



INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ISSA ON PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE

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Prevention Education in Agriculture



VISION ZERO 
Safety.Health.Wellbeing.



INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ISSA ON PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE

International Section of the Issa on Prevention in Agriculture is a specialized, technical body in the area of prevention of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), set up by decision of the ISSA Bureau. It is one of the fourteen sections of the Special Commission on Prevention. It was founded in 1968 and currently operates under Standing Orders adopted on 30th April 2013 in Erding, Germany. The section comprises ordinary and corresponding members. Majority of members have their representatives in the Advisory Board.

Its objectives are to promote prevention, in particular the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry through international cooperation. The Section is non-profit oriented.

The role of the Section on Prevention in Agriculture is to undertake a wide range of preventive actions aiming at occupational safety improvement, to prevent accidents at work and to protect health of farmers and persons employed in agriculture and forestry and their families.

The Section is composed of two executive bodies: the Bureau and the General Assembly, which is composed of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and a Secretary General. The Bureau is assisted by the International Advisory Board composed of experts from various countries. It deliberates about the Section's future activities and defines the tasks and objectives of the international accident prevention in agriculture on a long-term basis.



Chairperson

Aleksandra Hadzik, PhD, President of Agriculture
Social Insurance Fund (KRUS), Poland



Vice Chairperson

Päivi Wallin, Director of Farm Relief and
Work Ability Support Services, Farmers' Social
Insurance Institution (Mela), Finland



Vice Chairperson

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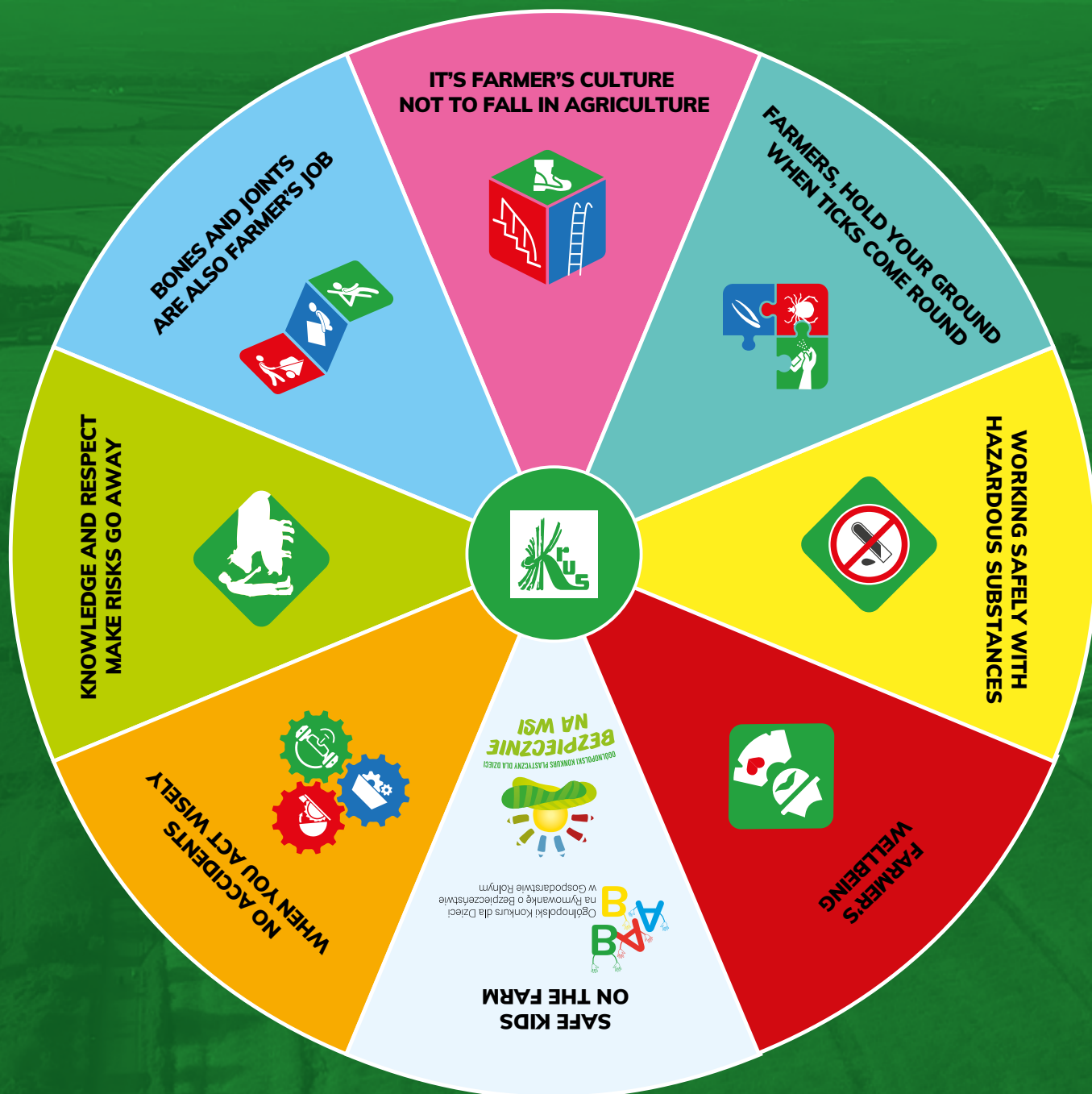


Secretary General

Magdalena Wachnicka-Witzke, Director of the
Communication and International Cooperation
Office of KRUS, Poland



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KASA ROLNICZEGO
UBEZPIECZENIA SPOŁECZNEGO

SAFE FARMER SAFE VILLAGE

In 2023 Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) inaugurated the prevention project **Safe Farmer, Safe Village**, which aims to strengthen the prevention message through a common slogan and logo for all activities, integrating into one identifiable and recognisable brand the existing forms of prevention impact of KRUS, such as: campaigns, trainings, competitions, information and prevention stands, publications, activities for the proper production and distribution of safe measures used in agriculture and protective equipment and clothing for farmers, and support for the development of pre-medical rescue in rural areas. Through project activities, KRUS will strive to increase farmers' interest in the issue of work safety in rural areas, as well as to increase the involvement of rural residents in the elimination of accident risks on farms.

These activities are present in prevention campaigns:



It's Farmer's culture not to fall in agriculture – under this slogan, preventive actions are being carried out to reduce the number of "falling accidents", which are the most common on farms. Accidents at work do not happen by chance, nor are they inevitable. They are caused by an accumulation of abnormalities in the working environment, such as: the poor condition of farmyards, the failure to use appropriate work footwear or structural defects in buildings. Most accidents at work can be prevented if appropriate measures are taken in advance. Improving occupational safety on a farm does not always involve large financial resources. Very often, it is enough to be aware of the hazards present on the farm and to eliminate them consistently. Safety is an invaluable asset and an integral part of a well-run farm.



No Accidents When You Act Wisely – the aim of the campaign is to point out to farmers the accident hazards related to the use of agricultural machinery and equipment, ways of eliminating them and, consequently, reducing the number of accidents involving them. According to KRUS statistics, farmers were most often injured as a result of accidents from the following groups: being caught, being hit by moving parts of machinery and equipment, all accidents involving agricultural machinery and equipment; falls of persons. These accidents were caused by, among other things: not following the instructions for operating machinery and equipment, lack of the necessary training and experience of the operator or not using work clothes and personal protective equipment.



Knowledge and Respect Make Risks Go Away – the campaign aims to raise awareness of how to prevent accidents and occupational diseases for farmers related to animal husbandry on farms. Accidents most often occur during the daily handling of animals: feeding, milking, zoo-hygienic treatment, cleaning the stables in the presence of the animals and loading the animals onto the means of transport. Serious accidents and even deaths occur annually for farmers due to, among other things: inappropriate animal handling, including failure to take special care when handling dangerous animals or ignorance of natural behaviour. A frightened animal whose natural needs have not been protected may bite, kick, crush and fall over. This is usually a reaction to stimuli such as stress, lack of access to water and food, insufficient living space, surprise, soreness of the mammary glands or the presence of insects in the barn. Handling animals also involves the risk of zoonotic diseases. These can be contracted through contact with contaminated manure, water, soil, feed or saliva. Prevention of zoonotic diseases relies on proper hygiene.



Farmers, hold your ground when ticks come around – the campaign focuses on the prevention of tick-borne diseases, currently the most commonly recorded occupational diseases of farmers. Over the last 10 years, the fund has recorded a more than doubling of the number of one-off claims paid out for damage to health caused by the infectious occupational disease, Lyme disease. For many years, the health insurance fund has been carrying out preventive activities, involving the dissemination of knowledge on how to reduce the risk of being bitten by ticks and what to do if one occurs. Farmers, like foresters, are particularly vulnerable to tick-borne diseases due to the place and nature of their work. The most effective way to prevent them from contracting the disease is to avoid being bitten and to follow rules that minimise the risk.



Bones and Joints are also Farmer's Job – The campaign pays particular attention to the causes of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, which, in addition to their ailments, increase the risk of agricultural accidents. Farmers are at particular risk of developing musculoskeletal disorders. Despite the increased mechanisation and even automation of work in this production sector in recent years, which has made it possible to eliminate a lot of strenuous manual work, farmers are still exposed to excessive physical exertion that leads to lesions. Risks include heavy physical work, remaining in an unnatural position for long periods of time (prolonged bending, twisting of the trunk, kneeling, squatting, etc.) or carrying heavy objects and loads. Sudden, violent movements made by a person, jerking by an animal, and chronic stress that causes muscle tension can also be causes of spinal health problems. Another reason is the mismatch between the work performed and the farmer's capacity and state of health. The severity of pain can lead to temporary or permanent incapacity to work on the farm, or even be the cause of an agricultural accident! "Prevention is better than cure". By eliminating risks, we gain health and, above all, a safe place to work and live.



Working Safely with Hazardous Substances – a campaign aimed at preventing the consequences of improper use and storage of hazardous substances on farms, e.g. plant protection products, fertilisers, fuels, etc., popularising the principles of environmental protection and the 10 principles of safe use of hazardous substances. The intensification of agricultural production, changes in the technology of plant cultivation and animal breeding have resulted in chemicals containing many toxic substances being used and stored in increasing quantities. Any of these preparations, if improperly used, stored or transported, can pose a serious risk to humans and animals and can adversely affect them. Disregarding safety rules when using them can endanger the health and lives not only of farmers but also of others. Chronic poisoning can also result from these substances. These result in health problems that manifest themselves even after several years, which are difficult to identify and link the symptoms to past exposure to harmful substances.



Safe Kids on the Farm – The youngest rural residents growing up on a farm are exposed to more hazards than their peers living in cities, which can result in unwanted accidents. It is particularly dangerous in the summer, when children spend a lot of time where they live and parents have a lot of work to do. Upbringing by and for work is practised and accepted in the countryside - parents are thus preparing the younger generation for independent farming in the future. However, it should be remembered that helping the youngest is only advisable if it is appropriate to their physical and mental capabilities and does not interfere with their normal development. In the course of preventive actions across the country, Kasa employees provide farmers and people living in rural areas with knowledge of both the safe work of farmers and the stay of the youngest on the farm. For many years now, the fund has been appealing to parents to ensure that the youngest are properly looked after and that the living area of the farm is separated from the production area so that children do not end up in dangerous places. In addition, the Checkout runs various demonstrations and competitions on the subject of safety. In 2023, these included:

- XIII National Children's Art Competition "Safely in the countryside we have, dangerous substances we avoid"
- 4th National Competition for a nursery rhyme about safety on the farm "Safely in the country we have, dangerous substances we avoid".

KRUS also develops popularisation materials, i.e. brochures, leaflets, posters, colouring books, puzzles, games and films. These materials are distributed to villagers at various events.



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THE FARMERS' SOCIAL INSURANCE INSTITUTION MELA, FINLAND

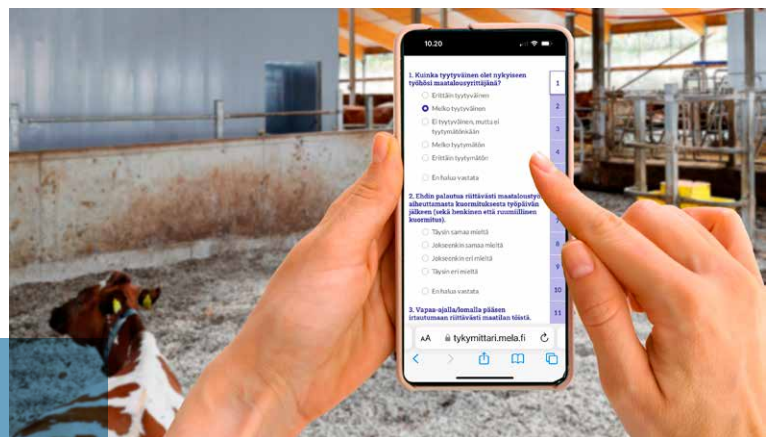
The Farmer's Work ability scale

Farmers' work is binding, physically demanding and exposes to accidents. Farmers in Finland feel that their work ability is lower than many other professional groups. Farmers also resort to disability pensions more often than other professional groups. In response Mela has developed an online service, which is first of its kind.

The Farmer's Work Ability Scale enables farmers to evaluate and monitor their own work ability and the level of psychosocial stress. This test measures the perceived ability to work, the occupational wellbeing and occupational safety, taking into account the unique characteristics of professional farming.

Based on the answers given, the service forms personal feedback and recommends suitable work ability services to the farmer (e.g., Support the Farmer Project, training to promote work ability and occupational safety, Mental First Aid-training, Occupational Safety Adviser). What makes this service unique is the respondent's possibility to compare results with the results of other farmers (comparing results according to age, gender and the production sector). The innovativeness lies in the comprehensive reference data, which is updated in real time along with the responses. There have been 3429 answers in the period 6/2022–12/2023.

Mela is currently developing a training, which focuses on Work Ability scale. The purpose of the training is to provide more in-depth-information related to the themes used in the Scale (work ability, work satisfaction, perceived stress, workload, wellbeing at work etc.)



Occupational safety card course

Mela launched Occupational Safety Card course for farmers in cooperation with the Centre for Occupational Safety. The purpose of occupational safety card training is to increase work safety and decrease occupational hazards as well as to focus on risk management at farms. Safety card course focuses also to improve practical co-operation between contracting companies and supplier companies in joint workplaces.



There is an exam at the end of the training. A personal Occupational Safety Card is granted to persons, who have successfully completed the training. The card is valid for 5 years.

Smart Farm Videos -competition for vocational schools of agriculture

Mela organized the Smart Farm Videos - competition for vocational schools in the agricultural sector. The goal of the competition was to get students to make videos related to occupational safety in agriculture. Mela encouraged students to think how occupational safety on farms could be improved. 24 videos and about a hundred students participated in the competition. The best three videos were awarded. The competition was organized for the first time in 2021.



Virtual reality experience

Mela has developed the first VR experience in Finland tailored specifically to occupational safety on farms. Farmers and agricultural students can experience dangers of a farm in virtual reality at trade fairs, workshops, special events, training events and customer meetings. Afterwards, they have the opportunity to discuss the experience with a professional occupational safety advisor specialised in safety on farms, and later improve their own work. The aim is to prevent occupational accidents and to create positive attitude towards farm safety.

The VR experience was exhibited in about 10 events and reached several hundred people.



Other events and courses

Mela also offered many other services like wellbeing days (8), The Mental First Aid courses (15) and different kinds of digital courses and webinars focusing e.g. psychosocial stress.



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FARM SAFETY EDUCATION

The Instituto Nacional de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo (INSST) in Spain is committed to promoting prevention education in agriculture. With this aim INSST has conducted some initiatives.

1. Development of Educational Materials

One of INSST's primary initiatives is the development of practical educational materials tailored in some cases to the agricultural sector. These materials cover all educational system stages (primary and secondary education and occupational education) and a wide range of topics, including safe operation of tractor and agricultural machinery, safe use of pesticides, prevention of common injuries, heat stress, etc.

These materials can be found on INSST website: <https://www.insst.es/materias/sectores-de-actividad/agrario>. As an example, it is worth to mention the ErgaFP N.62 aimed at teachers and focused on tractor risks.

2. Training Programs

INSST also developed training materials and organized training programs and workshops to promote health and safety (OSH) in agriculture. Some of them could be consulted at INSST website: <https://www.insst.es/formacion?category=94982>

In this regard, we would like to highlight training activities conducted to promote the safe use of tractors and their protective elements (ROPS and seat belts). Throughout the 100 workshops carried out, farmers and agricultural students were let to know safe driving rules, encouraging them to read and practice with the materials, in particular with a tractor driving simulator (Segutractor: <https://www.insst.es/documentacion/herramientas-de-prl/app/segutractor-2020>).

3. Collaboration with the Spanish Educational System

INSST collaborates closely with educational and agricultural organizations, associations and trade unions to foster agricultural workers with no or very low qualifications in obtaining accredited higher qualifications related with their jobs. In addition to clear benefits both for employees and employers' integration of OSH in the educational programmes increase preventative culture among workers.



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SAFETY AND HEALTH EDUCATION IN THE GREEN SECTOR



Jörg Schwarz is a Technical Supervisor and Industry Expert for Horticulture in the Prevention Department of the Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry, and Horticulture. He has a degree in Horticulture Engineering and has been working in this field since 1993.

The demographic change poses significant challenges for us. To ensure the advisory and monitoring activities of the Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture for our insured companies in the future, we need to advertise and provide competence-based training for SVLFG technical supervisors.

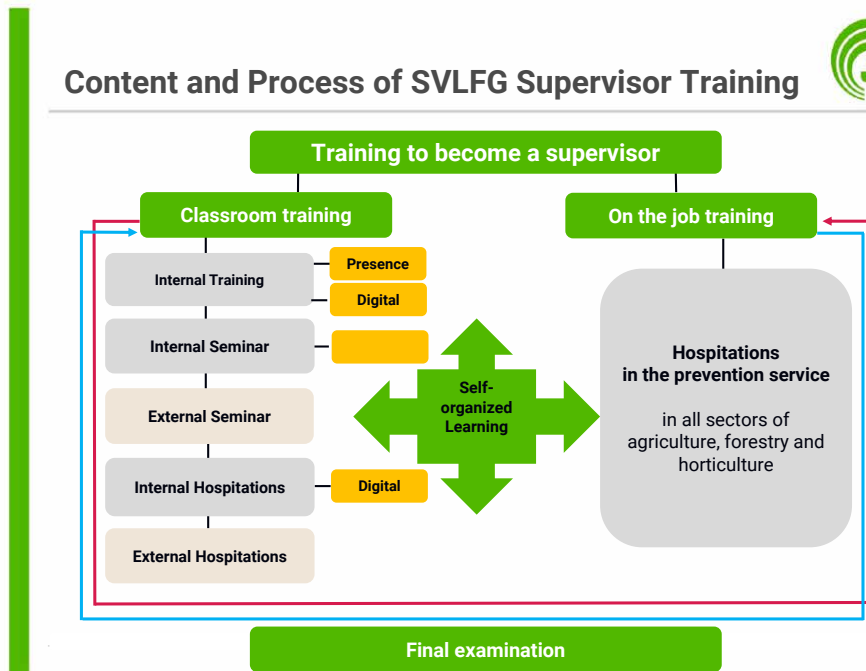
The Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG) is responsible for providing statutory pension, health and long-term care insurance for employers and their family members working in the 'green sector' in Germany. The Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture is responsible for providing statutory pension, health and long-term care insurance for employers and their families. The SVLFG's advisory and monitoring activities play an important role in on-site company operations.

Round about 350 technical supervisors are present in companies on a daily basis to assist employers and employees in implementing occupational health and safety measures. Due to demographic changes, efforts to train the necessary replacements have had to be stepped up enormously.

The training of SVLFG Technical Supervisors is urgently necessary to ensure the required resources for this task in the future. Currently, 80 professionals with backgrounds in the 'Green Sector', including Masters, Bachelors, Engineers, Technicians, and Masters, are undergoing training to become SVLFG Technical Supervisors over the course of three years. To be hired as a supervisor in agriculture, forestry, or horticulture, you must have several years of experience as a leader in one of these fields.

The training lasts for two years and is based on a training framework plan confirmed by the responsible ministry, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The training follows a blended learning concept, is modular in structure, and includes internal and external courses, specialized seminars, internships, and practical training components. To achieve a better work-life balance, 14 out of 27 courses are offered in a digital format, some of which utilize a dedicated learning platform.

Content and Process of SVLFG Supervisor Training



Shows the structure of the supervisor training at SVLFG.

The training concludes with a final examination. Successfully passing this exam is a requirement for being appointed as a Technical Supervisor.



Shows the participants of the introduction week for the SVLFG supervisor training in 2023.



Sylvia Backenecker, a graduate engineer in horticulture, has been a technical supervisor since 1997. She is responsible for qualifying insured individuals in the green sector.

Sylvia's aims is to organize training courses that cater to every insured person in various formats - low-threshold, competent and targeted.

Training is the foundation for sustainable workplace prevention.

The SVLFG offers training programs for insured persons and provides sector-specific solutions and practical answers in the context of occupational health and safety.

Contractors, insured persons and multipliers can choose from a wide range of training formats and media, different approaches and attractive learning content - always specifically tailored to the green professions. In 2023, about 9.000 people took part in SVLFG training events.

SVLFG provides face-to-face and online events in various formats and qualification levels, specialist seminars and lectures, as well as explanatory videos on the SVLFG YouTube channel.

Our digital information and learning world also offers learning modules for self-organized learning.

Details about the individual offers can be found on the SVLFG homepage, in the SVLFG newsletter, our members' magazine 'Alles SVLFG' and the annual seminar brochure.

<https://www.svlfg.de/kurse-seminare>



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12th EDITION OF THE VIDEO COMPETITION

"Health and safety at work: from school to work"

The French National Institute for Research and Safety (INRS) is launching its 12th "Health and safety at work: from school to work" video competition, aimed at apprentices and students in vocational colleges. For the past 12 years, this video competition has been organised by INRS in partnership with CCMSA under the patronage of the Ministry of National Education and Youth and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty.



The deadline for submitting videos is 4 April 2024 and the prize-giving ceremony will take place on 24 May 2024 at INRS headquarters in Paris.

With worrying accident figures, young employees aged between 15 and 25 suffer comparatively more accidents at work than their elders..

To raise awareness of this issue, INRS is organising the 12th edition of the "Health and safety at work: from school to work" video competition, aimed at students and apprentices preparing for a vocational diploma in the French national education system or in agricultural education in a public or private secondary school in mainland France and the French overseas departments and territories. Students and apprentices studying for a Vocational aptitude certificate (CAP) Professional Baccalaureate (Bac Professionnel), Professional certificate (Brevet Professionnel) or Advanced Technician Certificate (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur) are eligible. This competition is also open to students from SEGPA and EREA (Adapted teaching).

To enter the competition, teams are invited to produce a short video lasting between 30 seconds and 2 minutes 15 seconds maximum, highlighting occupational hazards and illustrating approaches and solutions for preventing accidents at work and occupational illnesses.

Previous editions have shown that taking part in this competition is a fun and original way of teaching future professionals about good health and safety practice in the workplace. Over the last 12 years, the competition has attracted growing interest, with more than 1,000 schools taking part in this awareness-raising operation.

The videos will be judged by a panel made up of representatives from INRS, the Ministry of Education and Youth, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, CCMSA, Occupational health and pension insurance funds (Carsat/Cramif) and experts. The jury will give priority to projects that illustrate primary prevention approaches and solutions in companies (elimination or reduction of occupational risks).

The winning teams will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony to be held at INRS headquarters in Paris on 24 May 2024..

More information:

- All information, terms and conditions of participation are available on the website : <https://www.inrs.fr/concoursvideo2024>
- Check out the page Facebook for the video competition and all the winning films on chaîne YouTube de l'INRS.

About the French National Research and Safety Institute for the Prevention of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases (INRS): . From the acquisition of knowledge to its dissemination, via its transformation into practical solutions, the Institute uses its multidisciplinary resources to disseminate a culture of prevention in companies and offer tools adapted to the diversity of occupational risks. INRS has four complementary missions: studies and research, assistance, training and information. INRS employs 574 people in Paris and Lorraine. INRS is financed by the French Social Security system (Accidents at work / Occupational risks.).

www.inrs.fr@INRSfrance

Contact presse: François ledard - 01 40 44 31 37 - francois.ledard@inrs.fr

About MSA Central Fund (CCMSA): CCMSA is the second largest social protection scheme in France, with 26.9 billion in benefits paid out to 5.3 million beneficiaries. CCMSA provides social security cover for the entire farming population and their dependants (farmers, employees and students in agricultural education). It pays all benefits under the five branches of social security and also collects contributions, including unemployment insurance and supplementary pensions. CCMSA has a special relationship with its members, embodied in the 13,760 volunteer delegates elected by them and from among them, to represent them for five years. With 267 occupational health doctors, 175 occupational health nurses and 238 prevention advisers throughout France, as well as 32 employees, the CCMSA's Occupational Health and Safety Department (DSST) is responsible for occupational medicine and occupational risk prevention. As part of this role, it is rolling out a national occupational health and safety plan (2021-25) based on three major guidelines: taking action to protect health in the workplace, starting with the training of the very young; supporting projects and transitions linked to changes in the world of agriculture; and co-constructing actions with all stakeholders.

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National Covenant for the Integration of Occupational Health and Safety in Agricultural Education (2018-2023)

Context: 3rd edition (previous covenants : 2006-2011 et 2012-2017)

Duration: 5 years (5 years agreement)

Signatory partners

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (Office of Relations and Working Conditions in Agriculture and Office of Educational Action and School Life)
- Ministry of Labor (General Directorate of Labor)
- MSA's Central Fund OHS Department (Direction de la Santé Sécurité au Travail)

Text: <https://chlorofil.fr/actions/sante/sst/partenariats/ccmsa-dgt>

Priority areas:

- Taking account of and reinforce OHS in the training of learners, by all staff in agricultural education establishments
- Supporting teachers in passing on OHS information to their students
- Raising awareness among placement and apprenticeship supervisors;
- Setting up outstanding teacher-learner initiatives;
- Co-developing pedagogical and educational tools for teachers.
- Developing local initiatives and networking
- Sharing accidents data.

Fields of actions:

- OHS in the management of educational establishments
- OHS in the learner's career path
- OHS in the training of teachers and non-teaching staff
- OHS awareness-raising/training for work placement and apprenticeship supervisors
- Pooling occupational accident/illness data

Implementation and monitoring of the covenant:

- Steering Committee
- Technical Committee

The national covenant is broken down into regional multi-year agreements, signed by the regional representatives of the national signatories.

News 2023-2024:

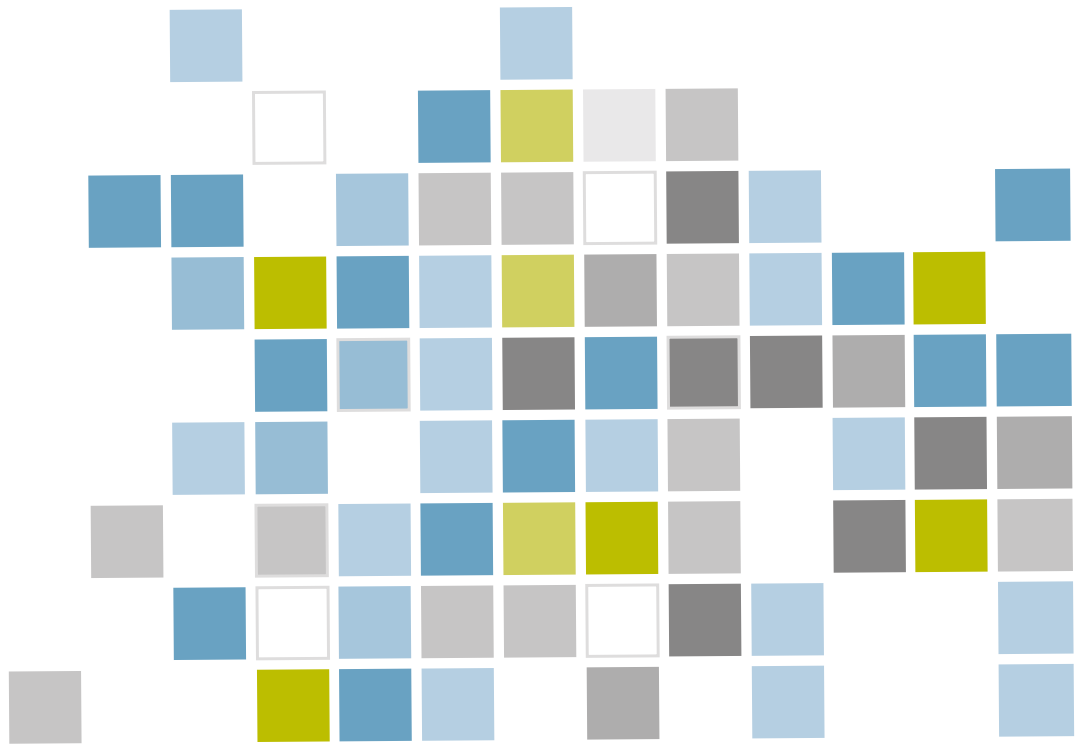
- Evaluation of the 2018-2023 covenant
- Drafting and signing of a new national agreement 2024-2029



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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE?

JOIN OUR AGRICULTURE FAMILY!



The International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture comprises ordinary and corresponding members.

The following entities may become **ordinary members** of the Section:

- affiliate and associate members of the International Social Security Association, as defined in Articles 5 and 6 of the ISSA Constitution;
- an institution, is part of a federation of institutions, government department, agency or other entity that is an affiliate or associate member of the ISSA;
- all organizations whose objectives are consistent with those described in Article 2 (of the Section's Standing Orders) and which are not qualified to become a member of the ISSA.

The following may become **corresponding members** of the Section:

- individuals as well as other interest groups, who are experts in occupational safety and health protection in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry.

more information: www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture

INFORMATION

The International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture brings together institutions and individuals who are engaged in the promotion of occupational safety and health in agriculture. It gives its members opportunities to exchange information and experience and seeks to provide practical solutions to specific issues.

www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture

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