



ORGANIZATION

Lab 8.7 Working Group on Agriculture, France
pledges to

**Experiment with new, comprehensive
solutions to the complex risks of
child labour in supply chains**

Experiment with new, comprehensive solutions to the complex risks of child labour in supply chains

Name:

Lab 8.7 experiments with solutions in supply chains: education and skills for the future in agriculture (Costa Rica, France)

Description:

There is currently no turnkey solution to the complex risks of child labour in supply chains. We need to experiment with new, comprehensive approaches involving all stakeholders along the supply chain. This is the mission of "Lab 8.7", the operational solutions incubator launched by the NGO Human Resources Without Borders (RHSF) with pioneering actors including the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, as well as committed companies ready to test solutions. Together, they engage to invent, test and disseminate new operational solutions. Lab 8.7 has defined 3 main guidelines for experiments in the supply chains up to 2025: fair recruitment channels, responsible management of the workforce, and education and skills for the future in agriculture. Under the latter guideline, Lab 8.7 will create and experiment with an educational and apprenticeship approach that should give children emancipation and parents and workers pride. All three guidelines will be deployed simultaneously to experiment with a sustainable model of excellence for an agricultural sector that is respectful of workers, attractive to young people, and capable of perpetuating and developing its professions and know-how in line with the economic and environmental challenges of today and tomorrow.

Implementation plan:

In 2021, Lab 8.7 is launching two field experiments in parallel, one in France and one in Costa Rica, involving 3 supply chains and their local ecosystems. Our commitments in 2021:

In France, in 2 regions (Landes and Alpes-Maritimes):

- Define the action plan with involved partners, in a co-construction approach and based on the results of the analysis led in 2020 in the field and among young people.
- Launch the experiment, begin with identifying the tasks and skills that can contribute to a sustainable agricultural sector ("skills for the future"), identify their impact on the quality of the products, and launch a cluster aiming at social, environmental and product quality excellence.
- Share the first lessons of the experiments in the 4th quarter of 2021.

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- Initiate the development of a practical guide to prevent child labour in one specific agricultural sector step by step, drawing on the lessons learned from the experiment in France as well as the vision of farmers, contractors and actors in the supply chain. The guide will be based on the child labour prevention reference framework developed by Lab 8.7 (see the other Action Pledge of Lab 8.7) and will be adapted to other agricultural sectors and other countries after 2021 for wider deployment.

In Costa Rica:

- Define the 3-year action plan with involved partners, in a co-construction approach and based on the results of the analysis led in 2020 in the field.
- Launch the experiment in the 4th quarter of 2021, begin with the launch of focus groups including workers, farmers and other stakeholders.

Impact:

Child labour is massively present in agriculture and can take diverse forms, from 5-year-old migrant children exposed to work in Costa Rica, to dangerous work conditions for apprentices in France. A vicious circle arises between indecent work and lack of attractiveness of the professions.

We want to break this cycle by valuing education and providing a sustainable model of excellence: an agricultural sector respectful of workers, attractive to young people and adjusted to current economic and environmental challenges. With international academic experts, our experiments will validate operational solutions and be openly shared with all the stakeholders by 2025.

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