



[2016]

FAIR LABOR ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL MONITORING

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Company: Nestlé

Country: Côte d'Ivoire

Commodity: Cocoa

Production Process: Weeding

Assessment Locations: Region of Marahoué (Bouaflé)
Kouamékouassikro, Koupéla and Bouaflé Communities

Monitor: Societal Compliance Initiatives

Assessment Dates: 12 – 21 September 2016

Number of assessed farms: 60

Total area covered: 137.03 ha

Number of farmers interviewed: 60

Total number of workers: 167

Number of workers interviewed: 54



FLA Member/Affiliate Update

Nestle ended its membership as an FLA Participating Company in April 2025. The company's reports can still be found at Fairlabor.org

To view more about the FLA's work with Nestle, please visit the FLA website [here](https://Fairlabor.org).

To access the FLA Agriculture Monitoring Benchmarks, please visit [this page](#).

Employment Relationship

Compliance Status

Section	Benchmark	Compliance status	Farms
Human Resource Management System	ER.1.1	In compliance	
	ER.2.1 (PR)	In progress	All Farms
	ER.2.1.1(PR)	In progress	All Farms
Recruitment and Hiring	ER.3.1	Risk of Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.3.1.1	Risk of Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.3.1.2	In compliance	
	ER.4	N/A	
	ER.5.1	N/A	
	ER.5.2	N/A	
	ER.5.3	In compliance	
	ER.6 (PR)	Not Initiated	All Farms
	ER.7.1	In compliance	
	ER.7.2	In compliance	
	ER.7.3	In compliance	
	ER.7.4	In compliance	
	ER.7.5	In compliance	
	ER.7.6	In compliance	
	ER.7.7	In compliance	
	ER.7.8	In compliance	
Terms and Conditions	ER.9.1	In compliance	
	ER.9.2	In compliance	
	ER.9.2.1	In compliance	
	ER.9.2.2	In compliance	
	ER.9.2.3	In compliance	
	ER.9.3	In compliance	
	ER.9.3.1	In compliance	
	ER.9.3.2	In compliance	
	ER.9.3.3	In compliance	
	ER.10	In compliance	
	ER.11	In compliance	
	ER.12.1	In compliance	
	ER.12.1.1	In compliance	
	ER.12.2	N/A	
	ER.13.1	In compliance	
	ER.13.2 (PR)	N/A	
	ER.13.3 (PR)	N/A	
Administration	ER.15.1	In compliance	
	ER.15.2	In compliance	
	ER.15.2.1	In compliance	
	ER.16.1	In compliance	
	ER.16.2	In compliance	
	ER.17.2 (PR)	N/A	
	ER.17.3 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.17.4 (PR)	In compliance	
Worker Involvement	ER.18.1	In compliance	
	ER.18.2 (PR)	In compliance	
Right to Organize and Bargain	ER.19	In compliance	
Work Rules and Discipline	ER.20.1	Noncompliance	All Farms

	ER.20.2	Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.20.3 (PR)	Not Initiated	All Farms
	ER.20.4	Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.20.6	Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.20.7	Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.20.8	In compliance	
	ER.20.9 (PR)	Not Initiated	All Farms
	ER.20.11	Noncompliance	All Farms
Access to Training for Family Members	ER.21	In compliance	
HSE Management System	ER.24.1.	In compliance	
	ER.24.2 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.3	In compliance	
	ER.24.4 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.4.1 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.4.2 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.4.3 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.4.4 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.4.5 (PR)	Not Initiated	All Farms
	ER.24.4.6 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.24.5 (PR)	In compliance	
Grievance Procedures	ER.25.1 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.25.2 (PR)	In compliance	
	ER.25.3	Noncompliance	All Farms
	ER.25.4	In compliance	

Employment Relationship Assessment Summary

Proof of Age Documentation		
Benchmarks: ER.3.1: Employers shall verify proof of age documentation for all young workers in the farm at the time of their employment and work towards collecting and maintaining all documentation necessary to confirm and verify date of birth of all workers, including long term and casual workers. ER.3.1.1: Employers shall take reasonable measures to ensure such documentation is complete and accurate.		Risk of Noncompliance in all farms
Findings/Noncompliance Explanation:	According to farmer interviews, recruitment of workers is generally based on their own declarations or their physical appearance. This situation is the consequence of the local culture and the lack of existing identification documents for most workers. Thereby, no verification of age documentation for young workers or no collection and maintenance of documentation necessary to confirm and verify date of birth of workers occurs in farms. No mechanism is experienced by the cooperative to overcome this issue. <u>Source:</u> Interview with farmers	
Company Action Plan:	Identification in rural areas is a problem in Cote d'Ivoire. This situation is more of a concern among workers. Cooperatives have a register of certified farmers. We will continue to raise awareness among cooperatives on the importance of: - Annually updating the register of farmers, by indicating the ages of the workers, if any, and by keeping a copy of their identity document on file; - Having farmers involve the delegates and the PR in the recruitment of their permanent or temporary workers; - For laborers with no identity documents, two people from the community (i.e., Branch Delegate and Village Chief) should certify the worker's age orally or in	

	writing; - Raising farmers awareness on workers' age verification.
Deadline Date:	December 2018
Work Rules and Discipline	
Benchmarks: ER.20.1: Employers shall have disciplinary rules and practices that embody a system of progressive discipline (e.g. a system of maintaining discipline through the application of escalating disciplinary action moving from verbal warnings to written warnings to suspension and finally to termination). ER.20.2: Any person supervising workers shall be aware of the disciplinary rules and practices. ER.20.4: The disciplinary system shall be applied in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner and include a management review of the actions by someone senior to the manager who imposed the disciplinary action. ER.20.6: Disciplinary rules and practices shall be clearly communicated to all workers. ER.20.7: Workers must be informed when a disciplinary procedure has been initiated against them. ER.20.11: The disciplinary system shall include a third-party witness during imposition, and an appeal process. In case of smallholder settings, existing appeal mechanism at community level is acceptable.	
Findings/Noncompliance Explanation:	Apart from the disciplinary procedure developed in the framework of the certification initiatives in force in the cooperative to govern the relations between the cooperative and its farmer members, no rules of disciplinary practice govern the relations between farmers and their workers in the visited farms. <u>Source:</u> Review of the cooperative's disciplinary procedure, Interview with farmers, workers, and IMS staff
Company Action Plan:	Nestlé has developed, with the Administrators of Group (ADG) of cooperatives, a template of contract of employment between farmers and laborers, which include disciplinary measures that each cooperative may adapt. We will engage all the cooperatives to encourage the use of this contract template by their farmers and assist them, if needed, through field representatives and staff, during the hiring of permanent workers. Considering local practices in dispute settlement, we will encourage the cooperatives to involve local witnesses as guarantors in the implementation of disciplinary procedures between the farmers and their workers. When settling a dispute, the presence of delegates and lead farmers is required, and a report must be written, signed, and filed at the headquarters of the cooperative. Given that most farmers and workers are illiterate, we will encourage the cooperatives to strengthen the documentation and archiving of information relating to the relations between farmers and workers (contracts of employment, complaints, volume of beans, payments...) with the involvement of the Branch Delegates, Producers Relays (PRs), and Community Relays (RCs). These updated policies and procedures will be widely disseminated and will be part of the training schedule in farmers' field schools.
Deadline Date:	December 2018
Grievance Procedures	

Benchmarks:

ER.25.3: FLA-affiliated companies shall make sure that a confidential non-compliance reporting mechanism is available for farmers and workers in the supply chain (such as members of cooperatives or suppliers of seed organizers). Through this channel, any code violation can be communicated to the company if the local and farm level grievance redress mechanisms fail to sufficiently address the issue.

**Noncompliance
in all farms**

**Findings/Noncompliance
Explanation:**

According to monitors, there is no functional confidential non-compliance reporting mechanism available for farmers and workers in the supply chain that could help supply chain actors to communicate any code violation to Nestlé.

Currently, Nestlé has set up a toll-free number, so supply chain actors can voice their grievances using this number. However, in practice, the system in place is complicated to use, and no one is using it. To reach the final recipient (based in Switzerland at Nestlé headquarters), the call must go through at least three levels of interlocutors. The language of communication is English, whereas the farmers and workers cannot understand or speak it. Finally, the number is only accessible via a landline, whereas the landline network does not cover all rural areas.

According to Nestlé's local staff, the company is seeking alternative ways to improve the existing channel.

Source: Nestlé COC Review, interviews, observation

Company Action Plan:

Nestlé encourages the cooperatives to maintain suggestion boxes in all branches and warehouses of cooperatives and to raise the awareness of farmers and workers. To test an alternative grievance mechanism, Nestlé is involving the RC's in the anonymous collection of complaints through a pilot action in two communities. With the agreement of its suppliers, Nestlé will encourage the modification of cooperatives' farmer inspection forms by adding a question allowing the farmers to express their grievances.

Deadline Date:

December 2018

Health, Safety and Environment

Compliance Status

Section	Benchmark	Compliance status	Farms
General Compliance	HSE.1.	Noncompliance	Farm 18, 34, 37, 55
Documents, Permits and Certificates	HSE.2 (PR)	In compliance	
	HSE.3.1	In compliance	
	HSE.4 (PR)	In compliance	
Evacuation Requirements and Procedure	HSE.5.1 (PR)	In compliance	
	HSE.5.2	In compliance	
Safety Equipment and First Aid	HSE.6.1 (PR)	In Progress	Farm 1 to 20 and Farm 41 to 60
	HSE.6.2 (PR)	In Progress	All farms
	HSE.16.3 (PR)	In Progress	Farm 1 to 20 and Farm 41 to 60
Personal Protective Equipment	HSE.7 (PR)	In Progress	All farms
	HSE.8	In compliance	

Chemical Management	HSE.9.1	In compliance	
	HSE.9.2	In compliance	
	HSE.9.2.1	In compliance	
	HSE.10	Noncompliance	Farm 37
	HSE.11.1	In compliance	
	HSE.11.2	In compliance	
Protection Reproductive Health	HSE.12.1	In compliance	
	HSE.12.2 (PR)	In compliance	
Infrastructure	HSE.13 (PR)	In compliance	
	HSE.17.1	In compliance	
	HSE.17.2 (PR)	Not Initiated	All farms
	HSE.19 (PR)	In compliance	
	HSE.21 (PR)	In compliance	
	HSE.22 (PR)	In compliance	
Machinery Safety	HSE.14.1	In compliance	
	HSE.14.2	In compliance	
	HSE.14.3	In compliance	
	HSE.14.4	In compliance	
Ergonomics and Medical Facilities	HSE.15.2 (PR)	Not Initiated	All farms
	HSE.16.2	In compliance	

HSE Assessment Summary

General Compliance		
Benchmarks: HSE.1: Employers shall comply with all national laws, regulations and procedures concerning health, safety, and the environment.		Noncompliance in 4 farms
Findings/Noncompliance Explanation:	During the assessment, monitors found empty containers of chemical products displayed in the assessed farms in all three sections. These containers constitute a risk to children who use them as play tools, as well as to families who collect and use them as cans. According to the Nestlé Code of Conduct in force in this cooperative, farmers must adopt proper management of empty packaging of chemical products and avoid throwing them. <u>Source:</u> Interviews and observation	
Company Action Plan:	As part of the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS), the farmers/workers and their families have been trained by the RCs on a module on risks associated with the use of phytosanitary and pharmaceutical products. These awareness-raising actions will continue within communities and families. The flyers and posters on the Nestlé Code of Conduct contain images on the use of phytosanitary products and proper equipment. The cooperative has a team of 8 applicators with personal protective equipment, trained on rational use of agrochemicals and farm treatment. Awareness-raising sessions will be conducted by the lead farmers and the RCs to educate farmers and their laborers on: - The use of the applicators of the cooperative for the agrochemical treatment of	

	farms; - The importance of wearing boots and safety glasses during farm work. In addition, Nestlé will develop a series of videos as part of its Digital Green project. One of the videos will relate to the use of agro chemicals. These videos will be projected in the villages and will serve as a basis for raising the awareness of the farmers.
Deadline Date:	July 2018
Chemical Training	
Benchmarks: <i>HSE.10: Workers shall receive training, appropriate to their job responsibilities, concerning the hazards, risks and the safe use of chemicals and other hazardous substances.</i>	
	Noncompliance in one farms
Findings/Noncompliance Explanation:	The cooperative has recruited, trained, and equipped applicators for chemical application of the farms of its members. Despite these measures, some farmers and their workers, who have not been trained to handle chemicals, do so without any precautions. The monitors observed, in one of the assessed farms, the son of a farmer who applied herbicide without training or protection related to this activity. <u>Source:</u> Interviews, observation
Company Action Plan:	The cooperative has a team of 8 applicators with personal protective equipment, trained on rational use of agrochemicals and farm treatment. Awareness-raising sessions will be conducted by the lead farmers and the RCs to educate farmers and their laborers on: - The use of the applicators of the cooperative for the agrochemical treatment of farms; - The importance of protecting children against chemical activities In addition, Nestlé will develop a series of videos as part of its Digital Green project. One of the videos will relate to the use of agro chemicals. These videos will be projected in the villages and will serve as a basis for raising the awareness of the farmers.
Deadline Date:	July 2018

Overview - Farms vs. Noncompliances

Total number of Farms: 60

	Employment Relationship	Non-discrimination	Harassment or Abuse	Forced Labor	Child Labor	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	Health, Safety and Environment	Hours of Work	Compensation	Total
% of farms with non-compliances or risk of non-compliances	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	
Farm No. 1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 11	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 13	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 15	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 16	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 17	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 18	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
Farm No. 19	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 21	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 22	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 23	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 25	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

Farm No. 26	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 27	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 28	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 30	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 31	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 32	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 33	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 34	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
Farm No. 35	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 36	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 37	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	11
Farm No. 38	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 39	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 40	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 41	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 42	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 43	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 44	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 45	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 46	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 47	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 48	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 49	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 50	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 51	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 52	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 53	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 54	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 55	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
Farm No. 56	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 57	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 58	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 59	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Farm No. 60	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
TOTAL	540	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	545