IUF work on human & labour rights in the cocoa value chain & TU capacity building

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Presentation

- Introduce IUF
- Outline the problems facing workers in agriculture/cocoa
- Priorities for the IUF’s agricultural work
- Work in cocoa
- Work in value chain
Who we are

- IUF/UITA/IUL = international union of food, agriculture, hotel, restaurant, catering, tobacco and allied workers
  www.iuf.org
- 389 affiliated unions in 124 countries including unions present here
- EFFAT = European organisation
IUF - what we do

- Bring together workers throughout the food chain - from plough to plate
- solidarity/defence of workers/rights
- equality
- TU development project - OHS
- build organising capacity along the foodchain - TNCs - Nestlé, Coca Cola
## Working in agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Employment (in 000s)</th>
<th>Percentage of Region's Total Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>1,036,330</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed economies and EU</td>
<td>18,468</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>309,797</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>286,085</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>46,383</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Saharan Africa</td>
<td>192,007</td>
<td>64.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(source ILO)
Agriculture...... far from decent work

- lack of freedom of association/collective bargaining
- 1 of 3 most dangerous industries
- high fatal accident rate
- 60% of all child labour in agriculture
- high number of migrant workers
- precarious conditions
  - seasonal work & outsourcing
Agriculture…… far from decent work

We sow it
We reap it
We can’t afford
To eat it
(NUAAW, 1980s)

75% of world’s poor live in rural areas
Women in agriculture

- women are farmers and workers - produce more than 50% of world’s food
- agriculture = most important sector for women’s employment, especially in Africa and Asia
- often in most precarious forms of employment/unpaid family work/seasonal contracts
Children in agriculture

- 60% of all child labour
- most on small, family farms
- some in commercial agriculture
- many child migrant workers
- hidden by piece rates/task work
- worst forms - forced labour, dangerous, deprives children of education
AWTG PRIORITIES
SINCE 2009

- bananas
- cut flowers
- sugar
- tea
- palm oil
- Cross-cutting - OHS, rural employment, gender, food rights
AWTG PRIORITIES
SINCE 2009 - why?

- Priority = plantation crops where there is hired labour & also crops that are expanding
- seasonal/precarious/migrant work common in all crops
- regional variations eg Asia - cotton & rice; Africa cocoa
Cocoa work

- Within on-going projects
- Limited to Africa - GAWU, Ivory Coast & Nigeria to lesser degree
- OHS work - pesticides, machetes, loads/lifting
- Women’s regional programme
Child labour

- GAWU Child labour work - study on extent etc
- International Cocoa Initiative
- Development of new US Dept of Labor project on cocoa & PPP with 8 chocolate companies
- (International Partnership on Child Labour in Agriculture - FAO, ILO, IFAD, IFAP, IFPRI and IUF)
Capacity building?

- Can we as trade unions organise small farmers?
  - better farmers
  - access to markets
  - access to credits
  - access to inputs

- IUF Land & Freedom project - EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE
  CONTAG (Brazil), GAWU, SEWA (India)
  - small farmers often very bad employers
Value chain?

- Distribution of value? Eg World Banana Forum; where is the money?... so that farmers and TUs can negotiate better wages/prices
- Building links along the chain?
- Any value in co-ordination around other crops with similar issues eg coffee? hazelnuts, etc
Thank you