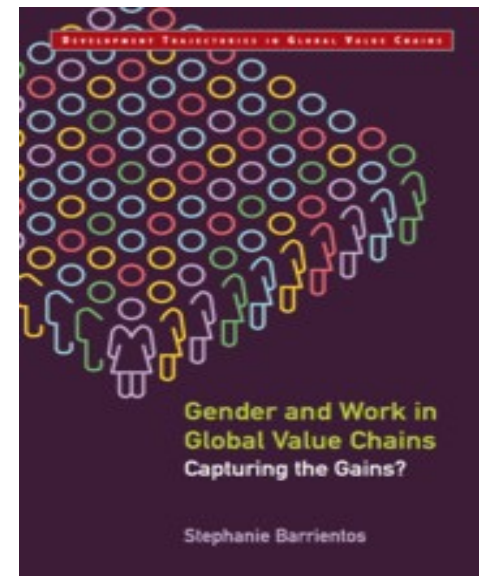


Fairer Trade and Decent Work in Agri-GVCs: standards rights and gender

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Agri-GVC context and decent work

- Global agri-food value chains: dominance of large retailers and intermediaries
- Purchasing practices (delivery, cost, private standards): key challenge for suppliers
- Workers provide 'buffer' against buyer pressures
- Women often significant % of labour: mainly casual and smallholder
- Civil society campaigns over poor labour conditions – including on gender
- ILO Decent Work: employment, rights, social dialogue and protection
- UN Guiding Principles: states protect, companies respect, remedy for workers



Private Standards and Rights: Gender dimension?



**Ethical
Trading
Initiative**



**UNITED NATIONS
GUIDING PRINCIPLES
ON BUSINESS
& HUMAN RIGHTS**

Shifting South: implications for workers?

- GVCs context - rapid change
 - Rise of South-South trade
 - Regional and domestic value chains (DVC) & retailers
- Do private social standards apply in DVCs?
 - Mixed: some yes, most retailers rely on legislation
 - Many supply GVCs (with standards) and DVCs
 - Some private social & sustainability standards
- What are implications for workers/gender?



FAIRTRADE
AFRICA



Kenyan Horticulture DVC

- Retail transformation within Kenya
- Horticulture GVC & DVC intersect with local markets
- Kenyan legal context changing:
 - Revised Constitution 2010; Adopted UNGP 2016 (inc. labour focus)
- Public horticulture standard (KS1758) 2019
 - Driven by : EU 'MRL' crisis & rising Kenyan cancer rates
 - Applies to GVC and DVC // GlobalGAP, ETI & RA
 - Initial focus on traceability & product standards... social?
- Wage workers & smallholders... women?



Future prospects for workers?

- Challenging times de-globalization?
- GVC/DVC deflects pressures: diverse markets
- Some private social standards in agri-food DVCs
- Public legislation focusing on agri-food
GVC/DVCs playing greater role
- Context matters: variations by product/country
- Kenya case indicates mixed outcomes for
workers and smallholders, including women
- Gender gulf between policy and implementation

Further Resources on Regional and Domestic Value Chains

This ppt draws on research from the '*Shifting South*' project. This focused on decent work in regional and domestic value chains for horticulture & garments in Sub-Saharan Africa. Publications, briefs and podcasts available on:

<https://www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/gpn-trade-labour/shifting-south/>