



A. A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF COVID-19 IN AGRICULTURE



This tool is available in: English, Spanish, French, Romanian.



WHAT IS THIS TOOL FOR?

This guide provides practical guidance for preventing and mitigating coronavirus transmission (COVID-19) in agricultural activities. The recommendations included must be paired with any norm, regulation or directive issued by each country, bearing in mind its social protection coverage in terms of OSH. The guide provides knowledge on:

- How to implement prevention measures in workplaces to avoid contagion by COVID-19.
- Apply basic measures to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Favour social dialogue and cooperation in the workplace.

The guide leads to the development of an action and implementation plan of measures to mitigate, eliminate and control the identified risks of the transmission of COVID-19 in agricultural activities.



WHO IS THIS TOOL FOR?

This guide is developed for:

- Employers or their representatives in charge of agricultural holdings (responsible for preserving workers' safety and health).
- Agricultural workers (permanent, temporary, day labourers and migrants).
- Any farms: Large, medium and small farms as well as cooperatives and family farms.



HOW TO USE THIS TOOL?

This guide includes a series of preventive measures to avoid exposure and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by implementing easily applied recommendations in the agricultural workplace. Due to the virus's characteristics, the recommendations are extended to homes and workers' transportation to their workplaces.

The publication provides guidance for employers to ensure that measures are taken to minimize risks in workplaces and provide the means and inputs at no cost to the workers. It also provides guidance for workers, who must cooperate to fulfil the recommendations to abide by the security measures, ensuring, within reasonable limits, other people's safety. This guide applies to all workers, regardless of their type of contract.

This guide also provides a series of posters with educational messages to reinforce recommendations directed at workers.

What is needed to implement this tool?

To implement these protocols, the following elements are needed:

- Workers and employers' time: in order to form the working group and develop the intervention plan, workers' and employers' time will be needed.
- Financial resources: Sufficient financial means to acquire inputs necessary to implement the suggested measures and recommendations.
- Technical resources: technical means to record activities as well as develop and monitor an implementation plan, such as computers, journals, or any other means to record the work.
- Information dissemination: In order to inform every actor involved, means to disseminate information, such as hard copies or virtual communication, will be needed.

What are the key activities to implement this tool?

- Appoint a working group, depending on the farm's size, including the administrator and/or supervisor, the workers' representatives, and the person responsible for the workplace's safety and health.
- Provide information and training to the group on the steps to follow to implement preventive and mitigation measures.
- Carry out risk assessments by analysing the different work environments and activities carried out by workers.
- According to the national legislation guidelines, inform workers of their right to leave a work situation or interrupt it when it implies an imminent and severe danger to their life and health.
- Train management, producers, workers and their representatives on the measures adopted to prevent the risk of exposure to the virus and how to act in the event of COVID-19 infection. For high-risk workers, training should include the correct use, maintenance and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Design a work plan according to the results obtained from the working group.
- Implement the plan and improve OSH in the workplace.



KEY CONCEPTS

- Hazards
- Mitigation
- OSH
- PPE
- Prevention
- Pyramid of controls
- Risk assessment
- Risks



WHERE TO FIND THIS TOOL?

Guía práctica para la prevención y mitigación del COVID-19 en la agricultura

Practical guide for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 in agriculture

Guide pratique pour la prévention et l'atténuation du COVID-19 dans l'agriculture

Ghid practic pentru prevenirea și atenuarea COVID-19 în agricultură



FURTHER READINGS AND RESOURCES

ILO (2020). Las Normas de la OIT y el COVID-19 (coronavirus).

ILO (2020). Prevención y mitigación del COVID-19 en el Trabajo. Lista de comprobación.

ILO (2011). Seguridad y Salud en la Agricultura. Repertorio de aplicaciones prácticas.

ILO (2020). Cómo gestionar el lugar de trabajo durante la crisis de la COVID-19: Una guía para los empleadores.

WHO, UNICEF, +CIFRC (2020). La Estigmatización social asociada a la COVID-19. Guía para prevenir y abordar la estigmatización Social.