The EEMPATA model, a good practice model

Since 2013, the ECLT Foundation has been implementing the *Education and Employability for adolescent workers in Agriculture* project (EEMPATA) in rural Guatemala, with our implementing partner Defensa de Niñas y Niños International, Costa Rica. The aim of the project is to develop and implement *endorsed market-driven vocational curricula* complemented by *subsidised internships* to build the right skill set among adolescents, providing them with better opportunities for entering the local job market once finishing school.

**Local level:** The primary scope has been to provide opportunities of market-driven vocational trainings and subsidised internships in order to increase the chances of employment and decent work for adolescents in rural areas. In addition, motivating children and adolescents to stay in school, launching awareness raising campaigns on child labour and improving access to formal quality education have been some of the ongoing activities linked to the project.

**National level:** Building from its successes, the EEMPATA model has been endorsed by the president of Guatemala and governmental authorities are strengthening a national commitment to promoting decent work for youth in agriculture and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project.

**International level:** In November 2018, Olman Mendoza, a young graduate of the EEMPATA project spoke at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights about the impacts of the model on the lives of young people and shared best practises.

The key elements of the EEMPATA model are; 1. School enrolment, 2. School retention, 3. Development of market-driven knowledge and skills, and 4. Decent work opportunities and job placement. Aside from getting children into school and away from child labour the model seeks to address some of the key obstacles for young people to access work that is fair, safe, equal and with open working conditions. Business skills training, computer skills and subsidised internships are just some of the ways in which the model seeks to address gaps.

The model has been developed through a collaborative approach, involving the public and private sector, civil society, parents, teachers, local community leaders and the children and adolescents themselves, to ensure the sustainability of the project. Engagement with and commitment from all these stakeholders ensure youth engagement and decent work opportunities across agricultural systems.