

*Approved
by Resolution 61 of the Government
of the Kyrgyz Republic, February 20, 2007*

The Program of improving protection, safety and working conditions in agriculture in 2007-2009

The program of improving protection, safety and working conditions in agriculture in 2007-2009 (*further on* – the Program) was developed in compliance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Ratification of ILO Convention 184 on safety and health in agriculture” and addresses the problems of protecting the life and health of workers in the agricultural sector.

I. The current state of protection, safety and working conditions in the agricultural sector

The social and economic transformations, now in progress in the Kyrgyz Republic, involving 549 collective and state farms, led to the creation in agriculture of 255 thousand new economic subjects. The analysis of the state of protection, safety and working conditions in agriculture has made evident numerous problems in the organization and provision of protection of life and health of agricultural workers in the process of their labour activity.

The OSH Service in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing of the Kyrgyz Republic had been abolished; as a result no consistent policy is practiced in the area of labour protection and safety in the sector.

But a few enterprises and organizations in agriculture practice medical checks of employees exposed to hazardous and dangerous working conditions.

Outdated and run-down machinery and equipment are often used in agricultural works. The technical life span of the tractors has been expended by over 80 per cent, harvesters - 70 per cent, seeders - 85 per cent, ploughs - 75 per cent.

The workplaces do not meet sanitary and health requirements.

In agriculture labour of women is often employed at labour intensive, insufficiently mechanized operations, as well as at work activities demanding considerable physical strain. Pregnant women are frequently employed in tobacco cultivation and processing, which falls under the category of hazardous working conditions.

Allocations to finance OSH activities are on the decrease. In 2004 only 0.3 million soms were allocated to these objectives, which makes up only 0.002 per cent of the overall expenditure of the Republic.

As a result of insufficient financing agricultural workers are inadequately provided with individual and collective means of protection.

Heads of farmer and peasant economic undertakings, small and private processing enterprises, having poor knowledge of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic concerning labour safety, overlook infringements of OSH standards and norms.

As a consequence of poor organization of safe working production activities, weak knowledge of OSH legislation, lack of training of personnel, including management, the level of industrial accidents and injury in the agricultural sector is rather high.

In the period 2000-2004, 570 workers were affected by industrial accidents in agriculture, 22 of them died.

The cost of paying the compensation for work injuries and occupational diseases reached 0.5 million soms in 2004 alone.

II. Basic aims and objectives of the Program

The principal aim of the Program is to promote activities aimed at improving protection, safety and working conditions in the agricultural sector, safeguard life and health of workers in the countryside, raise the quality of their life.

The Program includes a package of social, economic, organizational, technical and other measures, the implementation of which will ensure improved safety and better working conditions and reduce industrial risks in agricultural production.

Basic objectives of the Program include reduction of industrial injuries and occupational diseases, workplaces of better quality with safe and healthy working conditions.

III. Budgeting the Program

Financial and technical support to the Program is provided from the available material resources of the concerned State government bodies and local government bodies, responsible for the implementation of measures of the given Program, provided from republican and local budgets and approved in conformity with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as funding from international organizations and projects, sponsors' resources.

Social, economic, geographical and climatic conditions in the country's regions differ widely; therefore the specifics of each region should be taken into account when designing the financial and resource provision scheme.

IV. Main activities

These activities are to meet the aims and objectives of development and consolidation of the system of labour protection, safety and health in agriculture, in line with requirements of ILO Convention 184 on safety and health of labour in agriculture, adopted by the International Labour Organization in June 21, 2001.

These activities were designed on the basis of the survey monitoring the state of safety and working conditions of agricultural workers and have the objective of reducing the level of industrial injuries and occupational diseases.

Section I. Development of normative legal acts and improvement of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic dealing with protection, safety and health of labour in the agricultural sector.

Measures are envisaged to improve the normative legal base ensuring development of basic labour safety acts, harmonization of the national legislation with the requirements of ILO Convention 184 "Safety and health in agriculture".

The measures involve priority activities designed to develop and implement standards, norms and rules ensuring protection of life and health of agricultural workers.

They address also the problem of protecting female and child labour. Women and children living in village areas are widely employed as agricultural workers.

The activities under this Section aim at reduction of women' labour at working operations involving significant physical strain, need to lift heavy objects, exposure to vibration, hazardous chemical substances.

Measures are envisaged to ban child labour in tobacco cultivation and potentially dangerous kinds of work involving the use of mechanisms and chemicals.

Section II. Organizational and technical activities.

This section deals with implementation of measures addressing organizational and technical activities aimed at better management in the sphere of labour protection, safety and health in agriculture.

The establishment, under due procedure, of a tripartite Council on labour protection (with participation of representatives of the executive authority, trade union bodies, employers) is also planned.

It should become a basis for further development of social dialogue of the partners, formulation of coordinated approach to the implementation of safety measures to protect life and health of workers in the countryside.

Section III. Information support of labour protection, safety and health

The information support of the Program includes analysis of the state of OSH, industrial injury and occupational diseases in agriculture.

Development and publication of training and teaching aids, reference materials, posters, improvement of professional skills of practitioners, training of OSH specialists are also planned.

Taking into account the fact that one of the main reasons for industrial accidents and occupational diseases is lack of training of employees, including managers and OSH specialists, the weak knowledge by them of labour safety rules and standards, the Program pays attention to organization of training and retraining of agricultural workers and farmers.

Conferences, training workshops, round table discussions are also planned on the problems of safe agricultural work processes, permitting to share practical work experience.

Section IV. Scientific support to labour protection, safety and health

This section includes measures to integrate science with agricultural production, provide scientific support to labour protection, safety and health in agriculture.

Activities are envisaged to develop scientifically sound techniques of workplace certification in the agricultural sector: animal husbandry, use of chemicals, fertilizers, etc.

V. Plan of activities to improve labour protection, safety and working conditions in agriculture in 2007-2009

No	Activities	Term of implementation	Executing agencies	Indicators
1	2	3	4	5
Section I. Development of normative legal acts and improvement of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic dealing with protection, safety and health of labour in the agricultural sector				
1	Analysis of current legislation in the agricultural sector, national and sectoral OSH standards. Development on this basis of national standards	2007	Ministry of agriculture, water supply and processing industry (MAWSP), Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSP), National Institute of Standardization and Metrology	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
2	To draft a list of OSH rules and regulations now in force in agriculture	2007	MAWSP, MLSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union, State Labour Inspection, Committee of Agro-industrial complex and Agricultural Workers of the KRK Union (if agreed)	Interdepartmental order
3	To formulate additions and amendments to the Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on administrative liability of managers of agricultural undertakings and non-public organizations for non-observance of requirements of the OSH normative legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic.	2007-2008	MAWSP, MLSP, Employers' confederation, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
4	To form a working group of social partners to review the acting legislation and formulate proposals for its modification in line with provisions of ILO Convention 184 on safety and health in agriculture	2007	MAWSP, MLSP, Employers' confederation, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Revision of the normative legal base of the agricultural sector

5	To develop and adopt, under the appropriate procedure, a list of agricultural occupations where female and child labour is prohibited.	2008	MAWSP, MLSP, Employers' confederation, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
6	In order to raise the sanitary culture of agricultural workers, to develop and bring to the consideration of the Health Ministry recommendations on observance of OSH rules while conducting delivery campaigns in the animal breeding sector; recommendations on prevention standards and industrial health norms while working with mineral fertilizers and pesticides in plant and crop production and gardening sectors	2008	MAWSP, Health Ministry, MLSP, Confederation of Employers, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Interdepartmental order
7	To formulate a new statute on registration and investigation of industrial accidents and out-of-work accidents	2007-2008	State Labour Inspection in cooperation with other supervisory and control bodies, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Municipal Technical Inspection, State Power Inspection	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
8	To draft the bill "On ratification of ILO Convention 129 on labour inspection in agriculture	2007	MLSP, MAWSP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Labour Inspection	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
9	To develop procedures for industrial risk assessment in agriculture and, on this basis, put into practice necessary preventive measures protecting workers' life and health	2008	MAWSP, MLSP, Confederation of Employers, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Interdepartmental order
10	To formulate a draft law to make function social partnership and social dialogue aimed at creating safe and healthy working conditions in agricultural production	2008	MAWSP, MLSP, local state bodies, Confederation of Employers, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

11	To draft a list of potentially hazardous forms of work in agricultural production	2007	MAWSP, Health Ministry, MLSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed)	Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Section II. Organizational and technical activities				
1.	Creation of a tripartite Council on protection, safety and health of labour in agriculture. Creation of similar committees in "aiyl okmotu"	2008	MLSP, MAWSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), Confederation of Employers (as agreed), local state bodies	Report on the progress of creating tripartite councils
2.	Creation in "aiyl okmotu" of volunteer fire-fighting teams	2007-2009	Local state bodies, "aiyl okmotu", MES	Report on the number of volunteer fire-fighting teams established
3.	Installation of outdoor fire-fighting water distribution points (in compliance with fire-fighting standards)	2008	Local state bodies, "aiyl okmotu", MAWSP, MES	Report on the number of installed outdoor fire-fighting water distribution points
4.	Setting up a Service centre for repair and technical inspection of agricultural machinery and equipment	2008-2009	MAWSP, KRK Union (as agreed), local state bodies	Report on the number of established centres
5	Providing medical services, including primary, to villagers, members of farmers' and peasants' undertakings. Developing village services (out-patient and fixed) of urgent specialized medical aid	Continuously	Health Ministry, MAWSP, MLSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), local state bodies	Report on the number of established medical aid facilities
6	Development and implementation of a unified system of registration, creation of the databank on accidents and occupational diseases in agriculture	2007-2008	MLSP, MAWSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State Labour Inspection	Creating the databank
7.	Creating local specialized technological centres providing services to farmers: ploughing, seeding, fertilization, soil management, use of pesticides	2007-2009	MAWSP, local state bodies	Report on the number of specialized technological centres created

8	Development and launching of a system of collecting, processing and destruction of chemical waste, outdated chemical substances and empty containers for chemicals, as well as non-functioning pesticide storage facilities, in order to prevent their further use and eliminate risks to human health and environment	2007-2008	MAWSP, Health ministry, MES, State agency of environment protection	Project proposal
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Section III. Information support of labour protection, safety and health

1.	Development of training programs on protection, safety and health of labour in agriculture for managers, specialists of agricultural undertakings and organizations	2009	MAWSP, MLSP, State mining and technology inspection, Coordinating council of social partners on occupational training	Training programs for different agricultural sectors
2.	Development and publication of training and teaching materials, codes of practice, aids, brochures and posters on protection, safety and health of labour in agriculture	2008-2009	MAWSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), Confederation of employers, State labour inspection, State mining and technology inspection	Publication of appropriate literature
3.	Carrying out each year the analysis of the state of protection and working conditions in the agricultural sector; formulating, under the established procedure, proposals for their improvement	2008-2009	MAWSP, Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State labour inspection, State mining and technology inspection	Drafting an annual report
4.	Organizing conferences, training workshops in regions with participation of employees of agricultural undertakings, "aiyl okmotu" and farmers	2008-2009	MAWSP, local state bodies, Confederation of employers, Coordinating council of social partners on occupational training	Once a year in each region

5.	Ensuring training of all agricultural workers under the program WIND (improved work practices in developing local communities). Distribution to participants of «The training program on safety, working conditions and protection of health in agriculture», the training aid «Safety and health of labour in the use of chemicals in agriculture»	2008-2009	MAWSP, local state bodies, "aiyl okmotu", Central Committee of Agro-industrial Workers' Union (as agreed), State labour inspection, Coordinating council of social partners on occupational training	Report on the numbers of participants
Section IV. Scientific support to labour protection, safety and health				
1.	Development of technical recommendations on conducting certification and risk assessment of workplaces in agriculture	2007	MAWSP, MLSP, Health ministry, State labour inspection	Interdepartmental order
2.	Development of recommendations on manufacturing, processing, use, storage and transportation of chemical substances	2008	MAWSP, MLSP, Health ministry, State mining and technology inspection	Interdepartmental order
3.	Development of technical recommendations on cattle-breeding and protection of workers against biological risks	2008	MAWSP, MLSP, Health ministry, Coordinating council of social partners on occupational training	Interdepartmental order