




A SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

120,000 

Mozambique Leaf Tobacco (MLT) contracts the largest number of tobacco farmers in the whole Africa region, more than 120,000 every year.

MLT believes that the full engagement of all stakeholders will lead to a better understanding of the Agricultural Labour Practices (ALP) program, and also that, if the community leaders understand and support it, this will achieve higher levels of compliance. Therefore, MLT has designed the Community Leaders Accountability Program, which aims to engage a broad range of stakeholders at various authority levels to strengthen its ALP message and enforcement levels. The Program's objective is to promote greater understanding, support and compliance amongst respected village authorities thereby setting the example and tone for farmers and others in the community.



The engagement includes a clear explanation of MLT's support and enforcement concept: the company supports farmers with the supply of agricultural inputs, intensive training on Good Agricultural Practices, which includes the ALP Program, and purchase of the entire crop: On the other side, farmers must commit to full engagement in and respect for the ALP code. The program currently prioritizes the zones with higher incidences of child labour and those farmers who hire more labour, but the program will ultimately cover all MLT operating areas.

Initially, MLT is engaging with community leaders and school councils to reinforce the message of zero tolerance towards child labour and accountability for community behavior. Although both groups will be expected to collaborate and work together, community leaders will be mainly responsible for reinforcing the ALP message with farmers and workers, and the school councils will be responsible for promoting and monitoring school attendance within the community. As a result, the company aims to achieve full community commitment in addressing child labour problems and peer-to-peer enforcement sponsored and promoted by local leaders talking to farmers, and by school councils advocating school attendance.



MLT is also planning to engage with Government at all levels to jointly promote awareness on the negative effects of child labour and the importance of education. This higher-level engagement aims at ensuring that Government cooperates in the fight against child labour, supporting MLT's position. Communities will be made aware of Government's support at all levels and should become even more committed to eliminating child labour at grass the root level. This program aims at covering all operating zones, which means training thousands of people.