



GOOD PRACTICES TO END CHILD LABOUR

In harvest seasons, kindergartens protect the future of tobacco families

Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens)



Country
Argentina



Creation year and validity
2009 – to date



Responsible institution(s)

The program is developed by the Salta Tobacco Chamber, Sesa Select and Adecco, within the framework of the Network of Companies against Child Labour.

Since its inception, the technical implementation has been carried out through the Conscience Association -a civil society organization- and has the financial support of the Ministry of Social Development of the Nation and the technical assistance of the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour (CONAETI-its acronym in Spanish).



Hazardous child labour
and Agriculture

Within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, eight factors have been prioritized with the potential to accelerate the rate of reduction of child labour and advance in the achievement of target 8.7 of the SDGs.

Most of the children and adolescents working in the region do so in the agriculture sector, which includes livestock, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture production. Most of them participate in unpaid work modalities in small family farms, but also in production processes linked to supply chains for both export and domestic consumption. In agriculture, one of the three most dangerous sectors of activity, children and adolescents are exposed to serious physical and psychological risks that affect their health and development.



Background

In 2004, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security together with the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) carried out the first Survey of Activities of Girls, Boys and Adolescents (EANNA). With urban and rural coverage, the results of the survey indicated a child labour rate of 6.5% for boys and girls between 5 and 13 years-old, and 20% for adolescents between 14 and 18 years-old. It was also identified that the percentage of boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 13 who work is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and the difference is even greater in the case of adolescents. In this sense, it was highlighted that in rural areas 35.5% of adolescents performed a working activity.

In this context, Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) was created in 2009 as an initiative of the employers' organizations to help eradicate child labour, particularly in rural areas.

The Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) program arose from an alliance between public and private entities in which the Ministry of Development of the Nation, the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (SENAF), CONAETI, the Salta Tobacco Chamber, the Salta Coop of Tobacco Farmers, the Mutual Association de Tobacco Farmers of Salta and the member companies of the Network of Companies against child labour were articulated.



Objectives of the practice

The general objective is to contribute to the prevention and progressive eradication of child labour in rural areas, promoting the comprehensive care and development of boys and girls from 0 to 12 years-old, sons and daughters of workers, small farmers in tobacco producing areas and families at social risk.

The specific objectives are:

- Provide a space for care and attention in which school, sports, artistic and recreational support activities are encouraged, making known and facilitating the exercise of the rights of boys and girls.
- Promote the control of health conditions, facilitating medical care and promoting prevention, hygiene and healthy life actions.
- Generate awareness and training spaces for teachers, families, and community leaders in rural tobacco-producing towns.
- Strengthen the school track record of the participating boys and girls through alternative spaces that promote the development of individual and social competences in order to reduce repetition and school drop-out.



Methodology developed

Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) was created with the purpose of providing alternatives for the parents of tobacco working families, so that they may have the option, during the harvest period, of a comprehensive development space for their sons and daughters from 1 to 12 years-old, keeping them away from the risk of being enrolled in child labour and promoting a change in the cultural paradigm in this regard in each locality where the program is implemented.

It operates during the months of January and February, from Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., taking advantage of the school premises for the activity. It takes place during this period of the year because it is the season when there is the greatest tobacco activity and, therefore, the one with the highest risk of child labour.

The program, created in the province of Salta, began as a pilot experience in the town of El Jardín and later expanded to the towns of La Merced, Betania, Rosario de Lerma, Coronel Moldes, Chicoana and la Viña. The school-gardens operate in the same public elementary schools in the tobacco zones. Since its inception and until 2016, 19 Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) had been started, covering nearly 600 children. In 2017, the program had been extended to 19 departments in the province, increasing its coverage to 900 boys and girls, and by 2018, it reached 1,200 boys and girls.

The school-gardens provide breakfast, hot lunch, a small afternoon meal and a snack, prepared according to the guidelines of professional nutritionists from the Head Department of Children, Adolescents and Family. Likewise, through coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, they provide health services. For the care of the boys and girls, three groups are formed according to age and each one is under the charge of a teacher and a caregiver mother, who provide them with care through recreation, games, pedagogical activities and a healthy diet.

The program also includes a follow-up of the children during the period from April to September, providing school support and recreation.



Economic, human resources and inputs required

As pointed out by the Ministry of Human Development and Social Protection of Argentina, in 2019 the Jardines de Cosecha were initiated with an approximate investment of USD 120.000¹.

The program develops strategies to generate and renew every year alliances with organizations, institutions and companies that contribute to its

¹ The investment corresponds to seven million Argentinian pesos, which at the exchange rate of December of 2019 results in a value of approximately 120 thousand US dollars.

strengthening and consolidation. Among the alliances identified, we found Randstad, Massalin Particulares, Fundación Macro, Limpiolux, Mastellone Hnos., Celulosa Argentina, Pepsico, Telecom and the Coop of Tobacco Farmers of Salta (COPROTAB). In addition, articulation strategies are created with the local authorities of the municipalities where the program is implemented.



Criteria that identify it as a good practice



Innovation

Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) develops an innovating proposal due to its working methodology, which allows them to provide a service of the creative use of the time of children and adolescents to prevent their involvement in child labour, based on a joint initiative between the private sector and government entities.



Relevance

In the northeastern part of Argentina, in the area of Salta, one finds large tobacco plantations that for many families are the main source of income. During

the harvest season, the families, including their underage children, work in gathering and processing the tobacco. Thus the relevance of the program Jardines de Cosecha (Harvest School-gardens) as a public-private strategy to combat child labour.



Sustainability

The program currently has 11 editions in the Province of Salta, which evidences an important sustainability in the last years associated with an efficient public-private articulation.

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