

Directive No 20/2004/CT-TTg dated 8 June 2004 By the prime minister

**On further steering and implementing occupational safety  
and health in agriculture.**

In the past years, on realizing the agricultural industrialization and modernization course, Vietnamese agriculture has recorded significant achievements, contributing to the increased GDP, ensuring food security, expanding industrialization and exportation, making an important contribution to improving the peoples' lives.

Together with the peoples' efforts, the State has reserved a significant amount of investment to build the infrastructure, modernizing production mode, applying new technologies, investing on equipment, machineries, electricity, pesticide... and increasingly improving working conditions in agriculture. However, occupational accidents and diseases in agricultural workers have occurred and brought about serious consequences. It resulted from the fact that agricultural workers have not been adequately propagated, guided and trained on technical standards, norms and preventive measures; and that Ministries, industries, different level authorities, business organizations have not fulfilled their tasks as stipulated in laws and regulations.

To prevent, overcome occupational accidents and diseases, and to ensure more and more productive agricultural production environment, the Prime Minister requests Ministers, governmental agency leaders, industries, unions, chairpersons of the people's committee of provinces/ cities belonging directly to the central to implement the followings immediately:

**1. Continue accomplishing legal documents related to the implementation of occupational safety and health in agriculture.**

a) By the end of the year 2005, the Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Industry (MOI), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will check, supplement, accomplish and in their capacity promulgate or submit the legal documents on occupational safety and health in agricultural production to the government and the Prime Minister for their examination and promulgation. The MOLISA, in collaborating with other concerned Ministries, branches, the Vietnamese General Confederation Labor, the Vietnamese Farmers' Union, the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Vietnamese Cooperative Alliance, will have examined and submitted to the authorities responsible for ratifying the Convention No 184 on occupational safety and health in agricultural production of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

b) The Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Aquaculture will check and make amendments to the standards and regulations of using equipment, machineries and chemicals suitable to the agricultural development situation; develop Vietnamese standards on labor protective equipment ensuring occupational safety and health in agricultural production.

c) The People's Committee of Central Provinces/ Cities guide local agencies, departments, branches to have concrete measures on encouraging individuals, production and business establishments to strictly observe occupational safety and health regulations in general and agriculture in particular.

## **2. Enhance the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases in agricultural production:**

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs and other concerned Ministries, branches develops guidance documents on safety measures in production, business and using pesticides, veterinary medicament, fertilizer, livestock breeding provender, termites and insects preventing medicament, biological produce serving plantation and livestock breeding. MOARD in collaboration with MOLISA, MOF, the Vietnamese general Confederation of Labor, the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Vietnamese Cooperative Alliance, the Vietnamese Farmers’ Union, to develop the Action plan on occupational safety and health in agriculture and add this plan to the National Program on occupational safety and health and explosion prevention.

- The Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other concerned Ministries and branches strengthens the state administration and direct occupational safety and health activities in agriculture.

## **3. Boost information and propaganda activities in order to raise awareness by employers and employees of regulations, standards, safety procedures, occupational accident prevention measures when using machineries, equipment, and pesticide in agriculture:**

a) The Ministry of Culture and Information in collaboration with the Vietnamese Television, the Voice of Vietnam, and other concerned Ministries, branches guides media agencies to regularly propagate, praise good examples, criticize establishments and individuals who are not good in occupational safety and health in agriculture.

b) The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in collaboration with other Ministries and branches and the Farmers’ Union to combine propaganda activities to raise awareness in reserving natural resources and environment, with occupational safety and health in agriculture.

c) The Ministry of Education and Training, in collaboration with the MOLISA and other concerned Ministries, branches sets up programs, scientific materials on occupational safety and health in agriculture in the system of education and training.

d) The Ministry of Finance ensures finance for Ministries and Branches’ occupational safety and health activities in agriculture according to the State Budget Laws.

e) The People’s committees of central Provinces/ cities guide local Departments, Branches together with other economic and social organizations, especially the Vietnamese Farmers’ Union, to build up the movement in which farmers put into practice occupational safety and health in production, environment and community health protection as far as districts, villages; providing training on occupational safety and health for farmers, firstly in handicraft villages, farms, small and medium enterprises with a large workforce.

## **4. Strengthen cooperation in occupational safety and health in agriculture:**

Ministries, branches, People’s Committee of Central Provinces/ cities should make good use of aid from Governments, non-governmental organizations for the cause of education, training, experience exchanging, technical assistance and propaganda activities aimed at

raising OSH awareness in agriculture, contributing to the realization of our strategy of sustainable development in the country.

**5. Enhance the investigation and examination on complying with OSH regulations in agriculture:**

MOLISA in collaboration with MARD, Ministry of Industry guides specialized investigators together with the People's Committee of all levels to enhance the investigation, examination the use of equipment, machineries, electricity and electric equipment, pesticide...; to strictly treat, even to propose criminal liabilities to serious violation acts.

**6. Implementation:**

a) The people's committees of Central Provinces/ Cities make periodical reports to MOLISA every 6 months and once a year on the results of the implementation of this Directive.

b) MOLISA is responsible for guiding, supervising, examining and reporting to the Prime Minister the implementation of this Directive.

Ministers, Heads of Governmental bodies, Chairpersons of the People's Committee of Central Provinces/ Cities in close collaboration with the Vietnamese National Front, the Vietnamese General Confederation of Labor, the Vietnamese Farmers' Union, the Vietnamese Red Cross, the Vietnamese Association of safety technological sciences and occupational safety and health, and concerned Professional Associations implementing this Directive.

**P/P. Prime Minister  
Vice Prime Minister**

**Pham Gia Khiem  
(Signed)**