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Summary of the Article

“ U. S. firms, consumers can't ignore abuses against Mexican farm workers.”

Have you ever thought about real price of pricey products we buy in Wal-Mart or Whole Foods and why they cost less? The truth is shocking. It has been revealed by Los Angeles Times and hopefully it will be heard by all American firms and businesses who consume products from farms in Mexico.

Many agricultural workers from different parts of Mexico try to earn money working on farms under 90 day contracts. They are promised weekly salary, place to stay in and good conditions. However, the reality is different.

Workers do not receive their payments on time. What's more, they do not get any money till the end of the contract and even then amounts they expect to get are times less. It happens because many employees charge their workers fees to be hired, they also have to buy food and other necessary things and end up with nothing earned.

The problem is that it's not that easy to inspect and fight with such offense.

Here are the reasons why: first of all, farms in Mexico are far from one another and it is hard to examine them well; secondly, farms create false impression of perfect manufacturing by building housing with good conditions and coach workers who live there how and what to tell when inspectors come; third, not all US firms conduct frequent inspections since it's very expensive.

Companies buying agricultural products from abroad should become familiar with producers and check some basic information to be sure that they do not

support the abuse. They have to be careful with farms that send their recruiters, especially if recruiters are allowed to collect a fee for providing a job or promise to provide living conditions. Farm should both pay to their employees and give them place to settle. Long term contract is another red flag since farm workers who are required to work 90 days, for example, often do not receive their money on time and suffer bad conditions because of it. Food purchasers should start inspecting farms in Mexico more extensively while buyers should pay for products with labels which ensure that farms supplying the product do not break law while producing it.

“ There is a terrible irony when some of the poorest people in Mexico are starving in order to feed us” (Los Angeles Times). As long as US government and other agencies can influence and change this situation they shouldn't waste a minute to start doing it.

The article is very well written since it is easy to define and retell its main points, the author introduces the problem first, then tells about solutions, explains why it is hard to inspect the problem and what to do in order to change the situation, lists red flags, warns US consumers and encourages them not to stay indifferent. I believe that the article is very significant since the problem of farm workers abuse is important and should be discussed more.