

Make way for the Child's Education

Promote youth employment opportunities in agriculture and rural areas

Participation in family farm activities helps children learn valuable skills, build self-esteem and contribute to the generation of household income, which has a positive impact on their own livelihoods. Young persons who have attained the minimum legal age for work should be encouraged to enter agricultural work as a means of promoting youth employment but it is important to ensure that they receive proper training and work under safe and decent conditions.



Measures to address the problems posed by child labour

International cooperation and assistance for putting an immediate end to the worst forms of child labor through

- Priority action to determine which hazards bring work into the category of the worst forms.
- The establishment of monitoring mechanisms and the implementation of programmes of action.
- The adoption of measures for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration.
- particular attention to children at special risk and the situation of girls.
- Improve rural livelihoods, tackle poverty.
- Incorporate child labour issues in national agricultural policies and programmes.



Apply laws on child labour

Actions in this regard should include:

- Effective application of the minimum legal working age to jobs in agriculture. (ILO Convention no. 138 - minimum age and no. 182 - worst forms of

child labour)

- Prohibition of hazardous work in agriculture for girls and boys under 18 years of age and effective prevention of children from entering such work.
- Protection of children who have reached the minimum legal age to work, by improving health and safety standards in the agricultural sector.



International Labour Organization

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Harvest For The
Future Agriculture
Without
Child Labour



International
Labour
Organisation



12 JUNE 2007

THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Eliminating hazardous child labour in agriculture
ILO-IPEC-Karnataka Child Labour Project (Supported by the Government of Italy)





Child labour is work that harms children's well-being and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. Girls are particularly disadvantaged as they often undertake household chores following work in the fields.

A strong and sustained global effort is underway to eliminate child labour in agriculture, especially what is termed hazardous child labour.

World Day Against Child Labour 12 June 2007 represents a significant landmark in this global effort.

Ensure a better tomorrow for our children

Nearly 70 percent of working children worldwide, are from the agricultural sector - over 132 million girls and boys, aged 5 to 14 years old, work in crop and livestock production, helping supply some of the food and drink we consume and the fibres and raw materials we use to make other products.



Stop Child Labour

Agriculture as Hazardous work

Hazard is anything with the potential to do harm, while a risk is the likelihood of potential harm from that hazard being realised.

Agriculture has a very poor record of safety and health, and is one of the three most dangerous sectors to work in terms of the numbers of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents, and cases of occupational diseases. The other two sectors are construction and mining.

Children in agriculture receive relatively little attention compared to their peers in other sectors - toiling in poor to appalling conditions, children are harshly exploited to perform dangerous jobs with little or no pay - they suffer physical and mental hardship, even loss of life.

Hazardous tasks undertaken by children include tending cattle, harvesting crops, handling machinery or toxic material including pesticides and poisons and holding flags to guide planes spraying pesticides.

Agricultural work is carried out in a rural environment where there is no clear boundary between living and working conditions - children face exposure to pesticides and contaminated food and water.



Between Chores and the fields, the girl child works around the clock...

Kinds of hazards in Agriculture

- Risk from a wide variety of machinery, biological, physical, chemical, dust, ergonomic, welfare/hygiene and psychosocial hazards.
- Long hours of work and poor living conditions, poor general health and malnutrition.
- Physically demanding, repetitive, strenuous work with awkward body positions.
- Work in extreme weather and temperature conditions.
- Use of dangerous tools - machetes, knives, scythes, sickles to cut crops hay and weeds can lead to cuts, amputations etc.
- Injuries from harvesting - falling off equipment, trees etc., and allergies, rashes, blisters etc from prickly, abrasive and irritant crops.
- Injuries/deaths while being transported to the worksite or onsite
- Operating or working around powerful machinery and the attendant risk of injury/death.
- Mixing, loading and applying pesticides which are both toxic and carcinogenic - exposure to dust which leads to allergic respiratory diseases.
- Injuries from handling livestock/farm animals and attacks from wild animals, skin disorders and water borne diseases.
- Start work very young: 5 +



Promote rural strategies and programmes aimed at improving rural livelihoods, and bring child labour concerns into the mainstream of agricultural policy making

The most important contributor to child labour is poverty - agricultural child labour is rooted in the livelihood systems of rural areas and the economic vulnerability of families.

Rural development strategies and programmes aimed at improving rural livelihoods, creating alternative income-generating activities, and addressing health and safety in agriculture, have a critical role to play in helping reduce the use of child labour and the level of hazards and risk associated with it.

A key to reducing child labour in agriculture is building strong rural institutions to collectively bargain to improve adult incomes, wages and labour standards.



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