

**Proposal 10: Global Health and Safety (H&S) Initiative**

Submitting MGs / CSOs	Workers : International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)
Countries of Implementation	Initial focus on Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and Tanzania
Agro-ecological context	Initial focus on tropical regions
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, \$US 150, 000

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Farmers
- Women
- Workers & Trade Unions
- Local Authorities
- Scientific & Technological Community

**Success indicators:**

- No. of workers able to negotiate improved H&S policies and agreements
- No. of workshops held
- No. of materials disseminated in local languages
- No. of success documented

Partners to be engaged:

Government (Ministries of Labour) and Federations of employers in each country, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, FAO Global IPM Facility, Pesticide Action Network and local NGOs.

**Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 184 by the four countries; better Collective Bargaining Agreements with employers and Functional Health and Safety Committees at all workplaces; agricultural workers, often excluded in national legislation, will be able to voice their concerns and participate in H&S on national matters affecting them and issues affecting at workplaces. Impact on MDGs 4, 5 and 7.

**Proposed Objectives and Approaches**

Reduce rates of fatalities and ill health due to occupational accidents, diseases and pesticides poisoning among agricultural workers. More specifically:

- Build capacity of participating unions to develop union H&S policies and negotiate better H&S Agreements with employers,
- Participate in and influence national policy specifically on ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 184 by the four countries,
- Support the transition to more sustainable agriculture,
- Offer training workshops, disseminate educational materials, incorporate theater to address illiteracy, and translate written materials into local languages; enable local leadership to emerge and document success stories.

**Building upon Experience**

Agriculture is one of the three most hazardous occupations, along with mining and construction. IUF carried out the Global Pesticides Project /Health, Safety and Environment (2000-2004) to build capacity for IUF and agricultural unions to reduce the hazards and risks to agricultural workers of pesticide use at local, regional, national and international levels. The workers formed Health and Safety Committees at their workplaces and concluded Collective Bargaining Agreements with their employers. This project builds upon this experience in the context of ILO Convention 184 on Health and Safety in Agriculture.

**Major Group Inputs**

Education and training, education and communication materials and capacity building for SARD, in collaboration with employers (farmers), employees, governments, NGOs, S&T and others. IUF will provide its experience, skills and knowledge in organizing vulnerable waged agricultural workers to break out of the vicious cycle of poor health that reduces working capacity, lowers productivity and shortens life expectancy.