

- How to carry out and implement an OSH risks assessment in agriculture
- Hazardous child labour, injuries and ill health in agriculture; why children are at greater risk than adults
- Gender specific measures to tackle pronounced vulnerabilities
- Mainstreaming child labour concerns into national agricultural policies and programmes; the role of ministries of agriculture to prevent and eliminate child labour
- The role of international agencies and organizations to fight child labour in agriculture, especially through the International Partnership for cooperation on child labour in agriculture. The role of trade unions, employers' organizations, producers' organizations and other stakeholders.

Tuition fees cover:

- tuition;
- books and training materials;
- course preparation, implementation and evaluation.

Subsistence costs cover:

- full board and lodging at the Turin Centre's Campus;
- laundry;
- local study visit (if any);
- minor medical care and emergency medical insurance;
- socio-cultural activities.

The price indicated does not include travel costs between participants' home and the course venue. The cost of passports, visas to enter Italy, airport taxes, internal travel in the participant's home country and unauthorized stopovers is not reimbursed.

Payment should be made in advance by bank transfer to: Account No. 560001

Bank: Intesa-Sanpaolo SPA

IBAN: IT36 B030 6901 1911 0000 0560 001

SWIFT: BCITITMM701

Address: Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10, 10127 Turin - Italy

Note: On the bank transfer form, kindly state your name and the course code (A904098).



## Methodology

In addition to classroom sessions, group activities are foreseen to examine case studies and formulate practical recommendations. The course will seek to draw on the first hand experience of the participants to the maximum extent possible, using this as a basis for country-specific analysis of different types of situations of hazardous child labour in agriculture. The course will make a broad use of documents and materials published by ILO, FAO and other organizations on child labour, worst forms of child labour, and on options for policy and interventions.

Training will make a broad use of techniques and media, such as video presentations and video screening. The course will be held in English and French. At the end of the course participants will be requested to provide an evaluation of course methodology and content.



## Course language

English and French



## Costs

The total cost of participation in the course is 2,350 Euros and includes tuition fees and subsistence costs.



## Fellowships

Fellowships are available to qualifying candidates.

The employers' organizations and workers' organizations to be granted a fellowship for this activity will be selected by the Secretaries of the Employers' Group and of the Workers' Group of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.



## Applications

Applications to participate should be sent, by e-mail (ils-fpr@itcilo.org) or by fax (+39 011 693 6906), to the Manager of the Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Programme.

They should be supported by a curriculum vitae and a nomination letter from the sponsoring/funding institution.

In line with the ILO's mandate to promote social justice and universally recognized human and labour rights, the Turin Centre encourages applications from women.

Interregional course



A904098

# Harvesting a future without child labour: eliminating harmful practices in agriculture

9 - 13 May 2011  
Turin, Italy



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE  
ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR  
(IPEC)



International Training Centre

For further information, please contact:

Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Programme -  
International Training Centre of the ILO - Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10 - 10127 Turin - Italy  
E-mail: [ils-fpr@itcilo.org](mailto:ils-fpr@itcilo.org), Phone: + 39 011 693 6626 / 6946, Fax: + 39 011 693 6906  
Web site: <http://labourrights-training.itcilo.org>

[www.itcilo.org](http://www.itcilo.org)

# Harvesting a future without child labour: eliminating harmful practices in agriculture



## Justification

Globally, and especially in a number of countries in Africa and South Asia, child labour is an agricultural issue. Of the 215 million girls and boys aged 5 – 17 who are child labourers worldwide, sixty per cent are in agriculture. The vast majority of the world's child labourers are working on farms and plantations, sowing, cultivating and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides, tending livestock on rural farms and plantations, fishing on vessels and in aquaculture, and logging in forests. These girls and boys play an important role in crop, fish and livestock production, helping supply some of the food and drink we consume, and the fibers and raw materials we use to make other products. Child labour in agriculture is not limited to export commodities such as cocoa/chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar, fruits and vegetables, shrimps, tobacco and cotton, but it is often a feature of subsistence and small-scale agriculture whose produce is marketed locally.

Child labour is work that interferes with compulsory schooling and is damaging for health and personal development. Child labour is defined based on child's age, hours and conditions of work, activities performed and hazards. The ILO Minimum Age for Employment Convention No. 138 (1973) sets the minimum age for children to work at 15 in general (certain flexibilities exist). For work considered hazardous, the age is 18. The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 (1999) defines worst forms of child labour as all forms of slavery, trafficking of children, forced recruitment for armed conflict, use of children in illicit activities, sexual exploitation, and hazardous work.

Moreover, the elimination of child labour in agriculture is supported, among other international labour standards, by the ILO Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention No. 184 (2001), which specifies that anyone below the age of 18 should not be involved in dangerous agricultural work. In addition, the Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (2007) includes provisions for minimum age for work on board fishing vessels.

A special priority is to eliminate the "worst forms of child labour" (as defined in Convention No. 182). Hazardous child labour is by far the largest category of worst forms of child labour and very common in agriculture. It is defined as work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. Other worst forms of child labour prevailing in agriculture are trafficking and migration (internal and cross border) and bonded labour.

Especially in the context of family farming and other rural family endeavours, it is important to recognize that some participation of children in productive non-hazardous activities

can be positive as it contributes to the inter-generational transfer of skills. In other words, not all work that children undertake in agriculture is bad for them or would qualify as work to be eliminated under the ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138 or the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182. Age-appropriate tasks that are of lower risk and do not interfere with a child's schooling and leisure time can represent positive work experience for children, providing them with practical and social skills for work as adults and helping their transition to youth employment once they reach the minimum age.

Agriculture, however, is one of the three most dangerous sectors in which to work at any age, along with construction and mining. Whether child labourers work on their parents' farms, are hired to work on the farms or plantations of others, tend livestock in remote areas, or dive to capture fish, or accompany their migrant parents, the hazards and levels of risk they face can be worse than those for adult workers. Because children's bodies and minds are still growing and developing, exposure to workplace hazards can be more devastating and long lasting for them, resulting in lifelong disabilities.

Child labour is an enormous cost for the children themselves and for society, as it keeps children out of school and hampers the healthy development of their mind and bodies. This blights their future chances of escaping from the cycle of poverty by finding better jobs or becoming self-employed.

While great progress has been made in many countries in reducing child labour worldwide, a number of factors have made agricultural child labour particularly difficult to tackle. These are:

- Child labour is highly prevalent in situations of poverty, food insecurity and parental illiteracy, which are very common in rural areas. In this context parents may depend on their children labour, even when they know it is wrong, and children may depend on their labour for their survival.
- Rural areas often experience a lack of (quality) schools and teachers, limited pedagogical materials and poor school infrastructure, poor/variable rates of rural school attendance (especially during the harvesting season), problems of affordability due to school fees.
- Child labour in agriculture is often invisible because children assist their parents in the family farm, and in the case of fisheries, may spend many days offshore onboard of vessels. Household chores and domestic work, often disproportionately a burden for girls, add up the number of hours devoted to work.
- Children start working in agriculture at an early age (at 5, 6 or 7 years of age). However, most statistical surveys only cover children aged 10 and above.

- Cultural and social norms, as well as age, affect the gender division of labour. Children's responsibilities vary across regions and during their life-cycle.
- Agriculture is an under-regulated sector in many countries. This means that child labour laws are often less stringent in agricultural industries than in other industries. In some countries, adult and child workers in agriculture are not covered by safety and health laws. Children, for example, are generally allowed to operate machinery and drive tractors at a younger age in agriculture than in other sectors.

All of the above factors constitute a strong argument to consider agriculture, including fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and livestock, a priority sector for the elimination of child labour, and to integrate child labour issues in the relevant sectoral development policies and programmes.

For agricultural and rural development to be sustainable, it cannot continue to be based on the exploitation of children in child labour, but on the contrary it should aim to create decent work opportunities. With this aim, in 2007 six organizations formed the International partnership for cooperation on child labour in agriculture<sup>1</sup>. Working in partnership is important as agricultural organizations have technical knowledge and relationship with national ministries or department of agriculture, extension services, farmers' organizations and cooperatives, and research bodies. Labour organizations, on the other side, can provide the technical knowledge and capacity on legislation and on labour market policy. The partnership addresses child labour in agriculture by tackling its root causes through promoting rural development and better livelihoods, increased access to education in rural areas and youth employment opportunities, and mainstreaming of child labour into agriculture and rural development policies.



## Learning objectives

At the end of this course participants will have gained knowledge on child labour in agriculture, including fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock rearing, and on the strategies to prevent and eliminate child labour in agriculture. The training will mix theory and practice. Participants will learn about concepts and terminology on child labour, hazardous work in agriculture, and will reflect on policy options for eliminating child labour and how to integrate it into agriculture and rural development programmes.

1. Members of the Partnership are: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUFA).



## Participants' profile

This course is designed to attract a broad audience of practitioners who have an interest in deepening and broadening their existing knowledge on child labour in agriculture in particular and on the policy options to eliminate child labour in rural areas.

Target participants include:

- Government representatives such as policy-makers, government officers, programme managers and others, charged with formulating and implementing policies and programmes against child labour;
- Representatives of workers and employers' organizations charged with policy-making, advising and acting on child labour issues;
- Staff of international organizations focusing on agriculture and labour
- Staff of national agricultural organizations – Ministries of agriculture, agricultural extension advisory service staff, agricultural research staff;
- Member-based organizations representing rural producers, fishers, pastoralists and farmers.
- Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) specialists focusing on agricultural industries;
- Labour inspectors;
- Representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations interested in child labour in agriculture.



## Structure and content of the training

This one-week course takes a broad view in looking at child labour in agriculture with a special emphasis on the policy options to eliminate child labour in agriculture and promote safer and more sustainable production processes. The course will address the following topics:

- Overview of child labour in agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock rearing, and examples of child labour in specific agriculture sub-sectors
- Definitions, terminology and overview of child labour and of the international and national legal framework on child labour, with a particular focus on child labour in agriculture
- The link between decent work, sustainable agriculture, rural employment and child labour
- Occupational, safety and health (OSH)