Project No. 4-5

Region: Asia
Country: Viet Nam

Project:
Participatory approaches to improving safety, health and working conditions of farmers in Viet Nam – Development and practice of WIND (Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development Programme) training programme

Donors:
Government of Japan

Project Description:
Agriculture plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of Viet Nam with around 70% of the working population in the agricultural sector and there is growing recognition that safe, healthy and productive working lives must be secured for farmers across the country.

The WIND programme was first developed by the Center for Occupational Health and Environment, Can Tho Province in collaboration with the Institute for Science of Labour, Japan in 1996. Based on its initial success in Can Tho Province, the WIND programme is spreading to other provinces. Learning from their achievements, a new ILO project applying the WIND programme funded by Japanese government was launched in May 2004.

The project has two major objectives. The first is to strengthen national occupational safety and health (OSH) policies and legislative frameworks and to develop a medium-term national OSH programme with clear goals and regulations including agricultural sector. The second is to build sustainable, action-oriented training mechanisms directly with local farmers and establish their networks to improve safety, health and working conditions in agriculture by applying the WIND training programme.

Its strategies include:
1) To take local best practice approach (collect OSH improvement examples carried out by local farmers and use them as the local good practice examples in the training)
2) To develop a participatory, action-oriented training programme (WIND) and necessary training tools such as action-checklists, training manuals, and good example booklets
3) To train local farmer trainers to increase the coverage by the WIND programme
4) To network the farmers trainers to maintain and increase their training capacities
5) To mobilize local government systems to support farmers’ improvement initiatives
6) To feed back the local support experiences to the national policy level
The below is the cooperative structure for implementing the project.

To date, 276 farmers have received WIND training in the eight pilot courses in the 4 target provinces of the country (Can Tho and Hau Giang in the south, Ha Nam and Nghe An in the north) and over 250 OSH improvements were made by the trained farmers. A further 300 farmer volunteers will be trained as facilitators of WIND activities in their village in 2005. Also the government strengthened OSH policies for agriculture and developed a taskforce to integrate them into the national OSH programme.

**Gender and Ethnic Components:**
In principle, the project invites a couple of farmers (wife and husband) as participants of the WIND training for more effective and practical implementation of OSH improvements.

**Contact Details:**
Dr. Yuka Ujita
10th floor, United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok, 10200, Thailand
Email: ujita@ilo.org
Phone number: +66-2-288-1716