



PROMOTING CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AT WORK IN RURAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) and partners, in collaboration with the National Steering committee on Child Labour under the Ministry of Gender labour and Social Development is implementing a 24 Month project aimed at promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities. This project is funded by strategic approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Program and executed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) – Uganda. This project is an effort to put in place a minimal programme to prevent ill health arising from pesticides with particular focus on children at work in agricultural setting. The project focuses on: - developing an up-to-date information on chemicals in agriculture, their uses, the dangerous processes and end point discharges; developing manpower among the workers, employers and the general public for the dissemination of safety measures in use of toxic chemicals; and building a comprehensive public awareness and education on the alternatives to toxic chemicals and careful use when it is necessary to use them



Activity Photo 1. Women involved in application of pesticides, in a tea Estate without Personal protective Equipment. Photo from Western Uganda



Activity Photo 2: Training workshop for Ministry of Health officials on safe use of chemicals and developing a chemical safety training program in the Ministry

The project covers 20 Districts in Uganda and is developing capacity for prevention at two levels: - National Level- consisting of government departments and high-level officers of government, trade unions, workers and employers whose role extends throughout the country. District Level – consisting of persons whose role and duties are limited to the district domains only. Such officers include the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) the District Labour Officers (DLOs), the District Agricultural Officers (DAOs), the District Population Officers (DPOs), the District Medical Officers (DMOs), and Resident District Commissioners RDCs and the elected political leaders of the districts. At each of these levels, seminars, trainings, and other activities of the project have been conducted each designed for the particular target.