



B. PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF COVID-19 IN AGRICULTURE IN HONDURAS. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDIUM AND LARGE AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES



This tool is available in: Spanish, English.



WHAT IS THIS TOOL ABOUT?

The objectives of this guide are to:

- Provide practical guidelines for the prevention and mitigation of the transmission of COVID-19 in the different activities and tasks of agriculture.
- Recommend measures for developing protocols for preventing infection by COVID-19 in agricultural production units, input supply houses, collection and processing, and in a general way to protect other actors involved in the workplace.
- Disseminate relevant information on individual and collective preventive measures related to COVID-19 for employers and workers in agriculture.
- Establish competencies on safety and health at work, emphasising biosafety and COVID-19, all actors of agricultural processes.



WHO IS THIS TOOL FOR?

- Employers and workers of medium and large agricultural companies.
- Those responsible for workers' health and safety in organizations and workplaces of medium and large agricultural companies.

However, this guide can be the starting point for any employers wishing to develop safe work activities within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors and risk agents present in workplaces.



HOW TO USE THIS TOOL?

According to this guide, each organization and workplace must establish a strategy to meet general and specific aspects to protect workers' safety and health. These strategies must consider, amongst others, the rules, regulations or guidelines established by the country's authorities. This guide includes measures to avoid exposure and reduce the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible by adopting actions that are easy to apply in any organizations, centres and workplaces in Honduras.

These actions can be replicated in other countries' agricultural sector, including the coffee supply chain.

What is needed to implement this tool?

- Workers and employers' time: To form the working group and develop the intervention plan, workers' and employers' time will be needed.
- Financial resources: Sufficient financial means to purchase all 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?

1. In consultation with workers' representatives, develop and publish a statement of management's commitment and responsibilities to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and transmission of COVID-19.
2. Develop a preparedness and response plan for the prevention of COVID-19 in the workplace, considering all work areas and tasks performed by workers, as well as potential sources of exposure.
3. Regularly consult the occupational health services, local public health authority, or other counterparts who may have developed information materials to promote the risk of exposure to the virus in the workplace or other technical recommendation.
4. Establish a system to provide reliable and up-to-date information on the emerging situation of COVID-19 concerning the information published by the national or local health authorities.
5. Map the hazards and risks of all operations and all jobs.
6. Integrate health and safety into the contingency plan and continuity of operations and consider other work-related needs, including locations where operations must be done with a reduced number of personnel.
7. Promote teleworking for non-essential workers in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. If teleworking is not possible, introduce shifts to avoid large concentrations of workers in the facilities.
8. Develop an action plan to follow if a confirmed COVID-19 case is identified or suspected in the workplace, including reporting, monitoring, and disinfection according to national directives.
9. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system for strategies and plans on the COVID-19.



KEY CONCEPTS

- Hazards
- Mitigation
- OSH
- PPE
- Prevention
- Risk assessment
- Risks



WHERE TO FIND THIS TOOL?

Guía práctica de prevención y mitigación de la COVID-19 en la agricultura en Honduras.
Recomendaciones para empresas agrícolas medianas y grandes (in Spanish only)



FURTHER READINGS AND RESOURCES

ILO (2020). Guía práctica para la prevención y mitigación del COVID-19 en la agricultura.

ILO (2020). Herramienta de 10 pasos para un retorno al trabajo seguro y saludable en tiempos de COVID-19.

ILO (2020). Prevención y mitigación del COVID-19 en el trabajo: lista de comprobación.

ILO (2020). Regresar al trabajo de forma segura. Guía para los empleadores sobre la prevención de la COVID-19.