

[Unofficial Korean-to-English translation provided by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre]

Taepyung Salt Farm's response to the questions

Taepyung Salt Farm's salt production consignment contract is a contract that provides farm plots and entrusts salt production to the contractors, who are responsible for all duties related to management and production including hiring and managing workers. Hiring is under the authority of the contractors, so Taepyung Salt Farm cannot manage or interfere.

Since 2015, Taepyung Salt Farm has provided a standard labor contract form for hiring salt farm workers and informed about the responsibilities of the contractors for protecting the human rights of salt farm workers as specified in the Fair Trade Verification Form to contractors when signing a salt production contract. Taepyung Salt Farm also provided contractors with accommodation which can be used by salt farm workers free-of-charge and made a consistent effort to improve the living conditions in the accommodations.

Moreover, Taepyung Salt Farm has been proactively engaged in understanding the human rights status of salt farm workers by guiding the contractors to actively participate in the human rights investigations of public institutions conducted every year.

We feel very sorry that such events occurred despite the aforementioned efforts of Taepyung Salt Farm. As soon as the criminal prosecution of the case was confirmed, we denied all salt production consignment contracts with the Jang Family, who were the perpetrators. We are also bringing forward a suit for the damages caused by the administrative actions.

Additionally, to strengthen the human rights protection for salt farm workers, a provision for immediate termination of the consignment contract and a claim for damages upon occurrence of human rights-related problems was newly added to the 2022 salt production consignment contract.

We would also like to inform that from January 2022, we have appointed an attorney specializing in human rights and labor as an advisor to provide related education and labor/human rights advice to production contractors.