

Turvaamme
arkeasi,
tuemme
työtäsi!

'SAVING LIVES!', Best practices from Finland

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Antti Huhtamäki

Farmers' Social Insurance Institution Mela

Saving lives in agriculture, best practices from Finland

- Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations
 - The accident rate is 3 times higher (49,9/1000) than the average for workers
- The total number of accidents at work has decreased quite clearly but the accident rate still remains at the high level
 - declining number of farmers
- However, the number of fatal accidents at work has decreased more strongly over the past decade
 - 2010 – 2012: average 6 / year
 - 2018 -2020: average 3,3 / year
- Suicides of farmers, open question mark
 - No statistics is available

Actions to reduce the number of fatal accidents and suicides

- Mela has been promoting occupational safety for 40 years in many ways
- Over the past few years, Mela has focused to promote well-being at work and help farmers in difficulties
- These actions will, hopefully, help to reduce agricultural accidents and improve coping at work. And in this way, they also reduce the number of fatal accidents and suicides

Traditional way to promote occupational safety

- Mela has
 - Produced communication materia to promote occupational safety actions
 - Provided occupational safety expert service through the network of Mela agents (for farmers, schools, fairs etc)
 - Promoted farmers' accession to occupational health service
 - Farmers who have joined OHS have been granted a reduction in the accident insurance fee
 - Farm visits for the start-up farmers to promote work pension and accident insurance
 - Funded research work related to occupational safety

The new measures to promote occupational safety and well being at work

- Taking Care of the Farmer –project & Early Intervention model
- Information on health and well-being at work has been significantly increased
 - Especially on social media
- Organised well-being events and training

Taking Care of the Farmer - Project

The aim of the Project is to help farmers, who work under severe economical and mental pressure, to get the situation under control and to reduce the risk of the loss of their work ability

The main tools of the project

- **Mela's special advisors offer personal assistance to farmers in difficulty**
 - During 4 years we have helped 2 000 farmers, 4 % of the total number of the farmers
- **A voucher for special extra services**
 - Value € 500, max 2/farmer
- **Early intervention network**
 - A wide number of the partners in agriculture working together to help farmers

Other recently adopted actions

- **Development of Occupational Health Service**
 - Framework agreements with the OHS providers to ensure the quality of the service
 - Mela also tries to improve farmers activity to join OHS
- **Work ability coordinator service for farmers**
 - The aim is to help farmers with decreased work capacity, but not entitled to a disability pension, to remain employed

Other recently adopted actions

- **Increased information related to occupational safety and well being at work**
 - multichannel communication, especially via social media
 - information cards
 - videos & webinars
 - blogs
 - etc
- **Competitions to promote occupational safety**
- **Online training programme in occupational safety protection**
- **Children's safety on the farm -games on line**

Conclusions

Measuring the results of the work promoting occupational safety and well-being is difficult.

However, the number of fatal accidents at work has decreased clearly.

The number of unrealized suicides is difficult to estimate, but according to Mela's own assessment, preventative welfare work has prevented many suicides every year.

Thank you for your attention!

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

Merci de votre attention

Dziękuję za uwagę!

Kiitos mielenkiinnosta!