



IAWA - TSARA webinar

What about research on work and employment in agriculture in Africa?



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# A scientometric study on « Agriculture / Work / Employment / Africa » in 2012-2023

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December 5th 2024

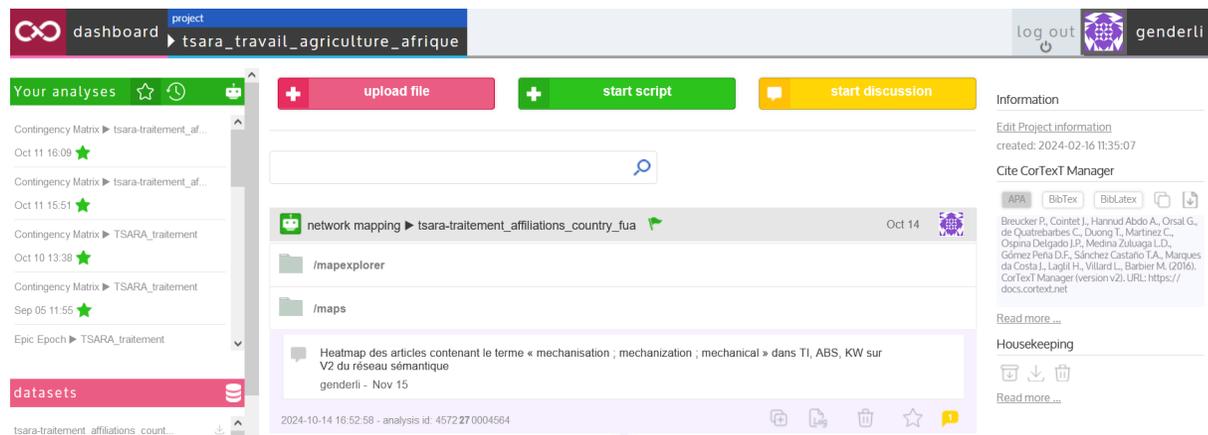
# Data selection and analysis

- A corpus of 726 documents
  - Extracted from 2 scientific databases
    - Web of Science Core Collection
    - Scopus
  - Mainly journal articles
  - Selected using a thematic equation combining 2 concepts
    - Terms and equivalents of « WORK \*» and « AGRICULTURE\*\* » in the title and/or authors' keywords
    - Terms « AFRICA » or at least one country of Africa (or its equivalent adjective) in the title, abstract, and/or authors' keywords
    - Over the period 2012 – 2023
    - Final manual check and sorting of experts

\*Work OR working OR labour OR labor OR job OR underemployment OR unemployment OR employment OR workforce OR worker OR farmworker OR profession

\*\*agriculture OR agricultural OR livestock OR farm OR farming OR farmer OR agrifood OR agrarian OR fishing OR crops OR horticulture OR horticultural OR vegetable OR fruit OR cereal OR aquaculture OR Rice

- Scientometric study of documents' metadata using Cortext Manager



<https://docs.cortext.net/>

# Metadata analysis

*Agrarian South* • Open Access • Volume 7, Issue 1, Pages 28 - 50 • April 2018

## Agricultural Policy, Employment Opportunities and Social Mobility in Rural Malawi

[Chinsinga, Blessings<sup>a</sup>](#)  ;

[Chasukwa, Michael<sup>b</sup>](#)

<sup>a</sup> Department of Political and Administrative Studies and Director of Center for Social Research, Chancellor College, University of Malawi, Zomba, Malawi

<sup>b</sup> School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Chancellor College, University of Malawi, Zomba, Malawi

### Abstract

Despite the youth accounting for more than half of the population of Malawi, they have been marginalized and pushed to the periphery of several development policy interventions. This article interrogates the question of how the youth and policy-makers view agricultural development as a means of social mobility for youth in Malawi. The paper argues that even though agricultural production is the main occupation in Malawi, young people do not value agriculture as a means of upward social mobility. Furthermore, youth and agriculture policy frameworks provide little support to youth in terms of access to affordable farm inputs, land, extension services, value addition initiatives, and markets. It is argued that Malawi is missing the strategic policy direction by not implementing non-traditional agriculture interventions that would engage the youth in a bid to reduce massive youth unemployment. © 2018 SAGE Publications.

### Author keywords

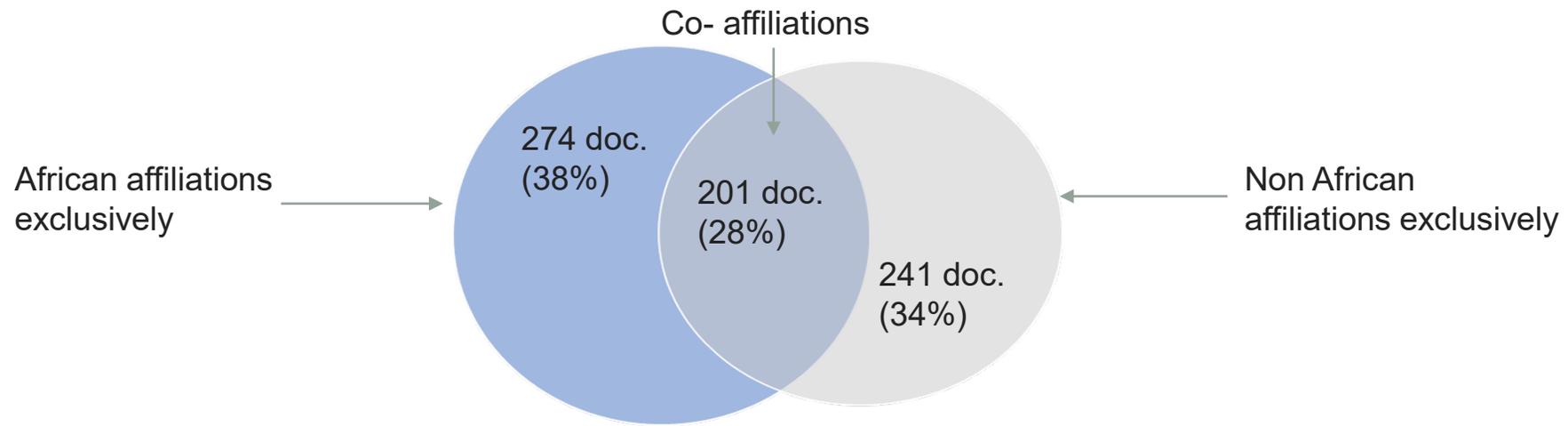
agriculture policy; employment; Malawi; social mobility; Youth

### References

- Anyidoho N.A., Kayuni H., Ndungu J., Leavy J., Sall M., Tadele G., Sumberg J., Young people and policy narratives in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Future Agricultures Working Paper* (2012)
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- Urdal H., A clash of generations? Youth bulges and political violence, *International Studies Quarterly*, 50, 3, pp. 607-627, (2006)

# Overview of the corpus

- Published in 365 different journals
  - 8 journals present between 10 to 26 documents
  - 256 journals (70%) present 1 single document
  - Journals' top 5: Development In Practice (26 documents); World Development (26); Sustainability (14); Food Policy (13); Agricultural Economics (11)
- Written by 1891 authors
  - 23 authors present between 5 to 10 documents
  - 1633 authors (86%) present 1 single document
  - Authors' top 6: Osabuohien, E.S. (10 documents - Covenant Univ, Nigeria) ; Osabohien, R. (9 - Covenant Univ, Nigeria) ; Daum, Thomas (7 - University of Hohenheim, Germany) ; Maertens, Miet (7 - Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), Bratveit, Magne (6 - University of Bergen, Norway) ; Moen, Bente E. (6 - University of Bergen, Norway)
- A « balanced » corpus in terms of affiliations' origins



# Geographical information

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### Author keywords

agriculture policy; employment; Malawi; social mobility; Youth

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### ➤ Geocoding of authors' affiliation addresses

-> Where do the authors of the TSARA documents come from?

-> Crossover variable to characterize semantic analysis results

# Geographical information

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## Agricultural Policy, Employment Opportunities and Social Mobility in Rural Malawi

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### Author keywords

agriculture policy; employment; Malawi; social mobility; Youth

➤ Extraction of all mentions of places (localities, districts, municipalities, cities, regions, countries) then Geocoding

-> What geographical areas are studied in the TSARA documents?

-> Crossover variable to characterize semantic analysis results

### References

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# Geographical information

## 86 publishing countries\*

- 25 with 10 to 118 documents
- 50 with less than 5 documents

### Top publishing countries (nb. distinct doc.)

35 Africa countries		51 outside Africa countries	
South Africa	118	United States	117
Nigeria	84	United Kingdom	86
Ghana	58	Germany	54
Ethiopia	54	France	43
Kenya	38	Netherlands	35
Tanzania	22	Canada	33
Egypt	22	Norway	26
Zimbabwe	18	Belgium	22
Benin	18	Italy	15
Senegal	14	Switzerland	14
Morocco	14	Sweden	13
Cameroon	11	Australia	11
Uganda	10	China	8
Tunisia	9	Spain	6
Burkina Faso	8	Mexico	6
Malawi	7	Malaysia	6
Rwanda	5	Japan	5
Mali	5		
Ivory Coast	5		

\*10 documents without affiliations

## 68 studied countries\*\*

- 16 with 10 to 190 documents
- 45 with less than 5 documents

### Top studied countries (nb. distinct doc.)

42 Africa countries		26 outside Africa countries	
Ethiopia	90	India	7
Nigeria	81	Italy	5
Ghana	79	France	4
South Africa	79	Nepal	4
Zimbabwe	44	Spain	4
Kenya	43	Vietnam	3
Tanzania	42	Indonesia	2
Uganda	30	Portugal	2
Malawi	27		
Senegal	24		
Morocco	21		
Egypt	20		
Mozambique	15		
Benin	13		
Zambia	13		
Burkina Faso	10		
Cameroon	9		
Rwanda	8		
Mali	7		

\*\*At least one « studied-country » identified for 638 articles

# Disciplinary fields mobilized

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### Author keywords

agriculture policy; employment; Malawi; social mobility; Youth

- Extraction of journals cited in the references
- Co-citation network

-> Which journals are mobilized jointly in the TSARA references?

-> Identification of the main disciplinary fields and how they relate to each other

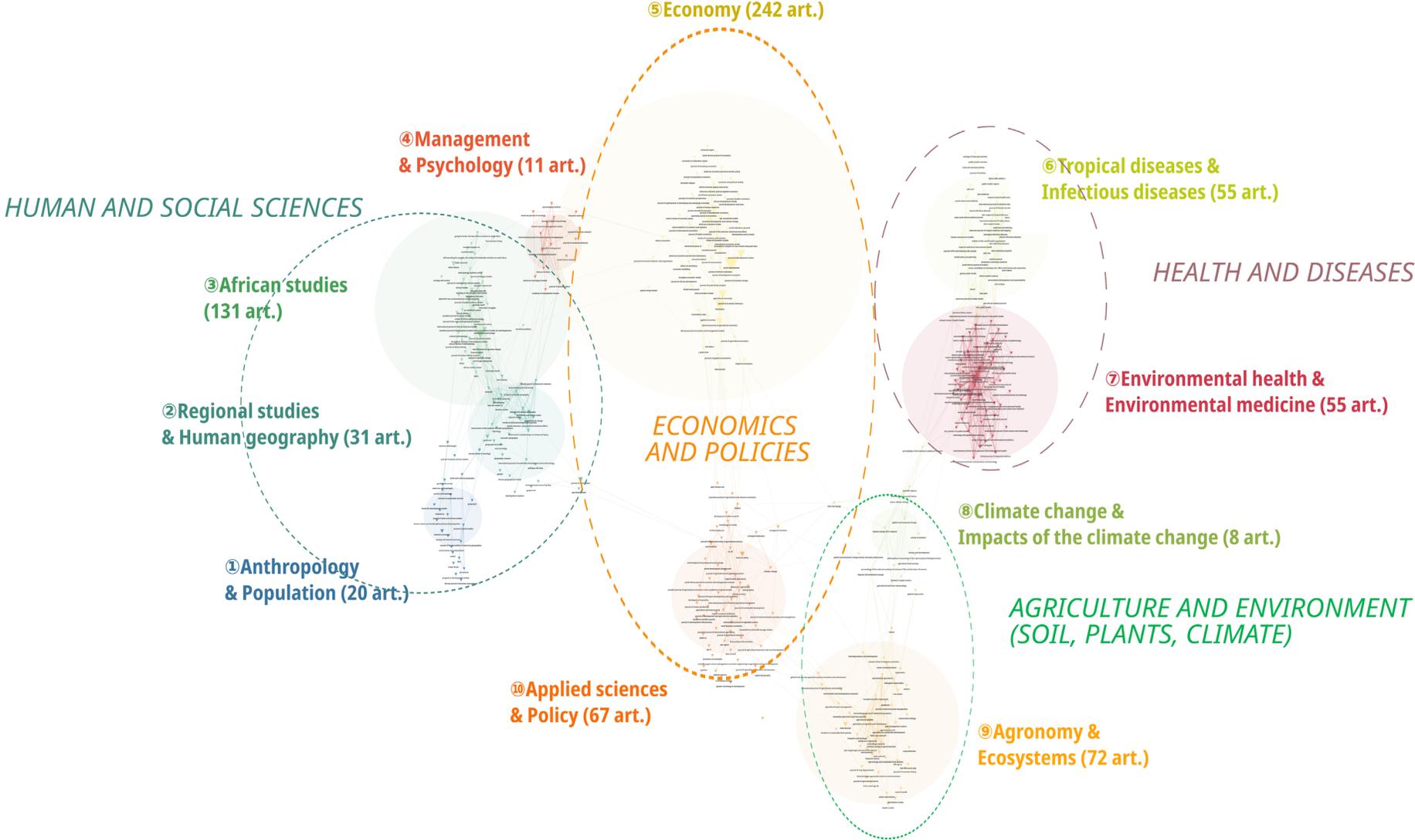
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# Disciplinary fields mobilized in the TSARA corpus

Co-citation of the top 5% more cited journals in the TSARA documents' references



# Main themes/researches covered

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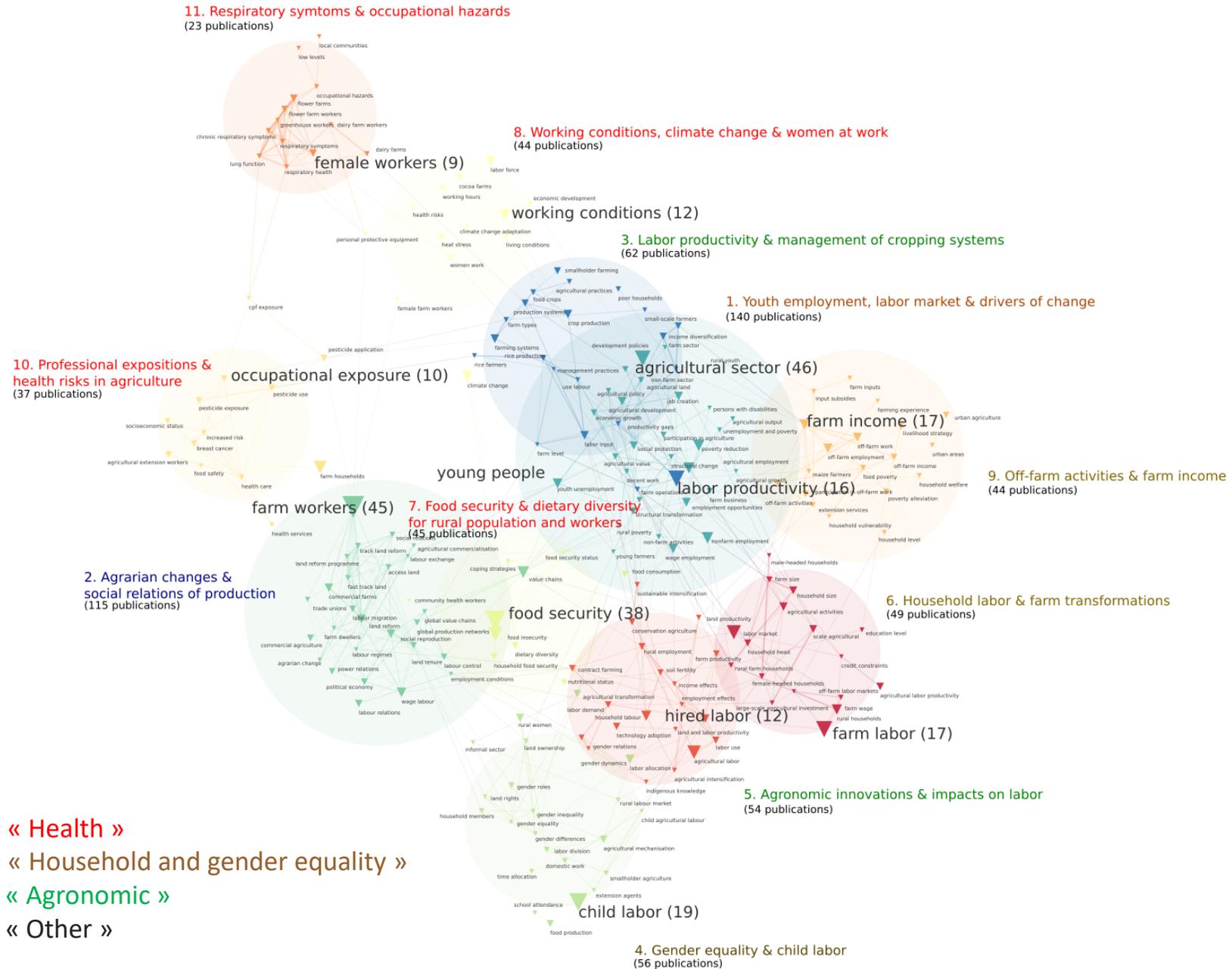
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- Extraction of the most significant noun phrases up to 3 words
- Co-occurrence network
  - > Study of the structure of the vocabulary contained in the TSARA documents
  - > Understanding of the main themes/researches covered



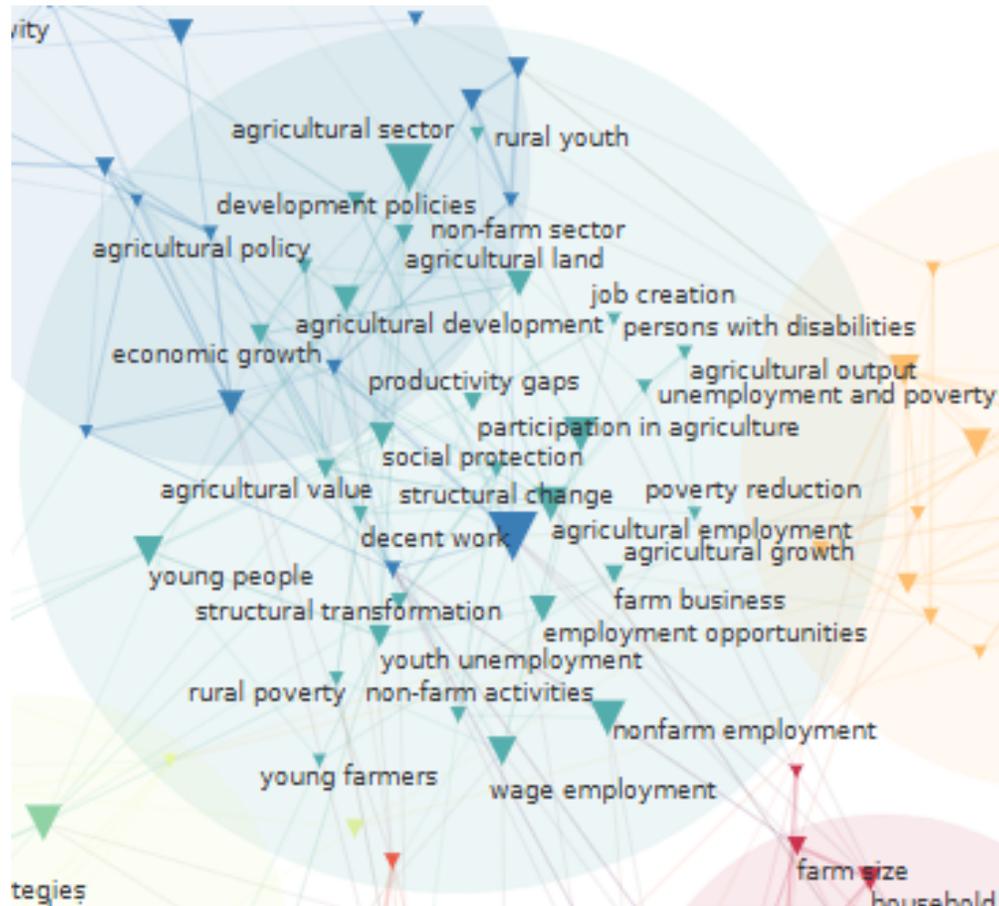
7, 8, 10, 11 = « Health »

4, 6, 9 = « Household and gender equality »

3, 5 = « Agronomic »

1, 2 = « Other »

# Main themes/researches covered - Focus



## ① Youth employment, labor market & drivers of change

140 documents

### Specific terms

- Most central: agricultural employment ; agricultural value ; economic growth ; youth unemployment ; agricultural sector
- Most frequent: agricultural sector (46) ; poverty reduction (22) ; agricultural employment (21) ; youth unemployment (16) ; young people (13)

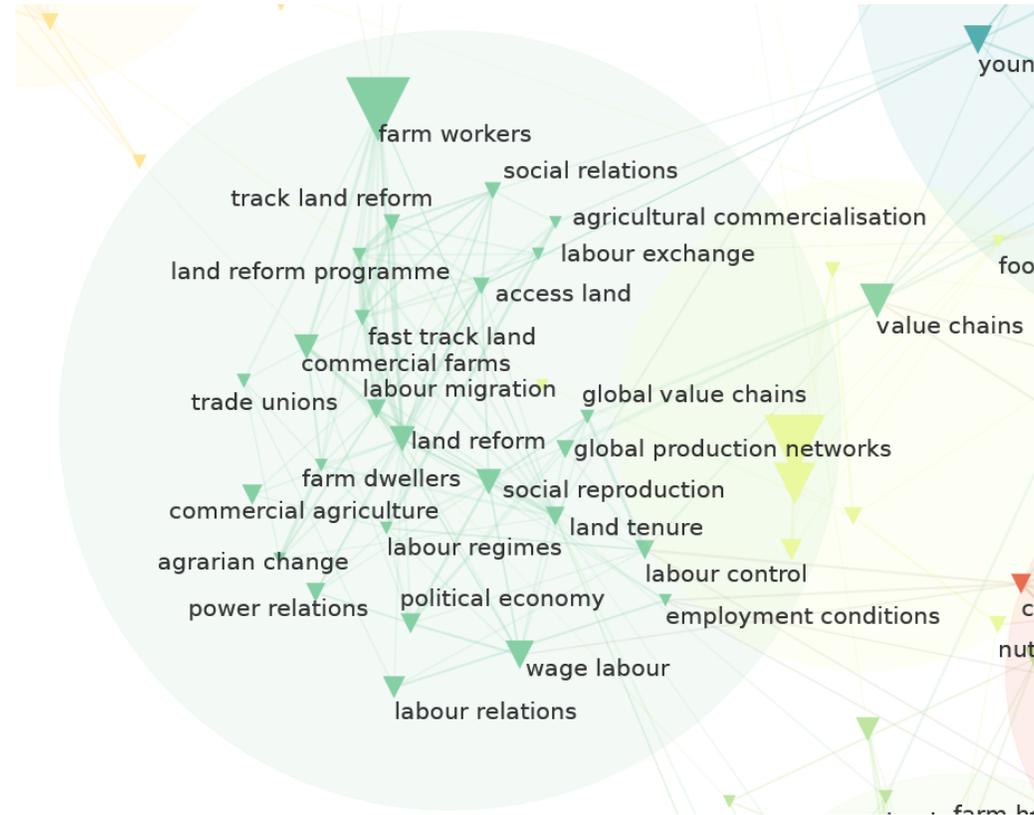
### Over-representation of crossover variables

- Disciplinary fields:  
Applied science & policy ; Anthropology & populations
- Country studied:  
Nigeria
- Country Authors' affiliations:  
Nigeria, Tunisia, Malawi

### Emblematic methods (key documents reading)

Large-scale data (country/continent scale, longitudinal) ; reviews, conceptual reflection on empirical data

# Main themes/researches covered - Focus



## ② Agrarian changes & social relations of production

115 documents

### Specific terms

- Most central: land reform ; fast track land ; labour migration ; access land ; land tenure
- Most frequent: farm workers (45) ; land reform (23) ; political economy (14) ; wage labour (14) ; commercial farms (13)

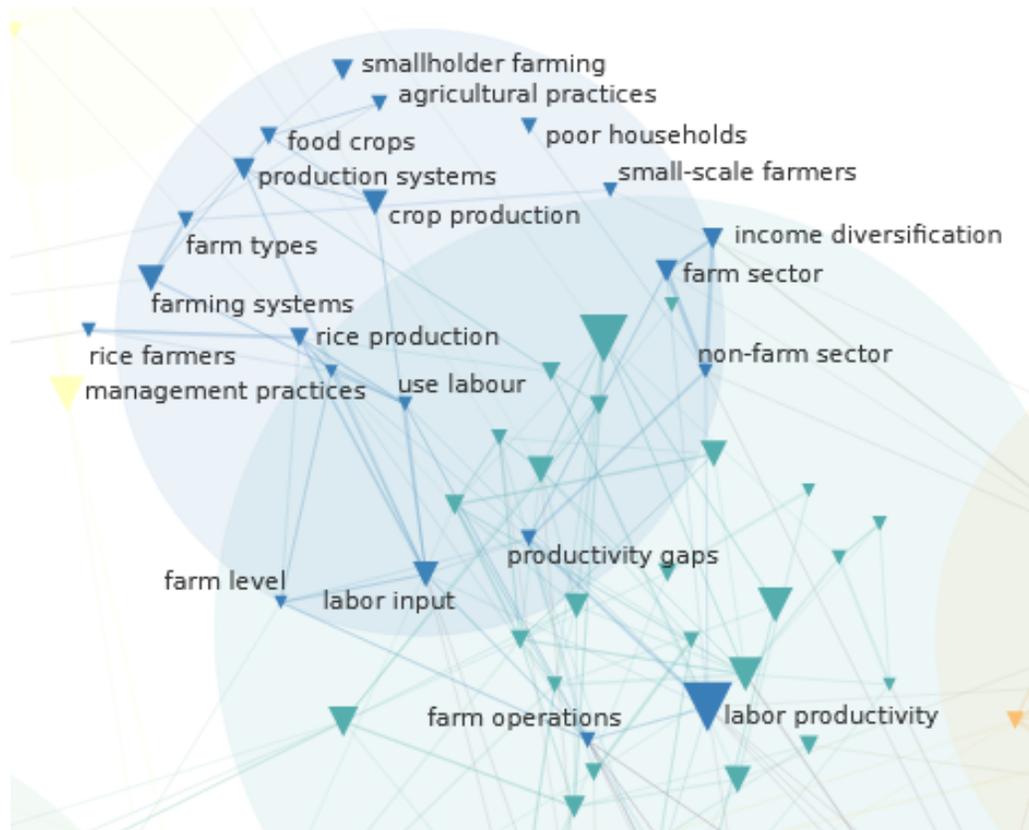
### Over-representation of crossover variables

- Disciplinary fields:  
*African studies ; Regional studies & human geography*
- Country studied:  
*South Africa ; Zimbabwe*
- Country Authors' affiliations:  
*Zambia ; Zimbabwe ; South Africa ; United Kingdom*

### Emblematic methods (key documents reading)

Mainly qualitative methods

# Main themes/researches covered - Focus



## ③ Labor productivity & management of cropping systems

62 documents

### Specific terms

- Most central: labor input ; farm operations; labor productivity ; non-farm sector ; productivity gaps
- Most frequent: labor productivity (16) ; labor input (13) ; farming systems (12); crop production (10) ; production systems (9)

### Over-representation of crossover variables

- Disciplinary fields:  
Agronomy & ecosystem

- Country studied:  
Benin

- Country Authors' affiliations:  
Benin ; Morocco ; Netherland ; Australia

### Emblematic methods (key documents reading)

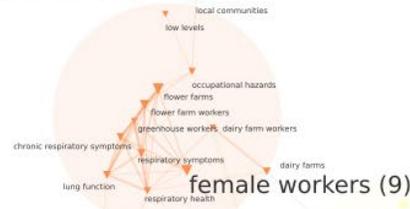
Large surveys and models

Strong presence of quantitative data on agricultural yields

# Other themes/researches covered

4 « Health » clusters

11. Respiratory symptoms & occupational hazards  
(23 publications)



8. Working conditions, climate change & women at work  
(44 publications)



3. Labor productivity & management of cropping systems  
(62 publications)



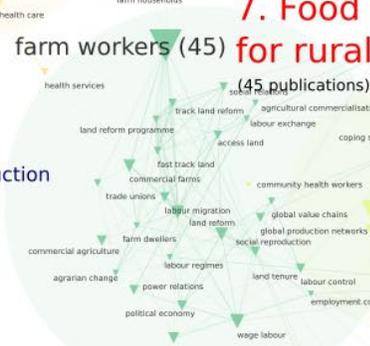
1. Youth employment, labor market & drivers of change  
(140 publications)



10. Professional expositions & health risks in agriculture  
(37 publications)

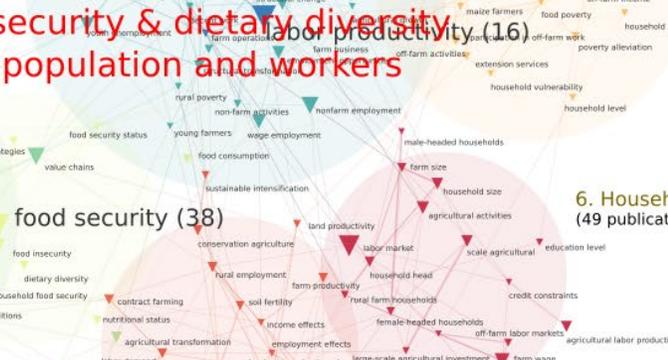


7. Food security & dietary diversity for rural population and workers  
(45 publications)



2. Agrarian changes & social relations of production  
(115 publications)

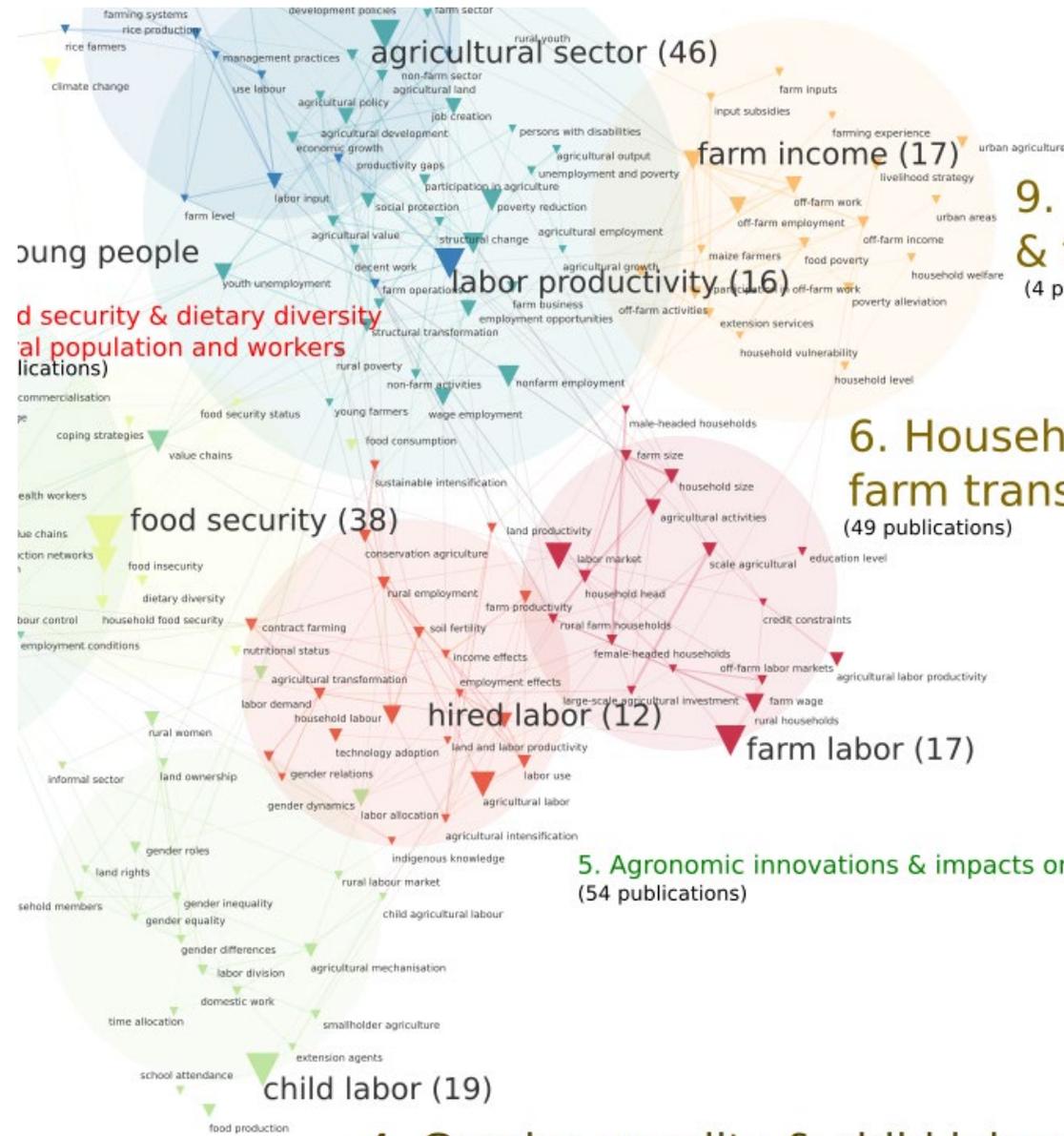
6. Household labor & farm transformations  
(49 publications)



9. Off-farm activities & farm  
(44 publications)

# Other themes/researches covered

3 « Household - gender » clusters



9. Off-farm activities & farm income (4 publications)

6. Household labor & farm transformations (49 publications)

5. Agronomic innovations & impacts on labor (54 publications)

4. Gender equality & child labor (56 publications)



# Conclusions

- Key findings of the “Agricultural work in Africa” scientific field
  - **Countries of authors’ affiliations:** More than half of documents contains an African origin, with South Africa and Nigeria being the most representative countries. Among non-African contributions, United States and United Kingdom are the most frequent
  - **Geographical spread of countries studied:** research spanning more than 60 countries; Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa emerge as the most frequently studied
  - **Economics and politics are the most mobilized disciplines and make the link** between Humanities and Social Sciences discipline - focusing on human and regional dimensions, and disciplines analyzing impacts on health, agriculture and environment
  - **The methods used** in researches cover qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
  - Five macro semantic themes identified through vocabulary analysis
    - Covering dimensions of Health, Household & gender equality, Agronomy, Agrarian changes & social relations of production, Labor market & drivers of change

# Conclusions

- Main findings are close to those highlighted by the international review on work in agriculture by Malanski et al. (2019)
  - « Labor market dynamic » and « Agrarian change » questions are more prominent in the « TSARA » corpus, aligning closely with the issues faced by the African continent
  - A large proportion of the research documents dealing with « young people »
    - 11.3% of the corpus
  - « Woman » and « Gender » as transversal topics
    - 30,4% of the corpus
    - Research documents mentioning « women » or « gender » are spread across all semantic clusters, even if one of them is dedicated to « gender equality »
  - « Health » dimension less important and more diversified in « TSARA » corpus
    - - musculoskeletal disorders ; + food security/insecurity, respiratory health, climate change
  - « Work organization in livestock farms » dimension is absent in « TSARA » network
    - Few documents focused on livestock
    - More papers devoted to labor/land productivity

# Perspectives

- English-speaking documents/countries over-represented
  - Analyses to be completed/confirmed using platforms indexing non-English articles
  
- An analysis of most-cited documents of each cluster
  - Deeper understanding of:
    - the most influential research communities
    - how work is evaluated
    - specificities/issues for Africa