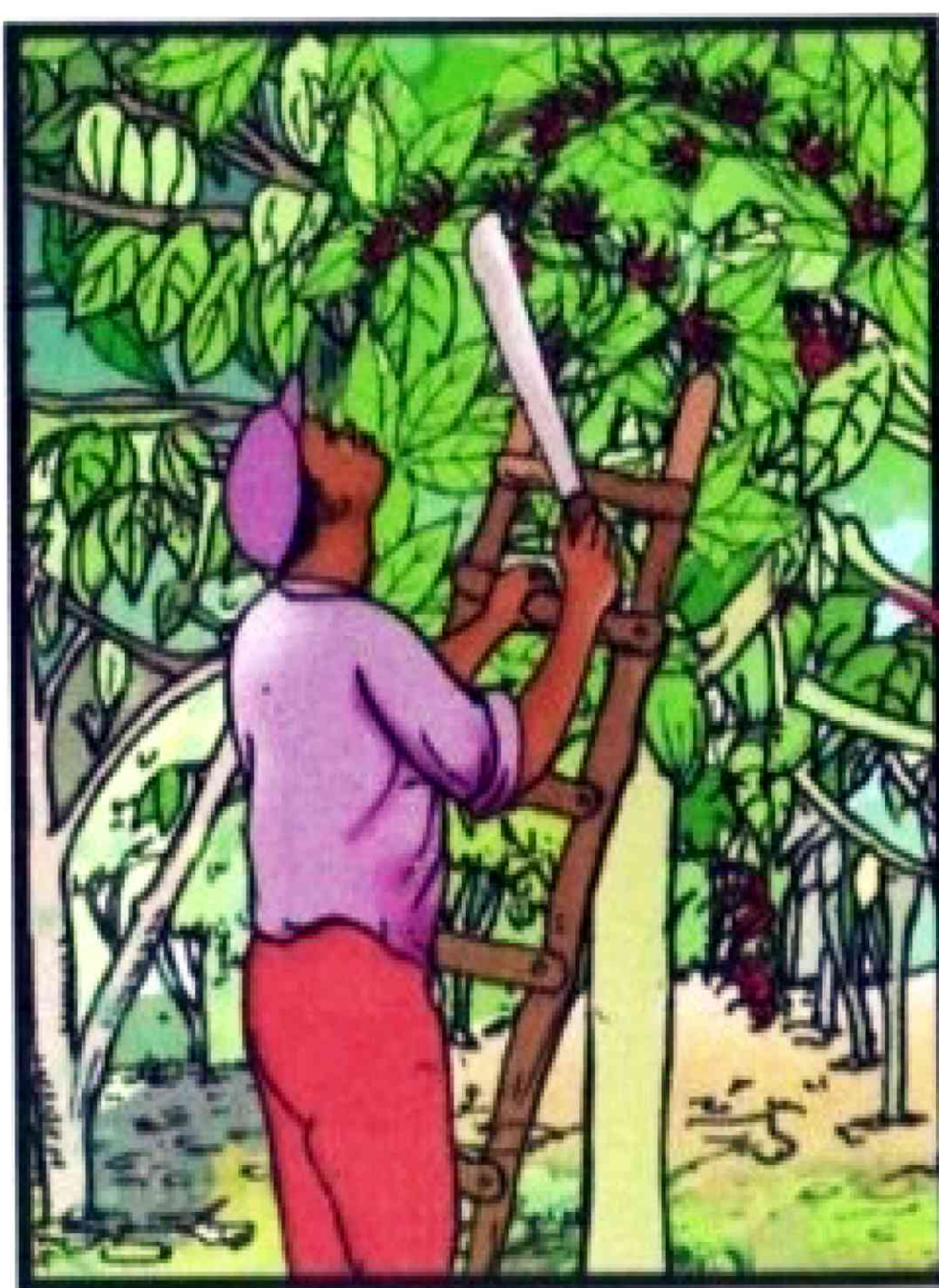


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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production

Climbing Trees

Risk Description



- **Fall from height which might result in injuries such as broken arm, leg or spinal cord**
- **The branch on which one is leaning may break causing damage to the cocoa tree and individual**
- **Using a ladder incorrectly may result in injuries**
- **Climbing trees higher than 3 metres is likely to lead to falls and injuries, particularly with children**



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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production Climbing Trees

Consequences of Risk Exposure



- **Muscle pain (arms, forearms, fingers...)**
- **Injuries leading to amputation**
- **Temporary or permanent disability**

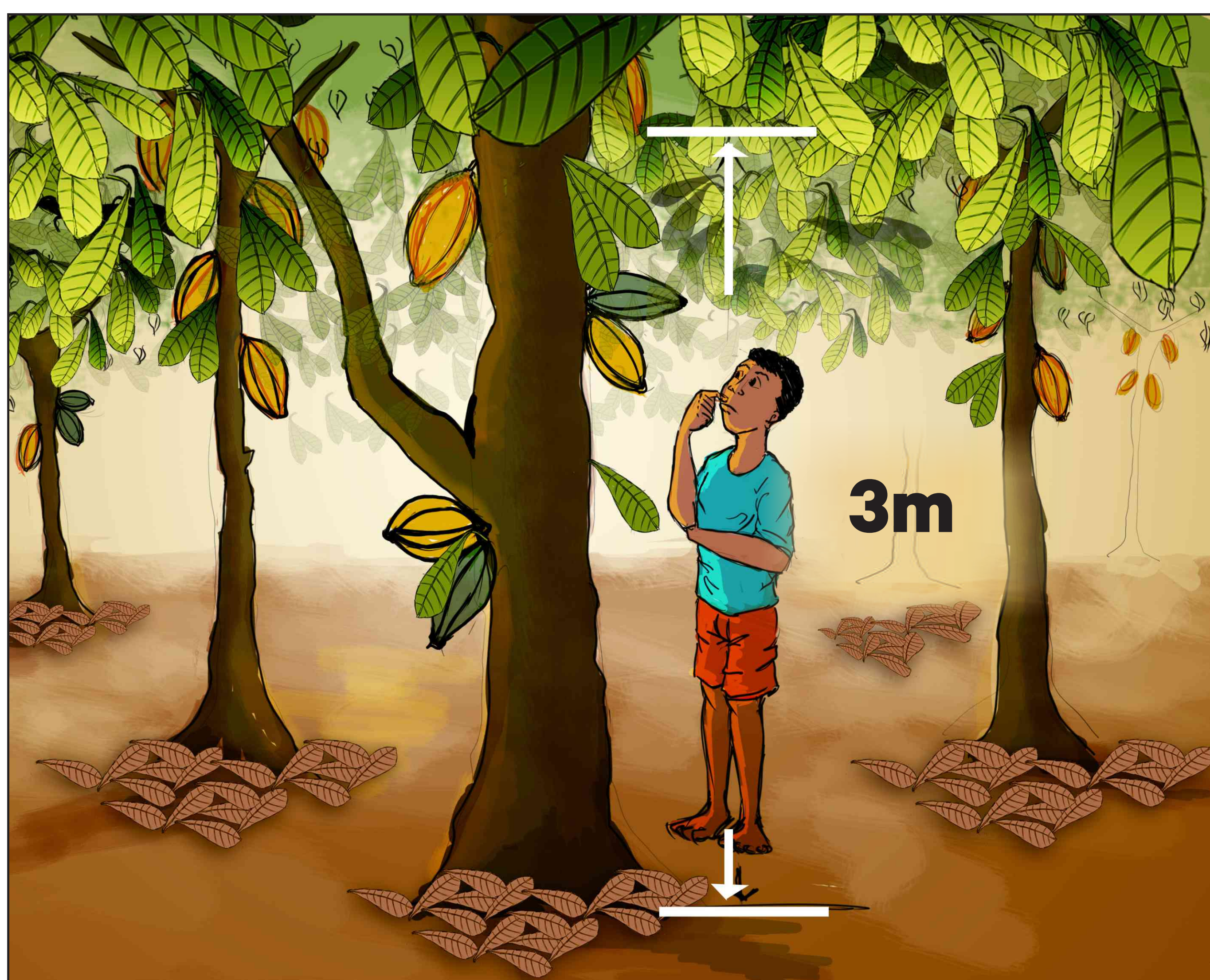




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Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production. Climbing Trees

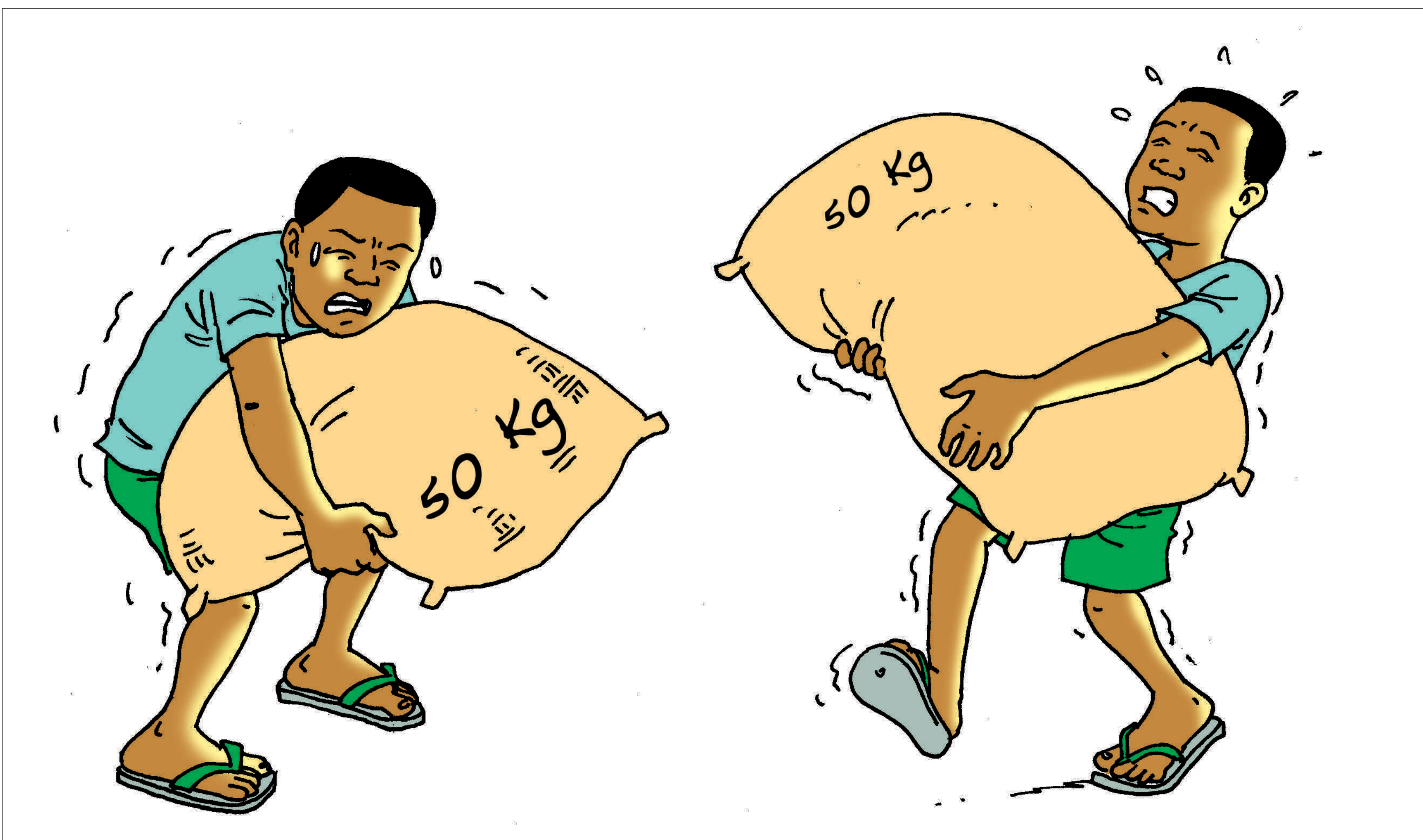
Good Practices in Climbing Trees



- **Avoid working on tall trees if possible**
- **Use strong ladders when working on trees higher than 3 meters**
- **In using ladders, ascend and descend facing the ladder**
- **Children should only climb trees less than 3 meters (9 feet) under the supervision of an adult**

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production. Carrying Loads

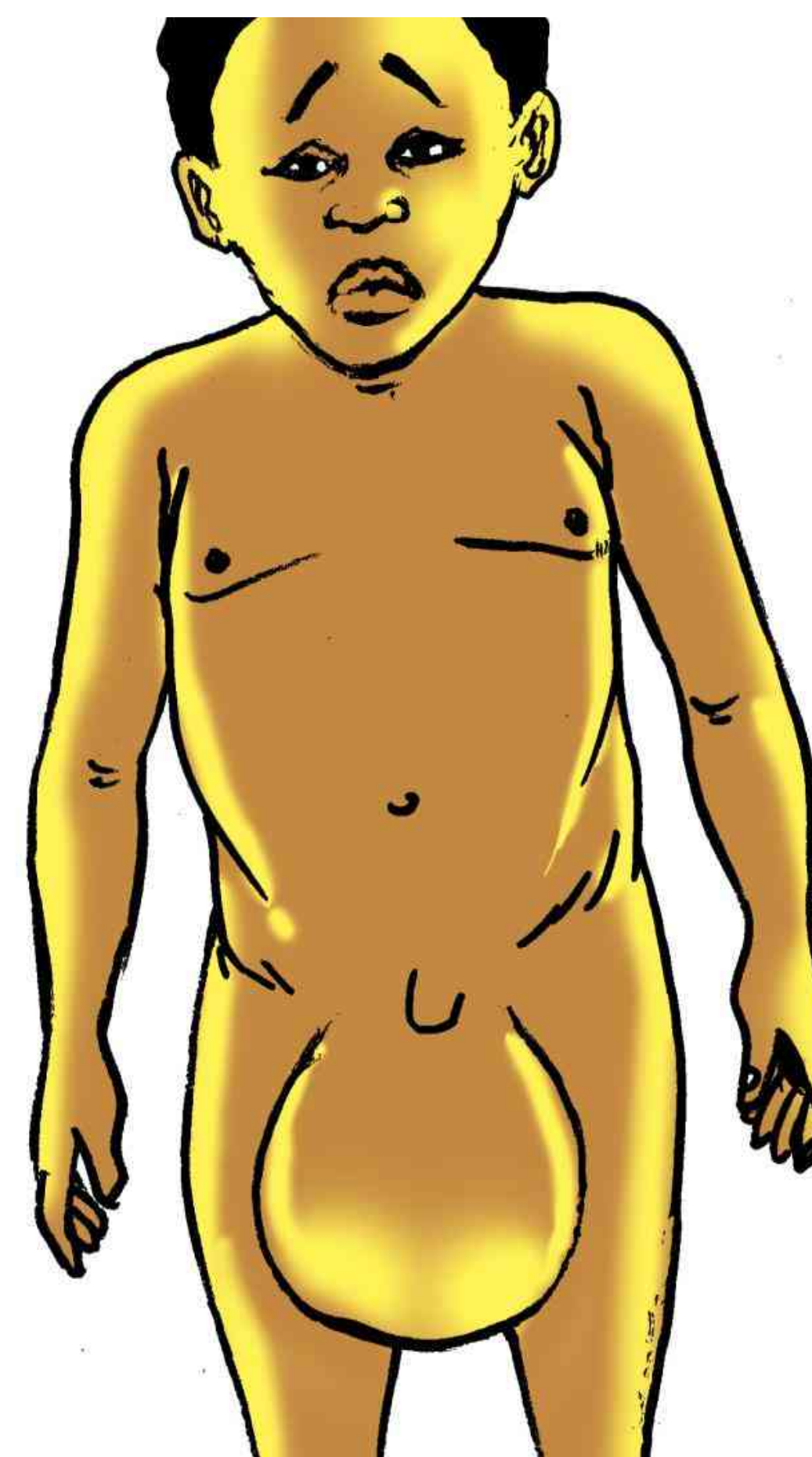
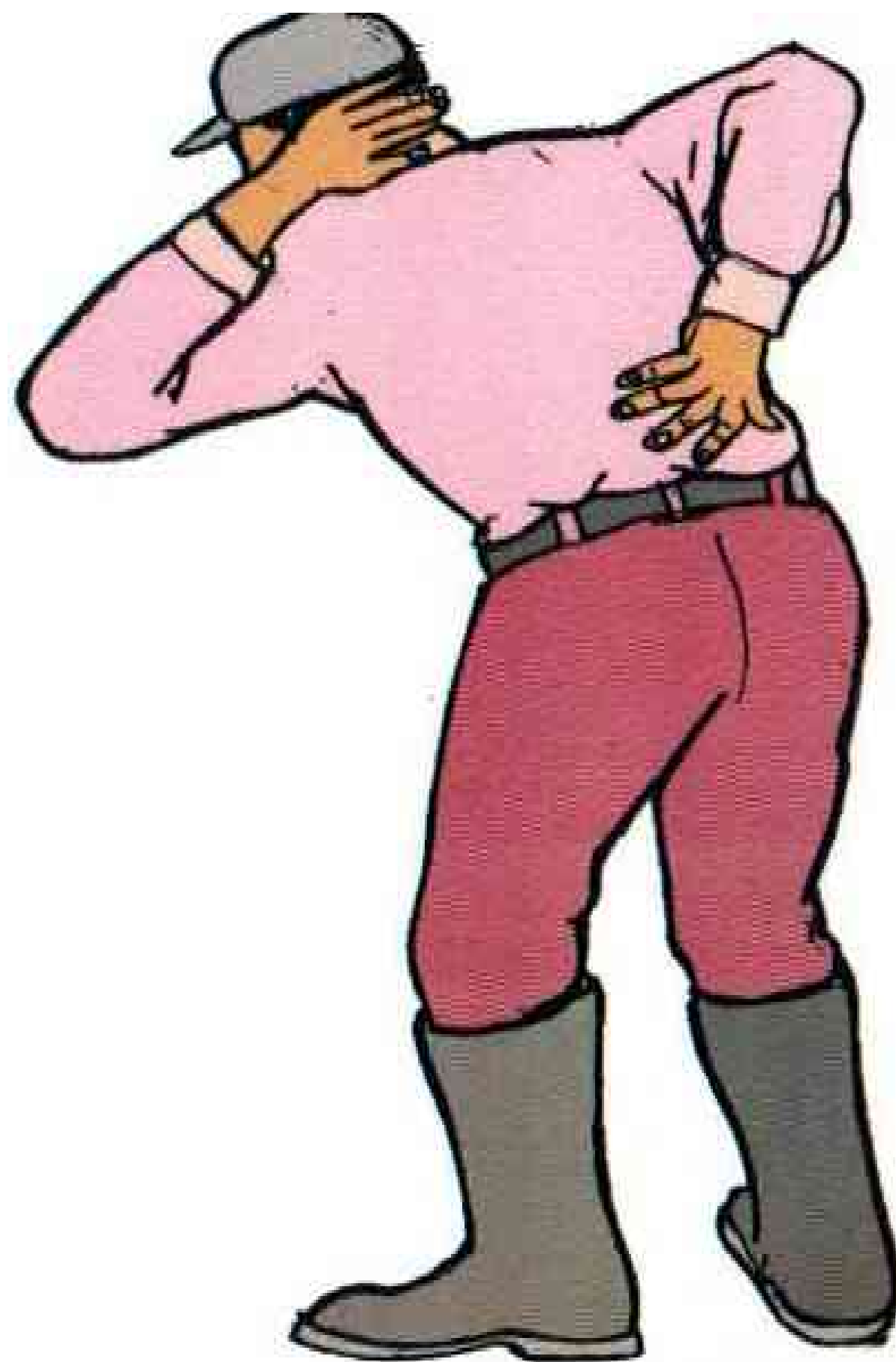
Risk Description



- **Lifting heavy loads by bending the knees with a curved back**
- **Lifting loads without handles, especially bags of cocoa beans**

Hazardous Labour in Cocoa Production. Carrying Loads

Consequences of Exposure to The Risk



- **Negative effects on the muscles, the neck, the back or the shoulders**
- **Pain in the lower back and waist**
- **Hernia associated with heavy lifting**

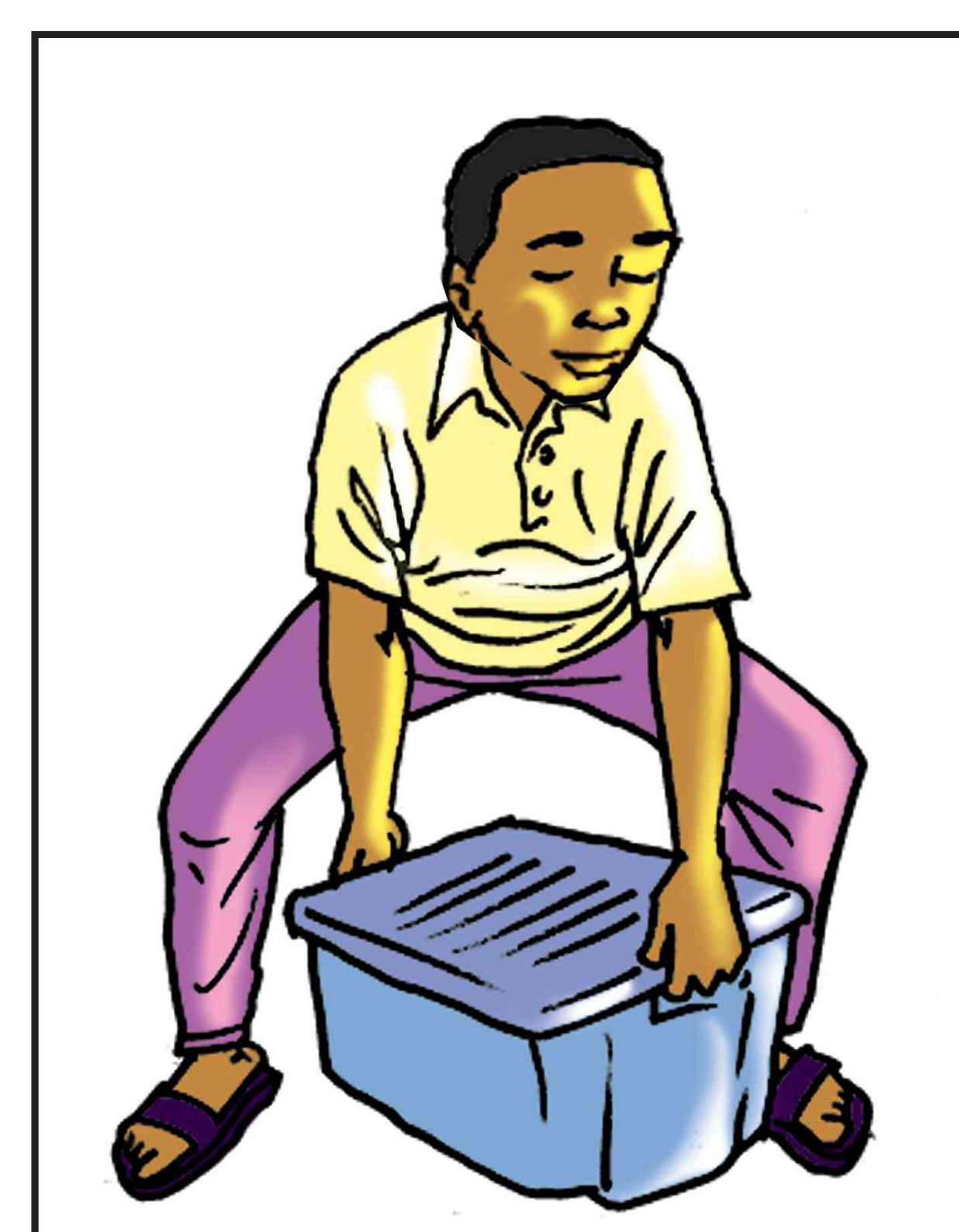
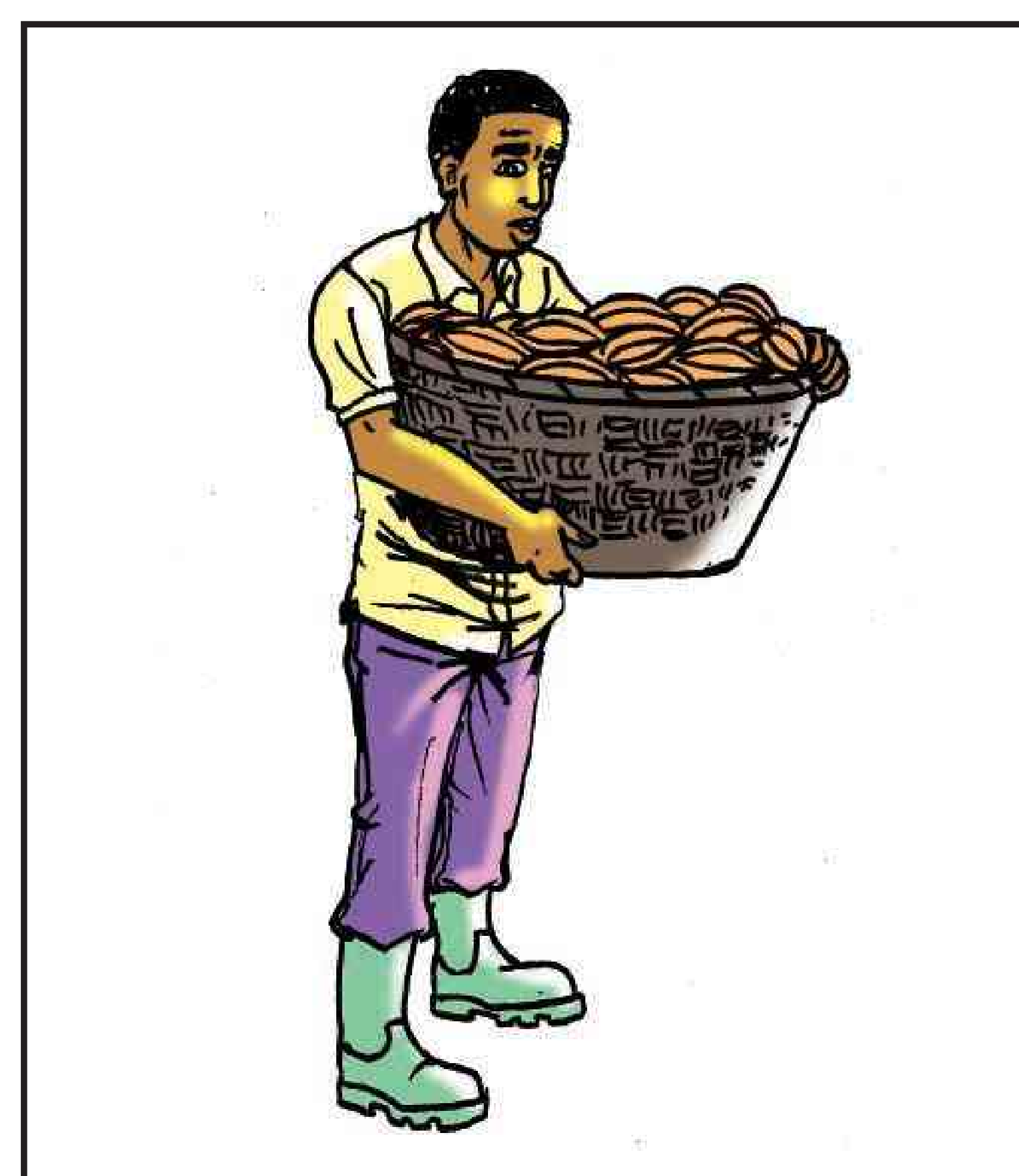
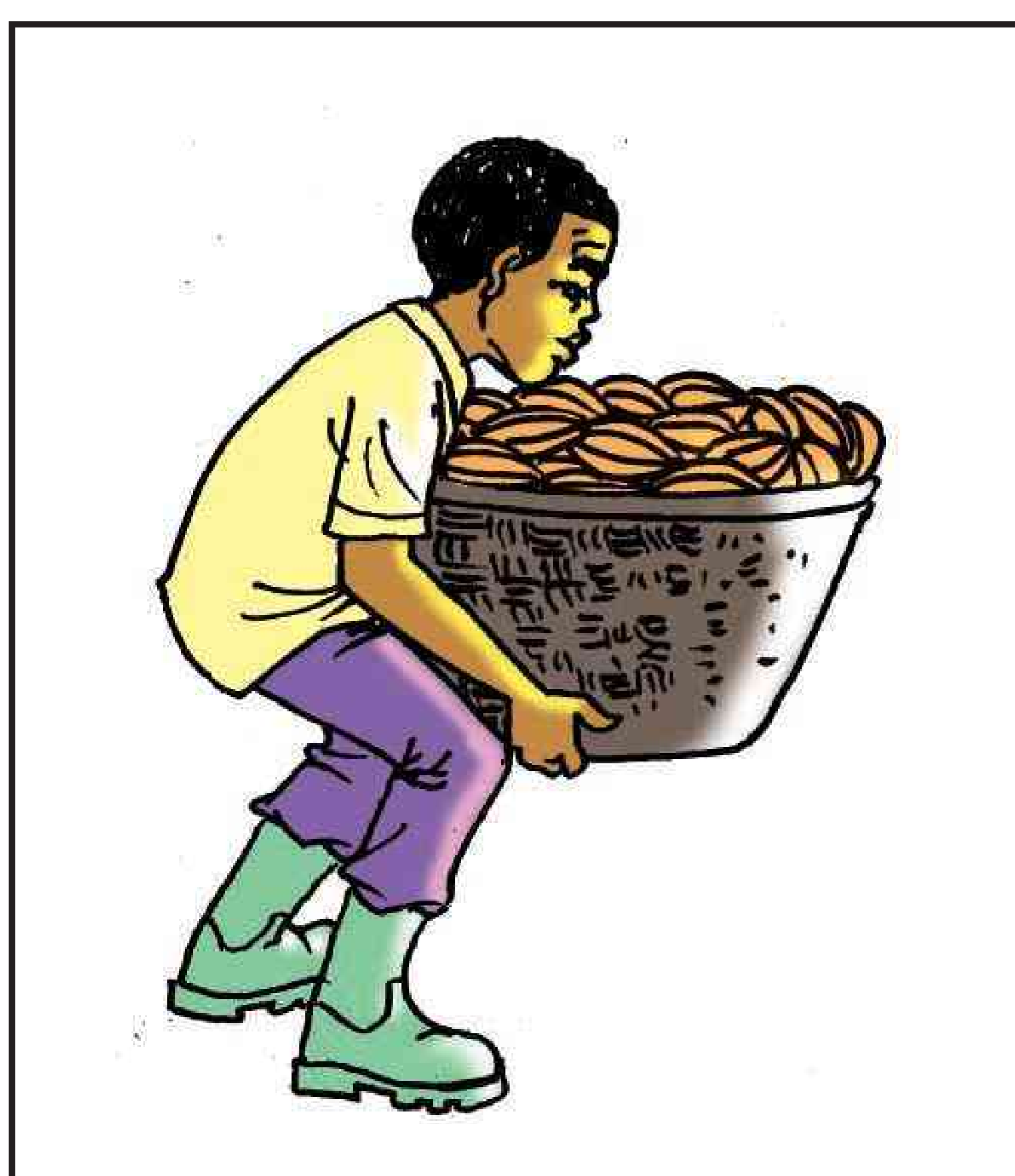
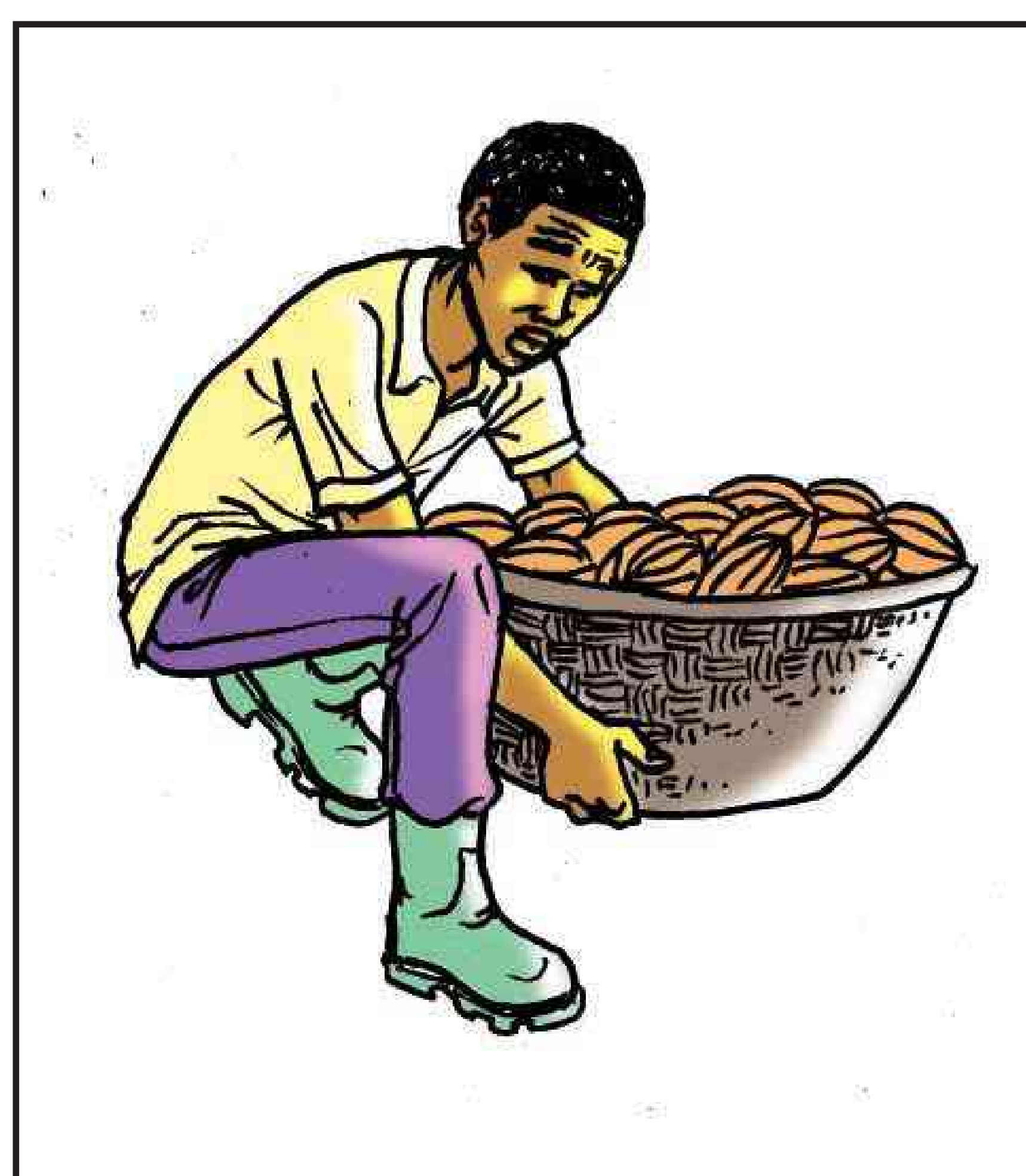


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Hazardous labour in Cocoa Production

Carrying Loads

Good Practices in Carrying Loads

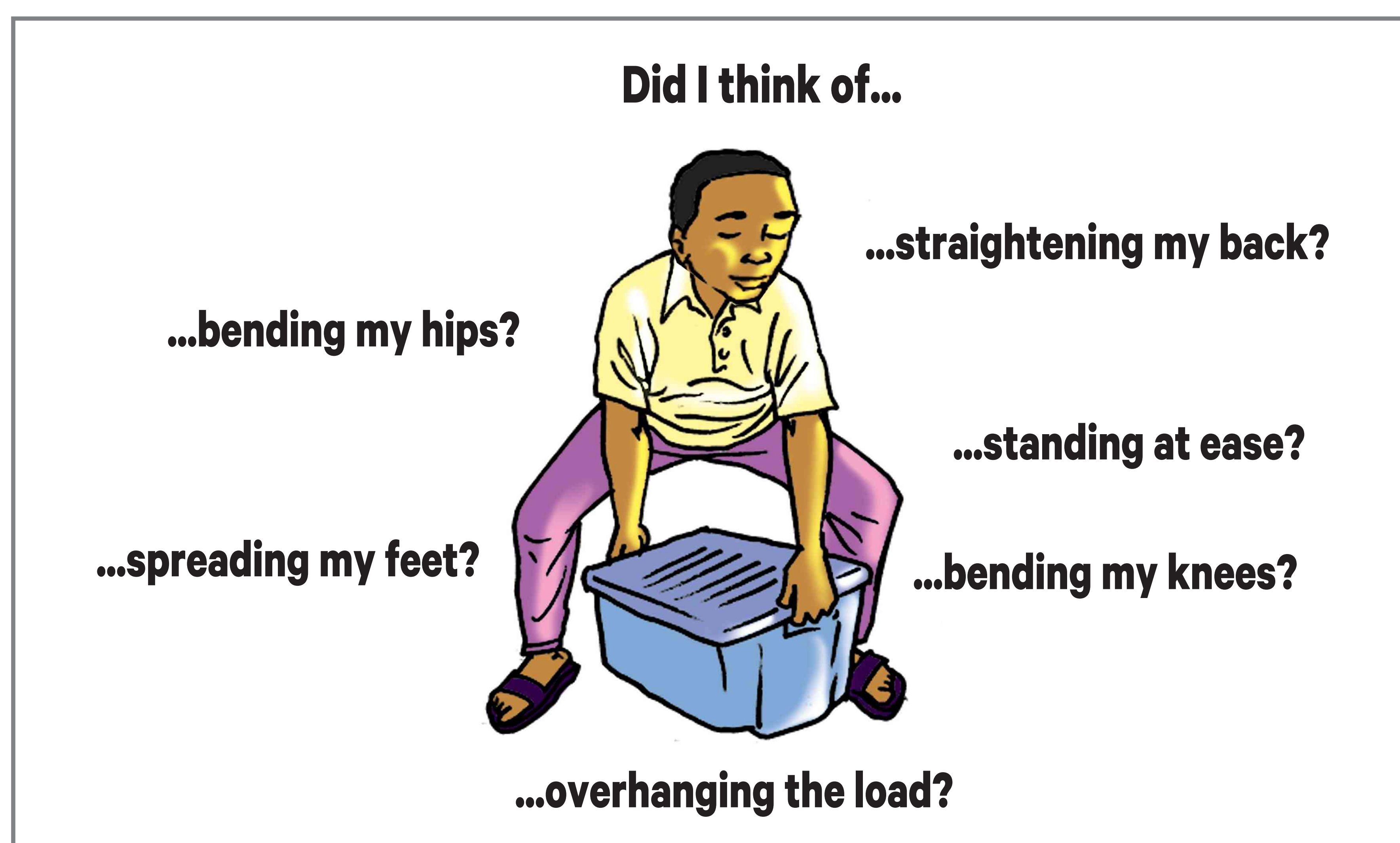


- **Avoid moving loads unnecessarily**
- **Request help if the load is too heavy for one person**

Hazardous labour in Cocoa Production

Carrying Loads

Good Practice





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Hazardous labour in Cocoa Production

Body Mapping

