



IAWA Newsletter

2026 May

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- What's different about rural families? How rurality shapes gender divisions and relations of care/work in families and communities in Canada
- Changing rural labor markets and welfare in Malawi

News

2026 IAWA GA

the International Association on Work in Agriculture - IAWA's board invites you to attend the next IAWA general assembly Thursday 9 July 2026

SafeHabitus exhibition - IAWA

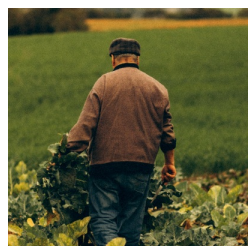
Nathalie Hostiou, President of the IAWA, and two IAWA members will discuss the research carried out by IAWA members on agricultural work with Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The exhibition, organised by the SafeHabitus project, will provide an opportunity to discuss working conditions in agriculture.

Le travail, un levier de réussite des entreprises équine

Dans la filière équine, le travail est au cœur de la viabilité des entreprises mais reste encore trop peu pris en compte. Entre astreintes quotidiennes, exigences de la clientèle et saisonnalité, les dirigeants font face à une forte pression temporelle. Ce dossier présente les résultats de bilans travail et d'études auprès d'exploitants, ainsi que des outils concrets, dont Déclic Travail et plus de 40 fiches solutions pour améliorer ...

Reducing labour at breeding on John and James Dunne's Future Beef farm

Farming in Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, father and son team and participants in the Teagasc Future Beef Programme, John and James Dunne have focused on efficiency when it comes to breeding their suckler herd.



Un réseau au service du travail et du renouvellement des actifs agricoles | INRAE

D'une durée de 5 ans, le réseau mixte technologique (RMT) TRACE vise, par des approches sociales, à répondre au défi du renouvellement des actifs en agriculture en accompagnant l'installation et la transmission, ainsi que l'amélioration de la qualité de vie au travail et les démarches de réflexion sur le sens des métiers en agriculture. Avec l'ambition de développer une expertise en soutien aux politiques nationales pour une agriculture ...

More farmers availing of off-farm income

Given this trajectory and as a means of supporting the future resilience of the sector, Teagasc will showcase and disseminate labour efficient practices to both full-time and part-time farmers, enabling farmer operators achieve a better work-life balance, and will provide more targeted education and advisory support for part-time farmers.



Migrant farm workers in Canada deserve a seat at the table

Representing workers across agriculture, food production, food processing, hospitality, and related industries in both sending and receiving countries, the IUF believes that meaningful worker participation and social dialogue are essential to building a fair, stable, and sustainable agricultural system that benefits workers, employers, communities, and governments alike. This approach is consistent with the International Labour ...

CAPT - Communauté de pratiques en Agriculture pour accomPagner et enseigner le Travail

Bien que les ressources sur le travail en agriculture soient abondantes, les compétences pour accompagner et transmettre ces connaissances restent limitées, posant un défi de transfert des savoir-faire et outils.

Congress

ISWA 2026

The programme for ISWA 2026 is available now! Register to the 3rd International Symposium on Work in Agriculture - ISWA, addressing current and future challenges of work in agriculture: research, policy and practice. Berne, Switzerland



Assises Sciences/Société sur le Travail et l'innovation (ASSTI) - ASSTI : Transformer pour prospérer dans un monde durable

Un événement national porté par le Cnam Les Assises Sciences/Société sur le Travail et l'Innovation (ASSTI) sont organisées par le Cnam, avec l'appui d'un large réseau de partenaires académiques, institutionnels, économiques et associatifs engagés sur les questions du travail et de l'innovation. Pourquoi des Assises sur le travail et l'innovation ? Le travail et l'innovation sont au cœur des mutations économiques, sociales, ...

Call for Papers

The farmers of tomorrow: Skills, jobs and renewal pathways in times of uncertainty

This Poster Session is co-funded by CIHEAM Zaragoza and the Horizon Europe project SafeHabitus as part of the international symposium "The farmers of tomorrow: ...

20èmes journées de Recherche en Sciences Sociales

14 septembre 2026 : date limite de soumission (selon les normes de ce template) mi octobre 2026 : notification aux auteurs (acceptation ou refus) mi octobre 2026 : ouverture des inscriptions au colloque 1er décembre 2026 : date limite d'envoi des éventuels textes complets des contributions retenues et des diaporamas



Travail, travailleuses et travailleurs agricoles du Maroc : trajectoires, représentations et autonomisation

Alors que depuis les années 2020, les travailleur·euse·s agricoles marocain·e·s font l'objet d'une médiatisation croissante (revendications, conditions de vie dégradées), les acteurs institutionnels multiplient les programmes pour encadrer les mobilités temporaires de travail entre le Maroc et l'Europe. Cette apparition de travailleur·euse·s agricoles longtemps invisibilisé·e· dans le débat public et les agendas politiques est ...



Labor and Agricultural Workers in Morocco: Trajectories, Representations and Empowerment

Since the 2000s, Moroccan workers have been receiving increasing media attention (demonstrations, deteriorating living conditions) while institutional stakeholders are expanding programs to regulate temporary labor mobility between Morocco and Europe. This emergence of agricultural workers, long ignored in public debate and political agendas, coincides with a growing interest in the social sciences regarding the issue of agricultural ...



Genre, travail et résistances

Cette première édition des doctoriales sur le travail propose un espace de rencontre et de discussion des travaux en cours de jeunes chercheur·ses spécialisé·es sur le travail au sens large - emploi, organisations, technique, activité, etc. Elle est l'occasion d'analyser cet objet du point de vue du genre et de l'engagement des travailleurs·euses, aussi bien dans leur activité que dans leurs luttes dans et en périphérie de l'espace ...



De l'écologie du travail à l'écologie au travail

Ce dossier de la Nouvelle revue du travail (NRT) invite à s'intéresser à la place croissante des questions écologiques dans le monde professionnel et, ce faisant, aux transformations du travail et de l'emploi dans un contexte de crise écologique majeure. Ce numéro invite à des contributions consacrées à l'ensemble des activités professionnelles, y compris les activités polluantes, potentiellement remises en cause par l'objectif ...

Publications

Building agricultural advisors' capability within agricultural innovation systems: a systematic review of capability development for practice

The transformation of agricultural extension towards pluralistic systems has resulted in new advisory roles and functions, requiring new capabilities. A knowledge gap remains in articulating the process of building such capabilities. Drawing on professional practice in education, health and agriculture, this paper examines the current state of knowledge concerning capability building to inform best practice for advisors in Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS).



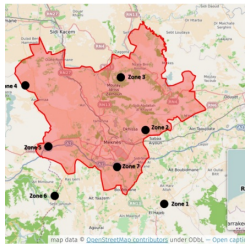
On-farm systemic innovations to overcome dead-end situations and support glyphosate-free agriculture in France

The ban on glyphosate use in France has long been a controversial issue between agricultural stakeholders and public health authorities. Some politicians and scholars have characterized sloping vineyards and low-till crops as dead-end situations: i.e., highly dependent on glyphosate due to the lack of viable alternatives, both from technical and socioeconomic perspectives (mechanization costs, labor constraints). Most agronomic research has focused on developing technical alternatives to glyphosate. We propose shifting from the dominant R&D-centered approach to studying farm-led innovations to investigate ways to overcome these dead-end situations. Using the innovation-tracking approach, we analyzed 16 French case studies. Through semi-structured interviews, we collected data on farmers' practices and their logic (i.e., the meaning farmers give to their practices within their situations). The results demonstrate six archetypes of glyphosate-free management logics for weeds and cover crops. Winegrower practices include adjusting the frequency and type of mechanical weeding, using equipment adapted to slope conditions (steep slopes, terraces). This equipment can be combined to manage both inter-row cover crops and under-vine weeds. Practices of low-till crop farmers involve integrating preventive and curative weed management strategies with various cover crop termination techniques (livestock grazing, mechanical methods), often linked to the level of farm diversification. We showed for the first time how winegrowers and low-till crop farmers combine the implementation of practices with innovative equipment use and participation in collective action to phase out glyphosate. These systemic innovations allowed farmers to overcome the increase of mechanization costs and workload through the sharing and development of equipment and work organization, ensuring timely weeding during vulnerable stages of the weed life cycle. Therefore, stopping glyphosate use requires a profound re-design of weed and cover crop management throughout the crop cycle. Finally, we argue that studying local innovations challenges how R&D stakeholders characterize dead-end situations regarding alternatives to pesticides.



Challenges of work in agriculture: a gender-informed analysis through the narratives of new entrants into organic farming

This article examines work in agriculture by a gender-informed perspective through the narratives of new entrants in organic farming outside the family farming succession. It aims to understand lived work experiences by considering both the daily constraints of the labour and the meanings and values invested in the work. The analysis focuses on the early years of organic farming operations. The research was carried out in Ardèche territory, a département in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, in southeastern France. We conducted a qualitative study based on semi-structured interviews with 15 new entrants who have established non-family farms and obtained organic certification. After transcription, the interviews were reviewed by using a triple-blind process. Edited transcripts were then uploaded to MaxQDA™ for inductive coding based on emerging themes and contextual analysis. Through the narratives of farmers regarding the constraints of work, we identified gendered effects in the responses concerning the available tools and equipment for agricultural work, the physical strain, strategies for prevention and self-care, balancing personal vs. professional life, and the social division of labor within couples. Unlike other studies, our analysis revealed no essentialist justifications for women's roles on farming. Moreover, our results show that the challenges of work are different for men and women. Men expressed concerns directly linked to working conditions, while women added work-life balance issues, notably linked to motherhood. A gendered perspective helped us to identify emerging work-related challenges faced by new entrants in organic farming, aiming to promote attractiveness and sustainable and inclusive working conditions for all.



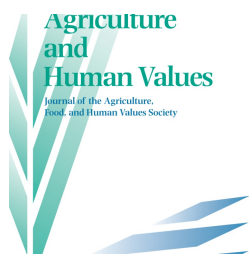
Assessing farmers' knowledge, attitudes, health risk perceptions, and practices toward pesticide use in Morocco

Agriculture plays a vital role in Africa's economy, yet farmworkers remain disproportionately exposed to pesticide-related health risks. Guided by the Theory of Planned Behavior, this study examined farmworkers' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceptions regarding health risks associated with pesticide use and protective measures in Morocco. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 314 agricultural workers across seven major farming areas. Participants had a mean age of 40 ± 15.08 years, ranging from 18 to 77 years, were predominantly male (64.3%), and largely had no formal education or only basic literacy (74.2%). Among respondents with complete data ($n = 300$), 86.3% ($n = 259$) were unable to name the pesticides they used. Only 33.3% ($n = 100$) demonstrated good knowledge of pesticide safety, while 44.7% ($n = 134$) expressed positive attitudes toward safe pesticide application. Structural analysis showed that safety attitudes were the strongest determinant of reported pesticide safety practices, with health risk perception also influencing them. These findings suggest that improving knowledge alone is insufficient and that behavioral interventions should prioritize attitudinal change to promote safer pesticide use. By elucidating the behavioral and perceptual drivers of pesticide practices in low-resource farming communities, this study provides evidence to inform targeted public health and occupational safety interventions in Africa. Notably, the high willingness of farmers (93%) to participate in human biomonitoring initiatives highlights the feasibility of integrating biomonitoring and surveillance into prevention-oriented agricultural health strategies.

Does "Feminization U Hypothesis" Hold? A Discussion on Women's Work Participation in Rural India

Source: AGRARIAN SOUTH-JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY 15 (2), 24

DOI: 10.1177/22779760261434073 Abstract: The Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Claudia Goldin in 2023 has renewed attention on issues of women's work. In this context, this article critically revisits the debate on the declining participation of women in the rural labor market in India, drawing on fieldwork data from two villages in Tamil Nadu. It explores the complexities of women's labor force participation and argues that women's work decisions are shaped by a complex interplay ...



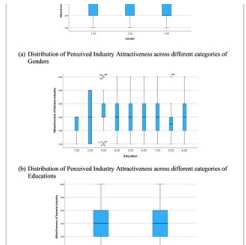
Adrian Smith: Fields of glass: labour regimes, techno-science and biopolitics in agrifood value chains

Fields of Glass explores the transformation of UK glasshouse agrifood sector from the postwar period to the present, focusing on how changes in global value chains are reshaping the economic landscapes of development, labor, and innovation. As readers across Europe will know, glasshouses and white plastic 'greenhouses' have increasingly come to mark agricultural landscapes as new technologies are deployed to manage both weather variability, demands for increased productivity, and changing patterns of work and labor availability. Smith's signature achievement is his deployment of the concept of "agrarian biopolitical articulations", a theoretical bridge that connects value chain research, agrarian political economy, labor regime theory, and techno-science



Internal frontiers and agricultural extraction: the racialisation of migrant labour in southern Italy

This article examines migrant agricultural labour in southern Italy as a concentrated site of contemporary extractive capitalism. Focusing on the 2011 strike of migrant workers in Nardò (Apulia) and the subsequent Sabr trial, it argues that labour exploitation in European agriculture is not a marginal deviation or the result of criminal excess, but a structurally organised regime sustained through migration control, labour flexibilisation and territorial governance. Situating the case within the framework of racial capitalism and state-mediated extraction, the article conceptualises Europe as a space of internal frontiers, where incorporation into production is systematically coupled with precarious legal and political membership. The Nardò strike exposed the racialised foundations of agricultural production, while the Sabr trial translated structural exploitation into individualised criminal responsibility. Together, they illuminate the dialectic between conflict and legality through which extractive labour regimes are both challenged and stabilised. By foregrounding the legal and institutional production of vulnerability, the article contributes to a critical understanding of how democratic legality coexists with, and mediates, extractive accumulation in contemporary Europe.



Aligning labour force perceptions to job attraction, satisfaction and retention strategies in horticulture: A data-driven empirical study for Australian banana industry

Workforce stability in the banana industry is critical for productivity, fruit quality, and long-term sustainability. Labour shortages and high turnover can also lead to harvesting delays and handling inefficiencies, creating significant food waste in horticultural supply chains. Despite increasing policy attention, limited research has explored how job-related factors, workplace ergonomics, and labour force perceptions influence motivation, satisfaction, and retention. This study addresses that gap by examining key socio-demographic and perceptual drivers affecting labour dynamics in the Australian banana industry. Using a survey of 1,202 participants across 10 urban and regional locations in Queensland, the study applies Economic Psychology and behavioural economics to explore how satisfaction, perception, and aspiration biases interact with physical work conditions. Q-Q plots and ordinal regression analysis reveal that training and development ($\beta = 0.35$, $p < 0.01$), indicating a strong positive effect on job satisfaction, ergonomic workplace design ($\beta = 0.29$, $p < 0.01$), suggesting improved physical comfort enhances satisfaction, and salary equity ($\beta = 0.22$, $p < 0.05$), reflecting the motivational role of perceived pay fairness, significantly enhance job satisfaction. Retention is strongly influenced by growth opportunities ($\beta = 0.38$, $p < 0.01$), implying that career progression reduces turnover intentions, and perceived industry stability ($\beta = 0.31$, $p < 0.05$), highlighting the importance of long-term employment confidence. These findings highlight the need for ergonomically supportive, employee-focused practices to align with workforce expectations. The study offers practical insights for stakeholders seeking to improve labour sustainability, reduce turnover, and enhance resilience within Australia's agricultural supply chains.

From “female farming” to “female labor”: how mobile internet use drives non-agricultural employment among rural women in China

Against the backdrop of the accelerated penetration of digital technologies into rural areas, the mobile internet as an empowering tool is playing an increasingly prominent role in reshaping the rural labor market and gendered divisions of labor. However, while extant studies predominantly treat the rural labor force as a whole, empirical research specifically investigating the impact of mobile internet usage on the nonagricultural employment of rural women remains scarce.

Farmworkers, Water Insecurity, and Heat-Related Illnesses: The Case of Migrant Labor in Arizona

This review highlights the need to approach water insecurity as a determinant of heat-related occupational illnesses and, hence, as central to farmworker safety and dignity. In farmwork, access to safe, reliable water is essential for occupational activities, safety, and well-being. Lack of clean drinking water can be deadly for farmworkers in remote, rural, and arid agricultural areas when combined with high ambient temperatures. Heat-related illnesses (HRIs) have been widely studied in relation to exposure, symptom detection, and fatality prevention. However, the role of water insecurity in creating and mitigating HRI risks remains less understood. To better theorize water insecurity in creating occupational risk under extreme heat conditions in farmwork and similar occupations for vulnerable groups, we examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Latino farmworkers (LFW) in the United States, including governing labor programs, protections, and working conditions related to water insecurity and HRI.

Gender disparities in agricultural work accidents: Analyzing sick leave differences between men and women

Agriculture remains one of the most high-risk sectors characterized by persistent gender disparities in accident profiles and recovery outcomes. Deciphering these divergences is crucial for designing targeted preventive and rehabilitative interventions. Objective: This study examines gender-based differences in occupational accident severity within the Spanish agricultural sector, utilizing medical leave duration as a proxy to identify key personal, organizational, and material determinants. Methods: Using official national labor records (2019-2023), the study analyzed 122,220 accidents. Severity was operationalized through lost workdays. Student's t-tests evaluated gender-based disparities across personal and material variables. Results: While men exhibited higher accident frequency and overall severity, women reported significantly longer recovery periods in specific contexts. In micro-enterprises (1-5 employees), women's leave averaged 9.1 days longer than men's. While younger females record shorter recovery durations than their male counterparts, this differential reverses after age 45; specifically, the 45-54 cohort, females' absences exceed those of males by 3.76 days. Although women exhibit faster recovery across the most prevalent accident categories, they experience significantly protracted medical leave for bone fractures, exceeding the male average by 17.99 days. Finally, while migrant workers recorded shorter absences, these gender disparities remained consistent regardless of nationality. Conclusions: Results underscore the need for gender-sensitive prevention strategies addressing the ergonomic demands of female workers. Prioritizing micro-enterprises and aging populations in safety protocols is vital for mitigating disparities and reducing absences. While this study uses Spanish data, findings offer broader implications for agricultural contexts with similar labor and organizational structures.

Satisfaction with Work-Life Balance as a Mediator Between Recovery Experiences and Burnout in Agricultural Entrepreneurs

Agricultural entrepreneurs face significant occupational stressors, including long working hours, and blurred work-life boundaries. These factors contribute to an increased risk of burnout, yet little research has explored how recovery experiences – psychological detachment, relaxation, mastery, and control – impact their mental health. This study examines the role of recovery experiences in reducing burnout and assesses whether satisfaction with work-life balance mediates this relationship.

What's different about rural families? How rurality shapes gender divisions and relations of care/work in families and communities in Canada

Source: GENDER PLACE AND CULTURE (), 2020 DOI:10.1080/0966369X.2026.2671196 Abstract: For two decades, researchers in the field of 'gender divisions of domestic labour' have attended to diversity by studying families with a range of ethnic and racial identities, sexualities, genders (beyond binaries), marital and socioeconomic statuses, and cultures. But one important facet of diversity insufficiently incorporated into much of this research is place, and more specifically, the size, density, and remoteness of the communities in which households ...

Changing rural labor markets and welfare in Malawi

Source:WORLD DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES42 (),,27 DOI:10.1016/j.wdp.2026.100784Abstract:Rural Africa's labor markets are undergoing significant transformations, yet long-run shifts in labor patterns across seasons and activities have not been documented using nationally representative data. This study utilizes temporally and nationally representative data from Malawi to estimate weekly hours spent each month on household agriculture, non-farm household enterprises, casual labor, and wage employment in 2010 and 2019. Over this period, seasonal ...

Risques chimiques phytosanitaires : Perception et usages des équipements de protection individuels

L'étude expose les méthodes de réalisation des chantiers phytosanitaires par les agriculteurs et les salariés au sein des différentes filières de la région, en particulier pour ce qui concerne la perception et l'usage des équipements de protection individuels (EPI : bottes, tabliers, combinaisons, gants, masques, lunettes). L'objectif est de comprendre les déterminants et caractéristiques des logiques d'action et des logiques de ...