



Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Agroindustria y Similares

STAS

Fundado El 07 De Abril Del 2013, En el Municipio de La Lima Cortes

Afiliado: A FESTAGRO.

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Wednesday, January 16, 2019

La Lima, Cortes, Honduras

Press Release:

Fyffes recognizes the STAS subsectional

The company has committed to rehire union members

Fyffes' representatives signed an [agreement](#) officially recognizing STAS as the legitimate representative of workers employed at Fyffes' Honduran melon subsidiaries. On Friday, January 11, 2019, the *Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Agroindustria y Similares* (STAS) held a meeting in Tegucigalpa with Fyffes, the fruit multinational owned by Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo. Collective bargaining negotiations between Fyffes and STAS begin on February 5 in Choluteca. Fyffes also agreed to rehire the non-rehired union members by January 21.

STAS recognition from Fyffes is an important step toward improving working conditions at Fyffes' subsidiaries, i.e. abiding by Honduran labor law and international labor standards; given that STAS is a legally constituted union with every right to represent Fyffes workers.

Given Fyffes' recognition of their workers' right to freely associate, we expect that the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) signed between STAS and Fyffes in the coming weeks cover all of Fyffes' subsidiaries and any new subsidiaries that Fyffes may form or subsume in the future. This includes workers at packing plants, greenhouses, plantations, and security guards hired by Fyffes' subsidiaries, so that all of Fyffes employees, whether on temporary or permanent contracts, may benefit from improved working conditions resulting from the CBA.

We celebrate this agreement between Fyffes and STAS with the recognition that the struggle to reach this point has been long: the workers have suffered some three years, but this is not yet resolved. There is a serious history of violations of various rights, which can be remediated with the fulfillment of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with a democratic and independent union like STAS.

We deem Fyffes' new posture towards respecting its workers' rights as positive and expect that this agreement will mean that any and all anti-union retaliation will come to an immediate end. Workers and union members should be free from all forms of harassment and not face retaliation for attending STAS meetings or distributing union materials at work. We will be monitoring this closely.

We inform the different stakeholders interested in this process that this is the beginning of a path we hope will be expeditious, productive and transparent. It is an opening towards the solution of a conflict that will be resolved when the [CBA] is signed, registered through the Secretary of Labor

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and Social Security (STSS) and in strict compliance by Fyffes' subsidiaries with STAS. Before this, we request that caution and attention be maintained.

We want to fraternally thank the indispensable effort and support of allied organizations in the United States and Europe in this process, given that without their contribution in different aspects, hundreds of melon workers in Honduras would not have this hope of justice.

STAS looks forward to a successful negotiation and signing of a CBA with Fyffes in good faith to cover all workers at all Fyffes' subsidiaries in Honduras.

Central Board of Directors STAS

Enero 2019



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