

News Service

of the Social Insurance for
Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture



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Occupational safety in Forestry

French-German exchange of experience

Alsation forest workers and representatives of the French Agricultural Social Protection System „Mutualité Sociale Agricole” (MSA) met with the German Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture „Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau“ (SVLFG) to exchange experiences about occupational safety and health protection in Forestry.

The French delegation visited the German Forest Training Center Mattenhof (FAZ) and the Forest Service Ortenau and got information about the vocational training for foresters, further trainings, the organization of the rescue chain and safe timber harvest.

Alternating chairman of the board of SVLFG Arnd Spahn welcomed the participants and emphasized the special feature of SVLFG's holistic approach of prevention: "Especially in forestry, prevention is so very important, because the sector has a comparatively high risk of accidents".

Dr. Maria Hehn, head of FAZ, reviewed the German training system in forestry. Requirements resulting from professional experiences and the regulation about the vocational training for foresters are the basis. The training contains all necessary skills and competences needed in the forestry business. Essential contents of the training

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are for example practical timber harvest, forest management, conservation of nature and landscapes or the care of biotops. The trainees of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg travel to the Forest Training Center Mattenhof three times a year for teaching blocks of 3 to 5 weeks each.

The tour through Forest Service Ortenau showing practical examples of safe timber harvest and rescue chain perfected the French delegation's visit.

Forestry-master, board member of SVLFG and inspector for the vocational training for foresters, Joachim Schell, concluded: „This exchange of experience is very important, because we learn from each other and can forward occupational safety on an international basis.”

SVLFG

The Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (German abbreviation: SVLFG) is the comprehensive insurance provider in the field of agricultural social security in Germany. As the only social insurance system in Germany, the SVLFG is the central contact point for the management of all social insurance matters within its jurisdiction. This integrated insurance management system is tailored to efficiently meet the needs of its insured.

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Participants of the French-German exchange of experience

Photo: SVLFG

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