



International
Labour
Organization

VISION
ZERO
FUND

VIET NAM

SAFETY & HEALTH IN THE COFFEE SUPPLY CHAIN

Project Snapshots from
October 2021 – January 2022

This document provides the donor (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany) and project stakeholders with an overview of project implementation activities. It is not meant to be an exhaustive report of the work done during the reference period, but merely to highlight key achievements and developments.

OBSERVATIONS FROM FIELD VISIT TO LAM DONG PROVINCE, 10-12 NOVEMBER 2021

In the process of adjusting OSH learning material for coffee farmers (based on the participatory action-oriented ILO Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development [WIND] training methodology), a joint mission was conducted by the Vision Zero Fund team, the Department of Crop Production (DCP) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and an OSH expert trainer. The mission reconfirmed low awareness of farmers on safety and health and lack of respective training opportunities as the root cause for hazardous working conditions in coffee cultivation. Observed OSH risks included inadequate storage of material, unsafe use of agro-chemicals and disposal of chemical containers, unsafe machines, and exposure to dust and noise in coffee processing facilities. Additionally, sloping topography on coffee plantations can cause trips and falls hazards for harvesting workers, particularly when they carry heavy cherry bags on slippery paths.

Overall, the mission identified lack of worker protection (no PPE use and/or lack of appropriate PPE) as another OSH deficit.



Harvesting of coffee in Lam Dong province, November 2021

PILOTING OF TRAININGS TO IMPROVE OSH IN COFFEE CULTIVATION

Two pilot Training-of-Trainers (TOT) courses were organized in Lam Dong province from 29 November – 10 December 2022.



Unsafe storage of agro-chemical containers and equipment on a smallholder coffee farm



Harvesting coffee from high grown coffee trees in steep sloping plantation area

Another key activity has been the mapping of processors in the coffee sector (large companies & SMEs) in the provinces of Dak Lak and Lam Dong by the Vietnam Chamber of Industry and Commerce (VCCI), HCMC branch. The exercise contributed further details on pertinent OSH gaps in the sector. A commonly found deficit is the lack of knowledge, tools, and systems to conduct OSH risk assessments in the workplace.

The VZF project will work closely with its partners to address the identified OSH problems through upcoming training, discussions and action by multi-stakeholder platforms, and OSH knowledge dissemination on a larger scale.



OSH training participants learn about OSH risks during a workplace visit, Lam Dong, December 2021

In total, 25 participants (8 women and 17 men) from Lam Dong and Dak Lak provinces were trained on OSH and on how to assess OSH risks in the workplace. The group of trainees included lead farmers, agricultural extension workers, private sector companies, cooperatives, multi-stakeholder initiatives, NGOs, representatives of Youth and Farmers' Union, and provincial level government agencies (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development [DARD] and Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs [DOLISA]). Participants appreciated the practical training approach, which combined workplace visits to practice OSH risk assessments with classroom theory teaching, plenary discussions, and group work. They also valued the opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other during the training.

Ms. Phan Thi Cam Dung, member of the Women's Union in Tan Thanh commune, Lam Dong province, appreciated that *"good OSH practices I learned about I can also apply in my home"*, a view which was echoed by other women participating

in the training. *“I also like the training methodology because of its positive approach which focuses on the identification of good practices first before discussing OSH deficits”* mentioned Ms. Cam Dung.

And Mr. Mai Xuan Thong, Farm Adviser of the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) in Dak Lak, said *“WIND is an interesting programme that helps to change people’s perception on OSH.”*

Participants’ insights and the outcome of group exercises contributed significantly to the improvement and context-specific adjustment of the OSH training material. MARD considers using the finalized training material to develop OSH chapters and training material to complement the National Sustainability Curricula (NSCs) for Robusta and Arabica production – Vietnam’s key documents for coffee cultivation. Their contents is being disseminated to coffee farmers nation-wide through agricultural extension workers under MARD.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE

The second (online) Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held on the 13th of January 2022, chaired by VCCI-HCMC. Participants included representatives of the German Embassy to Vietnam, the Safe Work Department of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the VCCI Branch in Ho Chi Minh City and the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). Representatives of the ILO Country Office, Hanoi, and the VZF teams in Vietnam and Geneva also attended the meeting.

Participants appreciated the multi-stakeholder approach of the project, which is harnessing the strengths of multiple government and private sector partners. They also highlighted the successful delivery of outputs during the first year of project implementation (despite the difficulties faced due to a prolonged lockdown), and the project’s engagement with the private sector under a

designated strategy. Going forward, PAC participants advised the project to emphasize gender considerations in project activities as well as enhancing data collection on occupational accidents and injuries in the coffee sector through application of new tools.

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming project activities include the organization of the following training activities:

- ToT on OSH in coffee processing for OSH specialists and practitioners from DOLISA, VICOFA, private training service providers and coffee processing facilities (HCMC, March 2022);
- Pilot Training-of-Enterprises (ToE) for SMEs in coffee processing (Lam Dong province, March 2022); (to be delivered by OSH practitioners trained by the project);
- ToT training on OSH in coffee cultivation/farming for OSH practitioners from the private sector, notably international coffee roasters and traders, NGOs, and multi-stakeholder initiatives (March 2022);
- Organisation of an OSH awareness raising workshop for the leadership of MARD (April 2022).

Contact:

 kurths@ilo.org

| ilo.org/vzf



International
Labour
Organization

| SAFETY
+ HEALTH
FOR ALL

Vision Zero Fund is part of Safety & Health for All, an ILO Flagship programme building a culture of safe, healthy work