



Comprehensive Attention for Agricultural Day Laborers and their Families



**Successful Practice: Certification
of Labor Competences**

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- There are 3.1 million agricultural day laborers.

Of these, **1.2 million are migrant agricultural day laborers:**

- 57% are men and **43% women**
 - 35% travel alone, 58% with their family and 7% with fellow-countrymen
 - 36% are indigenous peoples
 - 20% are children 6 to 14 years old
- They receive **US 4** for a day's work and up to US 7 a day per task or for piece-work:
 - Only 50% of day workers obtain sufficient income to survive during the time they are not working in the fields.
 - 2 of every 4 school-age girl day workers **drop out of school** or have never attended because they work to contribute to the family budget.
- They are the main labor force in companies exporting fruits and vegetables:
 - The **earnings** from exports of both products was US 5.173 billion in 2006 (74% of the value of agricultural exports at national level).



- They are recruited by intermediaries by means of **false promises of work**.
- Despite working for exporting companies and transnational corporations, their **living conditions are precarious** and their jobs, occasional.
- **They face work risks:** lack of security and failure to inform them of their rights.
- They lack social protection: health services and pensions.
- Due to the **low wages** they receive, they incorporate their daughters into the workforce.
- The majority of this population is **illiterate and lacks training**.



Coordination of actions so that the agricultural day-labor population has access to health care, education, protection of their rights and social and economic development, with the aim of improving their living conditions.



1st phase: joint work by 10 Federal Government institutions.

2nd phase: joint work by federal and local governments in 26 states.

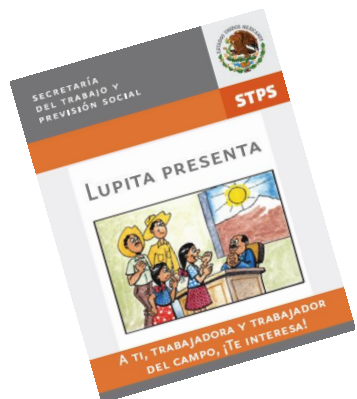


- Expansion of **health services coverage**:
 - 45 agricultural medical centers and 52 mobile health units.
- **Healthy pregnancy** card for women agricultural day laborers
- Benefits for granting **social security** to families:
 - 58,000 families benefited.
- Recognition of studies for girl day laborers at any place where they study, through a **Sole Report Card System**: → More than 40,000 girls attended per year.
- Supports to **reduce illiteracy** for women day laborers.



Company - government alliance:

- Improvement of nutrition and health conditions
- Reduction of fertility indexes and maternal and child mortality.
- Handing over of a voucher to each woman worker for time and wage worked.
- Sickness and maternity insurance; and day-care services.
- Access to disability pension, life, retirement and ageing insurance.
- Increase in child educational coverage and for conclusion of basic studies.



- Awareness-raising and training on human rights.
 - Cartoon story on labor rights: **Lupita presenta.**
 - Community promoter training workshops to provide guidance on nutrition, self-esteem, among others.

- Inspection with gender and human rights approach in agricultural fields.
- Recognition of agricultural companies that do not use child labor.



Company - government alliance:

- Reduction of child labor exploitation.
- Protection of the work of women and minors (14 to 17 years).
- Positioning due to their social responsibility.



Certification of Labor Competence in Vegetable Harvests

- Official recognition proving work experience, knowledge and abilities acquired empirically by women agricultural day laborers.
- Training, assessment and certification of labor competence in vegetable harvests, in their own work center.
- Certification with international standards recognized in Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Impact: Fall-winter 2009-2010 agricultural cycle: 1,600 day laborers certified (38% women and 62% men).

Goal: Ensure that 100% of Mexican agricultural fields have personnel certified in labor competences.



- **Recognition** of the abilities and competences of women day laborers.
- **Qualified labor** that improves their employability.
- Generation of **value added** in the products.
- Increase in **economic and political participation** rates.
- Increase in family income and **better working conditions**.
- **Reduction of the gap** between female and male employment in the agricultural sector.
- **Recognition and quantification of women's labor** in one of the most male-dominated occupations of economic activity.





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