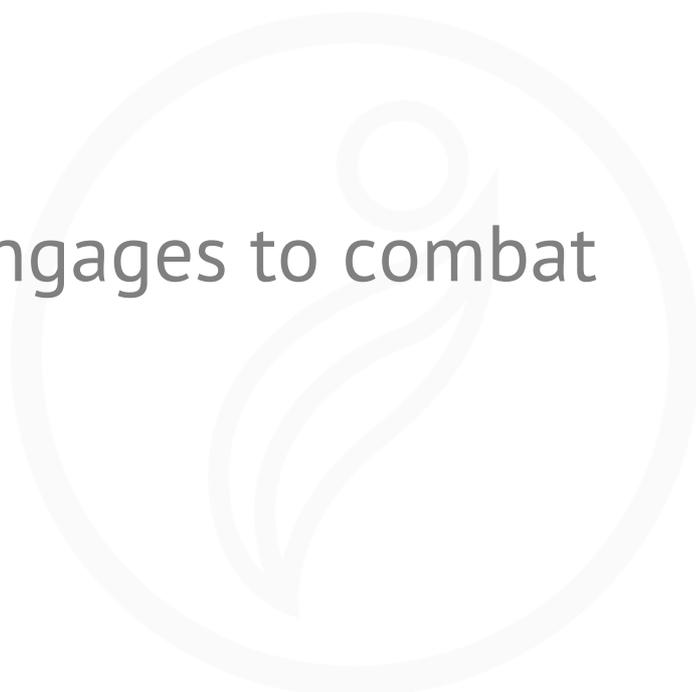


The seed industry engages to combat child labour

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A POSITION PAPER PREPARED BY THE
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CONTEXT

Child labour exists in many parts of the world. According to the statistics of the International Labour Organization (ILO) the global number of children engaged in child labour is significantly declining. Agriculture remains a sector where child workers can be found.

Child labour still exists in the seed sector despite the considerable efforts taken by seed companies to improve general labour conditions and prevent child labour.

The International Seed Federation (ISF)¹ has always been concerned about the welfare of those working in the seed sector. ISF aims to totally eradicate child labour from the seed sector worldwide.²

POSITION

- ISF doesn't tolerate child labour and rejects any form of it.
- ISF expects its members to forbid child labour in their organizations and encourages them to implement policies with their contracting parties that ensures the same result in the whole seed supply chain.
- ISF members and their suppliers should act consistently with the United Nations conventions on rights of the child and the respective ILO conventions. Furthermore, ISF members and their suppliers should comply with all relevant national and international laws, regulations and provisions applicable in the country of operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ISF recommends its members implement the following measures to prevent child labour.

- Raise awareness on the ills of child labour among local communities and farmers.

¹ ISF is a non-governmental, non-profit making organization that represents the interests of the seed industry at a global level. ISF facilitates the free movement of seed within a framework of fair and science-based regulations, whilst serving the interests of farmers, growers, industry and consumers.

² In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Child and ILO Conventions child labour refers to any work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The definition of child labour and minimum age may vary in the different countries.

- Build a manageable system for prevention, monitoring, systematic reporting and implementation of corrective measures.
- Use a clear contractual ban of child labour combined with incentives and sanctions for seed producing partners and farmers.
- These measures need to be applied, particularly in those geographical areas where child labour is a concern.

BEST PRACTICE

- Wording in the contract to have commitment from third-party suppliers not to use child labour.
- Training of seed companies' personnel and the personnel of their seed suppliers.
- Audit process to ensure compliance of no child labour in high risk areas.
- Reporting to show current status and trends of child labour.

GUIDELINES

ISF highlights the following detailed guidelines that provide further information on possible measures that could be implemented at seed company level:

CropLife Position on Child Labor in the Seed Supply Chain

https://croplife-r9qnrxt3qygjra4.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf_files/CropLife-International-Position-on-Child-Labour.pdf

APSA Position Paper on Abolishing Child Labor in the Seed Industry

<http://apsaseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/APSA-Child-Labor.pdf>

Child Labor Prevention Guideline for APSA

<http://apsaseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Guidelines-Prevention-Child-Labor-Final-Draft-Jan17.pdf>