



**IUF = International Union of Food, Agriculture,
Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied
Workers Association**

- International trade union representing workers throughout the food chain
- 369 affiliated trade unions in 128 countries
- Regional offices - Brussels, Sydney, Montevideo, Johannesburg and Barbados

Global solidarity (leaflet) or
www.iuf.org for more info

Informalisation and globalisation

- Not new in agriculture - history of trade in commodities - banana trade long dominated by a few companies
- but seeing increasing control of parts of chain by globalised companies and at the retail end
- informalisation - agriculture traditionally had very informal employment relationships but new mobility of workers - however mistake to see ALL agriculture as informal - some countries extensive legislation eg India - Plantations Labour Act - problem is application

Agriculture - The statistics

The Workforce

- 1,140 million in 1996
- Peak at 1,160 million about now
- Slow decline to 1,140 million by 2010

Source ILO

World's Economically Active Population in Agriculture

1990 - 46.6%

2000 - 42%

2010 - 38%

Employed workers

- Estimated 450 million waged agricultural workers
- 40% of the world's agricultural labour force
- Waged agricultural employment is increasing in all regions but increasingly casualised/precarious

Employment 1980s & 1990s

- Increase in the share of women in agricultural wage employment - packhouses, flowers, horticulture etc
- Growing casualisation
- Growing use of migrant workers

Informalisation linked to?

- Move from direct ownership/divesting eg TATA tea (Tetley/Allied Lyons) sold its plantations
- Increased contracting of production - outsourcing eg in sugar, fruit & veg

Why am I telling you this?

- DFID policy statement of 2005 on the role of agriculture failed to acknowledge that there were workers in agriculture and talked only about small farmers
- Have to understand nature of the workforce if you are to develop policy to tackle the problem

Decent work in
agriculture or
decent work deficit?

Agricultural workers generally

- Very low levels of trade union organisation
- legal barriers/exemptions from Labour law eg Apartheid South Africa, USA, Canada, Pakistan
- lower levels of protection from Labour Law
- ILO specific conventions C11, 99, 110, 144, 184 to give international legal/rights framework

Unsafe Work

- Agriculture = one of three most dangerous industries (alongside construction and mining)
- Most fatal accidents are in agriculture: 330,000 workplace deaths, 170,000 are in agriculture (ILO = underestimate)
- Many accidents and industrial diseases/particular problems from pesticides

Child Labour

- 70 % of Child labour in Agriculture
- linked to adult poverty
 - children work because their parents are poor but child labour undermines the capacity of adult workers to negotiate a decent wage - Children into school and parent/family member into the job

Migrant workers

- Often highly informal/irregular
- Increasing use in Western European and North American agriculture
- Migrant/immigrant workforce - might be there for generations eg tea gardens in India but still not regarded as indigenous
- lack of knowledge of rights; very low levels of trade union organisation

Workers

We sow it

We reap it

We can't afford

To eat it

(NUAAW, 1980s campaign slogan)

Fundamental injustice that those who feed the world have the least resources to feed themselves and their families.

Defining the informal economy in agriculture

- very hard to do - small farmers are plantation workers and plantation workers can be small land owners
- huge numbers of landless workers
- huge numbers of seasonal, temporary and migrant workers (internal and external e.g. in coffee harvesting)

Conclusions

- Trade union organisation has to be starting point for extending rights to informal economy workers
- Trade unions need to ensure their bargaining agenda reflects the needs and aspirations of seasonal workers/equality in pay rates and benefits
- Legal framework - ILO new Recommendation on employment relationship (2006) plus national measures eg Gangmasters Licensing Act in UK

Measures by IUF affiliates

- SEWA - organising into trade union; use of micro-credits/SEWA bank and extension of social security system
- Agricultural Alliance (India) - campaigning for an Agricultural Labourers Act
- Migrant workers - info on rights/provided in home country; TU organisers from home countries

Working in Sweden?
Information for persons with temporary jobs in Sweden

Kommunal



Робота в Швеції
Інформація про роботу в Швеції

Kommunal



Чи варто працювати в Швеції?
Інформація про роботу в Швеції

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IUF strategies

- equal rights for **ALL** agricultural workers to be in a trade union and represented by that union (collective bargaining):decent work & safe work
- framework agreements IUF/COLSIBA/CHIQUITA on rights for workers on directly owned plantations in Central America - obligations on core rights, ohs, provision of information, **ALSO SUPPLIERS.**
- engage companies along the food chain - build links along the food chain
- international membership card