

ETI Smallholder Workshop

ETI Biennial Conference 2005

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ETI Smallholder project group

- Established in 2002
- Retailer and supplier members seeking to understand how to apply, implement and monitor labour standards with smallholders
- NGO and trade union members seeking to improve situation of smallholders and their workers and to increase their market access

ETI Smallholder project aims

- Establish how to apply, implement and monitor ETI Base Code with smallholders and their workers
- Establish a way of working with smallholders/ their workers in order to improve their ability to observe labour standards, while recognising that one methodology will not fit all
- Document approaches to implementing labour standards in different supply chain structures

Project activities

- Conducting **research** into ETI members' knowledge on smallholders
- Defining how **the ETI Base Code applies** to smallholders and agreed ETI's approach
- Conducting a **case study** in one industry and country
- Commissioning **research on needs and priorities of smallholders** and their workers in tea and fresh produce sectors

Approach

- ETI members understand that smallholders have an **important role** to play in production
- ETI Project is **not aiming to remove smallholders** from supply chains
- Members recognise that improving standards with smallholders is **complex** and needs a **very gradual** approach

Smallholders and the supply chain

- Smallholders and their workers **frequently have poor terms and conditions** of work
- Smallholders **increasingly prevalent** in ETI company members' international supply chains
- Degree to which markets depend on products sourced from smallholdings **varies by product**
- In Kenya, smallholders account for **circa 60%** of tea and fresh produce exports

Smallholders picking tea in Kenya



Challenges facing retailers and suppliers implementing standards:

- Number and **traceability**
- Cost of **monitoring** large numbers of scattered producers
- Problems of **identifying** and classifying smallholders
- **Remoteness** of retailers from the smallholder - length and complexity of supply chain linking the two
- Need to **interpret** how codes based on labour standards designed for formal workplaces should be applied

Outputs of the project

- English and Kiswahili **versions of Guidelines** – “in press” - to launch September 2005
- Guidelines - a **work in progress**. Corporate members plan to **test** them across their supply chains
- Learning gathered will be used to **revise** the guidelines - 2nd edition 2006
- Booklet for **Smallholders**
- A **CD-Rom** of photos

Smallholder booklet



ETI Smallholder workshop

Maggie Opondo : thank you!

(time for questions will follow the second speaker's presentation)

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