

CHILD LABOR

Children working in the tobacco fields is a tragedy.



- ◆ Child labor is widespread in all major tobacco producing countries including: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico and Zimbabwe.
- ◆ A 1993 study found that of children living on tobacco estates, 78 percent of 10-14 year olds and 55 percent of 7-9 year olds worked full or part-time.
- ◆ In India an estimated 325,000 children work rolling "bidis," thin cigarettes wrapped in the flavorful tendu leaf. Up to 50% of these children are bonded laborers, sold as slaves to their employers.
- ◆ In Brazil, almost 70% of the tobacco farm workers are under the age of 18.
- ◆ Children are more susceptible to green tobacco sickness (GTS), a type of nicotine poisoning which is caused by the absorption of nicotine through the skin during harvest.
- ◆ Tobacco companies have asked that school schedules be rearranged so children can be available to work in the tobacco fields.

For more information on child labor visit:

www.bigtabaccosucks.org

<http://www.tobaccoworkers.com>

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/campaign/global/FCTCreport1.pdf>

Sources:

1 Fyfe, Alec. "Bitter Harvest: Child Labor In Agriculture." 1997. International Labor Organization. 6 Mar. 2002 <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/actrav/genact/child/part2_a/agric.htm>.

2 World Health Organization. "Tobacco and the Rights of the Child." 4 May 2001. 7 Mar. 2002 URL: <http://www.who.int/inf-pr-2001/en/pr2001-24.html>.