Good Agricultural Practices and livelihoods approaches to reduce child labour in agriculture

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Outline

1. Vicious and virtuous cycles, principles
2. Role of agricultural stakeholders
3. Addressing causes & livelihoods approach
4. Good Agricultural Practices
5. Monitoring & Evaluation & data
6. Lessons
Child labour in agriculture

Key facts:

- Working mostly in subsistence agriculture: family-based and small-scale
- Conditions: Informal, hazardous, unpaid, invisible, no unions
- Challenges: few livelihood alternatives, weak education systems, migration, cultural practices, under-regulation
The vicious cycle of poverty and child labour

- Poverty and low incomes in rural areas
- Low agricultural productivity of agriculture and low performance of rural economies
- Reduced capacity of communities to innovate and respond to shocks
- Low adult wages and weak bargaining capacity
- Children supplementing/substituting adults
- Children enter the labour force, mostly worst forms of child labour
- Low school enrolment and reduced health of children
- Children/adults trapped in unskilled labour
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Pro-poor growth and poverty reduction in rural areas

- Food and nutrition security; income security; education, health and social services
- Higher productivity and dynamism of rural economies
- Increased capacity to innovate and respond to shocks
- Higher school attendance rates and improved performance

A virtuous cycle

- Less need for children to work
- Less children enter the labour force, less child labour and worst forms
FOCUS
On poverty reduction policies, apply gender lens

TARGET
Most vulnerable populations and sectors

ALLOCATE
Specific resources

UNDERTAKE
Multi-stakeholder interventions

SUPPORT
Community awareness, buy-in, monitoring and rights-based action

ADOPT
Incentive based and livelihoods approaches

Principles of an approach to prevent and reduce child labour
Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, FAO have an important role

- Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policies, programmes and capacity development
- Engage in inter-ministerial cooperation and multi-actor programmes on child labour in agriculture
- Build knowledge and raise awareness in particular on how to address child labour in the informal economy
- Create enabling environment for producer organizations and other agricultural stakeholders to be actively involved
What can FAO contribute?

- Long term holistic approach to fighting hunger
- Strong focus/expertise on small-scale, self-employed and informal agriculture
- Close contacts with Ministries of Agriculture, small producer organizations and cooperatives, partnership with other international agricultural organizations
- Wealth of experience with vocational training models for low literacy agricultural populations
- Be more child labour sensitive ….
Addressing the causes of child labour

- **Economic** (poverty, no quality education)
- **Social** (discrimination)
- **Political** (lack of recognition of child labour as an issue, labour laws do not apply to agriculture)
- **Institutional** (lack of voice of children and workers; property rights; bonded labour; nature of contracts e.g. piece-rate)
- **Cultural** (perception of children involved in farming as traditional to help the family)
Examples of preventive measures

- Provision of adequate and relevant education opportunities (incl. agric. extension and vocational training in rural industries)
- Improving work and tenancy contracts for adults (in farming, fisheries, responsible agricultural investments etc)
- Extending coverage of social protection to agriculture, the self-employed, migrant communities
- Identifying and promoting non-hazardous work for children of legal working age
- Creating awareness and reinforcing ownership in the families, rural communities and workplaces
Adopt incentive-based and livelihoods approaches

Recognizing:
– Poverty as a major driver of both the supply and demand for child labour
– Perceived need to involve children / livelihoods strategies

Identify:
– Pathways out of poverty
– Innovative ways to assist families

Sustainable solutions to child labour need to provide families with sustainable alternatives
Analyzing livelihoods

Assets

Vulnerability
- Context
  - Shocks
  - Seasonality
  - Trends
  - Changes

Policies and Institutions

Influence

Livelihood Strategies
Applying livelihoods focus:

CL and agricultural development programmes

Mainstream CL concerns into agricultural and rural development and poverty reduction programmes and projects

- CL sensitive targeting of food security and nutrition programmes
- Incentive-based approaches (grants, cash transfers, subsidies)
- Combining livelihoods diversification / income-generation approaches with Community Based Information and Monitoring Systems
- Private Cos. working with suppliers to find viable alternatives to CL
- Linking infrastructure development and natural-resource management with livelihoods and children’s work/chores: potable water, multiple use irrigation, fuel collection, energy-saving stoves
Applying livelihoods focus: education and training

– Support relevant curricula for primary and secondary schools e.g. support adoption of agricultural, business, life-skills modules
– Adjust holidays to seasonal agricultural calendar where possible
– Support vocational (and life skills) training for low-literacy agricultural populations, including children and youth
– Vocational training for youth needs to consider strategies beyond training (labour market analysis, entrepreneurship, microfinance, job placement)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGRICULTURAL SKILLS</th>
<th>LIFE-BUSINESS SKILLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLANNING IN AGRICULTURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>PLANNING IN LIFE</strong></td>
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<td>(planning a cropping calendar)</td>
<td>(importance of setting goals)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATER MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>WATER IN LIFE – HYGIENE – HEALTH</strong></td>
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<td>(irrigation methods)</td>
<td>(quality of water and nutrition)</td>
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<td><strong>CHARACTERISTICS OF SOIL CONDITION</strong></td>
<td><strong>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<td>(methods of sowing and preparation)</td>
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<td><strong>HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CROPS AND PROPERTY</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF</strong></td>
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<td>(child labour, rights and property rights)</td>
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<td><strong>WHEN TO HARVEST AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT</strong></td>
<td><strong>AGRICULTURE AS A BUSINESS</strong></td>
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<td>(demands from the market)</td>
<td>(business and marketing skills)</td>
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<td><strong>ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS</strong></td>
<td>Participation in Producer Organizations</td>
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<td>(sustainable and diversified agriculture)</td>
<td>(increase services for rural youth)</td>
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Ex. Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS)
JFFLS: Preventing child labour

- Vulnerable youth are empowered and provided with livelihoods options and skills
  - linkages to formal school
  - focus on food security
  - better decision-making skills

- Better youth employment prospects contribute to the likelihood that parents keep children in school

- Child labour prevention module
  - health and safety
  - education
  - gender
Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for CL prevention

Practices that:

• reduce (child) labour demand
• are safe
• increase income and access to food
• build resilience and decrease vulnerability to shocks
• actively engage agricultural stakeholders
Reducing labour demands
Conservation Agriculture (CA)

**Definition**: Minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop rotation

**Effects**: Less labour demands, less need for herbicides, sustainable increase in production

**Challenges**: Expertise and support systems, risk of temporarily negative impacts on income and labour, shift in farmers mindset

**Country case**: Increased school attendance through CA in Tanzania
Reducing labour demands
E.g. by Labour Saving Technologies

**Definition**: Sum of all practices and technologies that save labour

**Effects**: Less labour demand

**Challenges**: Capital intensity of mechanization, risk of new hazards, need of technical and economic viability

**Country case**: Decrease demand for children in ploughing through trained oxen in Mali
Making work safer

Integrated Production and Pest Management

**Definition:** Practices increasing agricultural productivity and reducing the use of toxic pesticides

**Effects:** Substitution of pesticides, sustainable increase in production

**Challenges:** Expertise and support systems, shift in farmers mindset; positive: few economic risks or capital needs

**Country case:** Reduced CL and increased awareness of pesticide hazards for children through IPPM in West Africa
Increasing income and risk resilience
Livelihood diversification

**Definition**: Diversification in available off-farm and non-farm activities, crop diversification

**Effects**: Increase in income, increased resilience to cope with shocks of weather and farm prices

**Needs & Challenges**: Education and training for business capacities of small-scale producers (e.g. FFS), child labour sensitive planning in programme designs

**Country case**: Increased food security from diversification through FAO/FICA programme, Malawi
Integrate child labour in agricultural policies/plans
Example Cambodia

- Consultation on voluntary guidelines for small-scale fisheries

- Child labour prevention in Cambodian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

- Fisheries Administration 10 year strategic planning framework includes CL reduction targets
Monitoring and Evaluation

- Promote greater engagement of producer organizations and rural workers organizations in monitoring and preventing child labour

- Promote use of monitoring mechanisms already in place in existing voluntary guidelines and codes of practice used at country level to improve child labour monitoring, e.g. Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries, GAP certification, GLOBAL G.A.P, Fair Trade, unions, etc.)

- Integrate labour and school attendance indicators in M&E systems in rural development and agricultural programmes
Making informed decisions

- Improve national labour and agricultural censuses, surveys and establish a age and sex-disaggregated database on children’s activities in agriculture by sub-sector (incl. household chores), linking with ILO/IPEC and other UNICEF or WB initiatives

- Support action-oriented research and case studies, involving local communities, to identify the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and child labour hot spots as well as to identify alternatives
Lessons Learned

– First phase is very sensitive and important to gain engagement: take the time to listen and discuss to involve key stakeholders

– Agricultural stakeholders are interested in getting more actively involved in child labour work, if they perceive:
  – Food production, income generation and poverty reduction as means of reducing child labour
  – Child labour as a threat to future decent employment in youth and adulthood (life-cycle)
  – Child labour as a long-term threat to agricultural and rural development

– Clarifying child labour laws is important, but not the best entry point for discussion. Important to differentiate training and communication on ILO Conv. and on national laws
Lessons Learned

- A common *national* understanding of child labour in agriculture is a prerequisite for effective involvement
- Agricultural stakeholders rarely participate in community, district and national child labour action and coordination
- Not all agricultural activities receive same attention: e.g. CL in fisheries, livestock, local value chains, including food crops are often neglected yet the majority of child labour in agriculture is family based and not linked to export value chains
- Sustaining the withdrawal of children from CL is a challenge; collaboration between agricultural and labour stakeholder could provide a pathway
Tackle child labour in agriculture at its roots!

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Thank you!