

GMB**GMB@WORK**

The GMB International Solidarity Fund

GMB and Banana Link working together in solidarity

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The GMB International Solidarity Fund enables branches and regions to directly support the organising, legal and education work of Latin American agricultural trade unions. These unions need our solidarity to defend the rights of plantation workers and empower representatives to collectively bargain for Decent Work. All of these unions belong to COLSIBA (the Latin American federation of agro industrial worker unions) who work in close partnership with the GMB and Banana Link to lobby companies, governments and other policy makers to defend the rights of men and women growing the fruit sold in our supermarkets.

In 2013 GMB support has increased membership and enabled the delivery of advocacy and education work in Peru.

SITAG is now one of the largest unions in the country representing over 5,000 workers, thanks to international solidarity which has enabled them to recruit hundreds of new

members and secure payment of union fees from plantation members whose deductions had been blocked by their employers. With GMB ISF funding SITAG has created 4 new workplace union committees, delivered training to 250 members and reps on health and safety, labour and gender rights and participated



in the establishment of new agro industrial workers' federation, FENTAGRO. The General Secretary of SITAG was elected as President of this new national Federation. SITAG and FENTAGRO have continued to campaign for the repeal of Labour Law 27360 which remains the biggest obstacle to organising and collective bargaining in one of the fastest growing export agriculture sectors in the world. Visit <http://www.bananalink.org.uk/films-online> to watch the testimony of Fatima Herrera Olea, SITAG's Labour Rights and Solidarity Officer.

BananaLink

Organising and education of women workers in Ecuador GMB ISF funds have supported Fenacle's Women's Officer to lead the union's work to

- reach out to and start to organise women workers in the sugar sector
- undertake education activities to start to overcome the cultural barriers to women entering salaried employment in rural communities
- successfully negotiate specific gender clauses in two CBAs
- empower women in leadership roles with one of the first ever women in the sector elected as General Secretary (of the Guayas Workers Association)
- ensure that all workplace unions now have an elected Women's Secretariat
- achieve a 20% increase in women holding leadership roles in the union

The replacement of vital computer equipment in Costa Rica Following a series of successful cases in the Costa Rican labour courts, computers and files belonging to the SITRAP union documenting these and other cases being pursued, were stolen in highly suspicious circumstances. An Emergency Motion passed at Congress 2013 secured financial support from branches and regions to purchase replacement equipment and continue to the fight for justice.

Sign up and help us to achieve more Funds raised so far have provided crucial capacity building but more is needed to help our union brothers and sisters in their struggle. Please fill in and post the slip below. We will keep you updated and send requests for online solidarity action. Recent successes include securing Freedom of Association for workers employed at 3 Honduran banana plantations.

We would like to support the **GMB International Solidarity Fund** with the following amount (suggested minimum donation £8.25 per month or £100 per year).

£ Monthly donation Annual donation

Contact Name

Branch

Address

Email
(please write clearly)

I enclose a cheque payable to 'GMB International Solidarity Fund'

Please send me a standing order form

Post to Bert Schouwenburg, GMB Freepost (WC2268) London SW19 4YY

You can also donate by BACS transfer: bank Unity Trust Bank Plc, account name GMB International Solidarity Fund, account no 20271437, sort code 08-60-01