

Congress and Publications

2020/10

Realized by Priscila Malanski at 05/11/2020

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Congress

IFMA23 - Welcome

The 23rd International Farm Management Conference will be hosted by the University of Copenhagen. The IFMA23 conference will run from **26th June to 1st July 2022** and will be held at the Frederiksberg Campus in Copenhagen.

The theme of the conference will be Strategic Farming in Scandinavia, and will focus on what it takes to be a successful farm business manager under a variety of circumstances and different conditions. You will be invited to explore the farming challenges, as well as having the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside of Scandinavia during both the conference, and the pre- and post-conference tours. You will experience how world quality products are produced, whilst at the same time, being shown how respect for the environment is embedded in the decision making. The theme of the conference will focus on key elements such as: production, markets, finance, leadership, strategy and regulatory borders. You will have the opportunity to experience Scandinavian hospitality first hand, and gain an understanding of why the three countries are ranked as some of the happiest countries in the world!

Links : <u>http://www.ifma23.org/</u>

International Day of Rural Women



Four APEN women will share their journeys and there will be the opportunity to network with them and others during breakout sessions on zoom. Jeanette Long will facilitate the session. Our panelists - see here!

What a great event! Here's the link to the recording..... https://youtu.be/szg8YB15ma8

Links : https://www.apen.org.au/international-day-of-rural-women

Tags : Gender

Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD'S) among Farmers in Ireland - Webinar

Musculoskeletal disorders are injuries to muscles, ligaments, tendons, cartilage, discs and bones. In a European survey, 60% of workers identified MSDs as the most prevalent serious work-related problem that they encountered. This webinar will focus on preventing these injuries. All farmers are invited to join.

29 October 2020

Event Time 11am

Links : https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/lighten-the-load-.php

Tags : Health and decent work

Publications

Viewpoint: The future of work in agri-food

As countries develop, agriculture's role as domestic employer declines. But the broader agri-food system also expands, and the scope for agriculture-related job creation shifts beyond the farm. Historically, technological revolutions have shaped, and have been shaped by, these dynamics. Today, a digital revolution is taking hold. In this process of structural transformation, societies evolve from having a surplus to a shortage of domestic farm labor, typically met by foreign agricultural wage workers. Yet anti-immigration sentiments are flying high in migrant-destination countries, and agricultural trade may be similarly challenged. Robots in the fields and packing plants offer an alternative to a diminishing labor supply. COVID-19 will reinforce trends of digitization and anti-globalization (including in food trade), while slowing economic growth and structural transformation. In the world's poorest countries, particularly in Africa, labor productivity in agriculture remains at historically low levels. So, what role can the agri-food system play as a source of employment in the future? This viewpoint elaborates on these trends and reviews several policy options, including inclusive value chain development, better immigration policies, social insurance schemes, and ramp up in agricultural education and extension.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919220301676?via%3Dihub

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration, Value chains, Innovation

Agricultural Workforce Crisis in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 and the restrictive measures towards containing the spread of its infections have seriously affected the agricultural workforce and jeopardized food security. The present study aims at assessing the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on agricultural labor and suggesting strategies to mitigate them. To this end, after an introduction to the pandemic background, the negative consequences on agriculture and the existing mitigation policies, risks to the agricultural workers were benchmarked across the United States' Standard Occupational Classification system. The individual tasks associated with each occupation in agricultural production were evaluated on the basis of potential COVID-19 infection risk. As criteria, the most prevalent virus transmission mechanisms were considered, namely the possibility of touching contaminated surfaces and the close proximity of workers. The higher risk occupations within the sector were identified, which facilitates the allocation of worker protection resources to the occupations where they are most needed. In particular, the results demonstrated that 50% of the agricultural workforce and 54% of the workers' annual income are at moderate to high risk. As a consequence, a series of control measures need to be adopted so as to enhance the resilience and sustainability of the sector as well as protect farmers including physical distancing, hygiene practices, and personal protection equipment.

Links : https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/19/8212

Tags : Health and decent work

The Razor's Edge of "Essential" Labor in Food and Agriculture

More than half of the states in the country are experiencing increases in their case numbers - our article sheds some light on how policymakers might use economics to consider the tradeoffs created by this "razor's edge." A new article released in the Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy's Special issue on COVID-19, economists identify ways to improve the equity and efficiency of the essential labor distinction, and to consider potential ways to look beyond "essentialness" for future economic policy responses to the Pandemic.

Links : <u>http://www.aaea.org/publications/publications-update/the-razors-edge-of-essential-labor-in-food-and-agriculture</u>

Tags : Hired work, Health and decent work, Policy

Young People's Perceptions about the Difficulties of Entrepreneurship and Developing Rural Properties in Family Agriculture

This article aims to understand the perceptions of young rural entrepreneurs about the difficulties in investing in family farms in which they work. Ninety-eight people were interviewed at the event "Meeting of Young Entrepreneurs of the Rural Environment of Santa Catarina: the rural youth leading the sustainable development", held in May 2019. The methodology applied in this paper is qualitative and quantitative, through a bibliographic review and a numerical analysis on work conditions and workers' profile. A brief theoretical background is presented to facilitate the understanding of the results and their relation to family farming, entrepreneurship and its reality in Brazil. As a result, the economic issue was pointed out with 34% of the cases, as a hinter to undertake in rural properties, followed by the lack and

low qualification of the workforce available with 12.6% of the cases and the lower selling price for the producer with 7.6% of the cases.

Links : https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/21/8783

Tags : Youth, Skills and training

Suicide in Spanish Farmers in Two Geographical Areas with Differing Rates of Pesticide Use

This study assesses whether farmers' suicides were associated with the pesticide use in Spain. The cohort study followed 9.5 million men aged 20-64 years who were employed in 2001. The mortality among farmers and non-farmers during the period 2001-2011 was estimated in a geographical area with high pesticide use and in an area with low pesticide use. For three major causes of death (suicide, unintentional accidents, and rest of causes of death), we estimated the age-standardized mortality rates with 95% confidence intervals (CI) between farmers and non-farmers in both areas. Farmers in the high pesticide use area showed a lower mortality rate of suicide and unintentional accidents than farmers in the rest of Spain, with mortality rate ratios of 0.74 (95% CI 0.65-0.85) and 0.57 (95% CI 0.52-0.62), respectively. Our findings on pesticide use and farmers' suicide are different from those observed in several previous investigations.

Links : https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1834480?af=R

Tags : Health and decent work

"It's Wrong because It Could Be My Sister, Wife, or Mother": Workplace Sexual Harassment among Men and Women Farmworkers in USA and Mexico

These findings from focus groups explore attitudes, beliefs, perspectives, and experiences relevant to workplace sexual harassment (WSH) among men and women farmworkers in California, USA, and Michoacán, Mexico. Focus groups are stratified by country and gender, with two in California (10 men and 10 women) and two in Michoacán (8 men and 5 women). This community-based participatory research includes Community Advisory Boards (CABs) consisting of farmworkers, academicians, non-profit organizations, attorneys, industry personnel, and community leaders who took part in strategy and the development of materials. Themes are related to the experience of, responses to, and farmworkers' recommendations for prevention of WSH. Although men and women faced WSH, women's experiences were more severe and frequent. Participants condemned WSH as contrary to principles of caballerosidad, cortesía, respeto - cultural values promoting respect for others and protection for vulnerable persons. Participants endorsed the notion that women are responsible for WSH. Although farmworkers try to resolve WSH on their own with help from co-workers, family, and leadership, they face significant barriers that silence victims and allow WSH to persist. All farmworkers recommended that management set a good example and enforce consequences for offenders. Implications include directly appealing to cultural values (emphasizing respect), incorporating bystander education, and countering the myth that women are responsible for WSH in workplace training. WSH is a recognized occupational hazard that affects all directly or indirectly exposed workers. We emphasize that employers are ultimately responsible for their workers' safety, supported by a governmental regulatory role. Enforcement of existing policy is needed in

California, whereas awareness and policy development is needed in Michoacán. These findings will support the researchers, agricultural community, educators, and organizations working to prevent WSH.

Links : https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1825245?af=R

Tags : Gender, Health and decent work

Measurement of the Income Difference of Rural Residents in Peri-Urbanized Areas and Its Influencing Factors: Evidence from Nanhai, Foshan, China

This study supplements research on peri-urbanized areas by introducing a quantitative analysis of rural income inequality, with particular attention being paid to geographical causes. It also contributes a community/village-scale case to the current knowledge of the quantitative analysis of rural income inequality, which is mainly based on the county, municipal and higher levels. A typical peri-urbanized area in the Pearl River Delta-namely, Nanhai District, Foshan City-was considered as an empirical case. Based on 10-year continuous data, from 2007 to 2016, we first analyzed the distribution and spatial autocorrelation between per-capita share dividend income (PCSDI) and per-capita net income (PCNI). Then, we used a Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) model to explore the strength and direction of the relationship between PCSDI and the five selected driving factors. The results show that, during the study period, the rural income difference of PCSDI in Nanhai generally narrowed, whereas the income difference of PCSDI generally expanded, and the spatial distribution of PCNI was more unequal than that of the PCSDI. The GWR model shows that geo-location (GL) has the strongest impact on PCSDI, followed by the per-capita area of state-owned land (PCASOL); the density of the road coverage (DRC) and the density of the registered population (DRP) have the least effect on PCSDI. Except for the per-capita area of collective constructive land (PCACCL), which is a global variable, the correlation between the four other factors and PCSDI is geographically uneven.

Links : https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/20/8382

Tags : Rural Employment

Using smartphone app collected data to explore the link between mechanization and intra-household allocation of time in Zambia

Digital tools may help to study socioeconomic aspects of agricultural development that are difficult to measure such as the effects of new policies and technologies on the intra-household allocation of time. As farm technologies target different crops and tasks, they can affect the time-use of men, women, boys, and girls differently. Development strategies that overlook such effects can have negative consequences for vulnerable household members. In this paper, the time-use patterns associated with different levels of agricultural mechanization during land preparation in smallholder farming households in Zambia were investigated. A novel data collection method was used: a pictorial smartphone application that allows real-time recording of time-use, which eliminates recall bias. Existing studies analyzing the intra-household allocation of resources often focus on adult males and females. This study paid particular attention to boys and girls as well as adults. The study addressed seasonal variations. Compositional data analysis was used to account for the co-dependence and sum constraint of time-use data. The study

suggests a strong gender differentiation for land preparation activities among mechanized households; for households using manual labor, such differentiation was not found. There is some evidence that the surplus time associated with mechanization is used for off-farm and domestic work. The study cannot confirm concerns about negative second-round effects: mechanized land preparation is not associated with a higher workload for women and children during weeding and harvesting/processing. The study provides a proof-of-concept that smartphone applications can be used to collect socioeconomic data that are difficult to measure but of high relevance.

Links : https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-020-10160-3

Tags : Gender, Family work, Work organisation, Innovation

Entry into and Escape from Poverty: The Role of Female Labor Supply in Rural India

This paper investigates the factors influencing poverty transitions among rural households. There is a higher likelihood for the poor rural household in escaping poverty and lower likelihood for non-poor households to fall into poverty over time, with the increase in average completed years of education and mean labor hours supplied by female members in the household. However, the contribution of female labor supply and education toward changes in poverty risks is low due to the low-wage cycle prevalent among women. Further, higher maximum educational attainment of households and a higher level of assets ensures a higher probability of escaping poverty and a lower probability of falling into poverty over time. However, there is a higher likelihood for a non-poor household to enter poverty over time and a lower likelihood for a poor household in escaping poverty over time with an increase in dependency ratio and household size. Efforts need to be made to transform a woman's role from an "income buffering" to an "income generation" role. Women's economic participation and empowerment are powerful tools for poverty reduction at the household level.

Links : https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-020-00242-5

Tags : Gender

Gender equity, labor rights, and women's empowerment: lessons from Fairtrade certification in Ecuador flower plantations

Certification programs seek to promote decent work in global agriculture, yet little is known about their gender standards and implications for female workers, who are often the most disadvantaged. This study outlines the gender standard domains of major agricultural certifications, showing how some programs (Fair Trade USA, Rainforest) prioritize addressing gender equality in employment and others (Fairtrade International, UTZ) incorporate wider gender rights. To illuminate the implications of gender standards in practice, I analyze Fairtrade certification and worker experience on certified flower plantations in Ecuador, drawing on a qualitative and quantitative field research study. (1) I show how Fairtrade seeks to bolster the wellbeing of female workers, addressing their workplace needs via equal employment, treatment, and remuneration standards and their reproductive needs via maternity leave and childcare services. My research demonstrates that for female workers, addressing family responsibilities is critical, since they shape women's ability to take paid jobs, their employment needs, and their overall wellbeing. (2) I show how Fairtrade seeks to bolster the rights of women workers through individual and collective

capacity building standards. My findings reveal how promoting women's individual empowerment serves as a precondition for collective empowerment, and how targeting traditional labor rights is insufficient for empowering female workers, since their strategic choices are curtailed largely outside the workplace. While Fairtrade certification bolsters the wellbeing and rights of female workers in and beyond the workplace, much still needs to be done before women can claim their rights as workers and citizens.

Links : https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-020-10171-0

Tags : Gender, Value chains

The rise of robots and the fall of routine jobs

This paper examines the impact of industrial robots on jobs. We combine data on robot adoption and occupations by industry in thirty-seven countries for the period from 2005 to 2015. We exploit differences across industries in technical feasibility - defined as the industry's share of tasks replaceable by robots - to identify the impact of robot usage on employment. The data allow us to differentiate effects by the routine-intensity of employment. We find that a rise in robot adoption relates significantly to a fall in the employment share of routine manual task-intensive jobs. This relation is observed in high-income countries, but not in emerging market and transition economies.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927537120300890

Tags : Skills and training, Innovation

Horticulture in Queensland Australia, COVID-19 Response. It Hasn't All Been Bad on Reflection

Australia and with that Queensland have been extremely fortunate with the impact of COVID-19. Queensland has only had 1,067 cases as of June 30, 2020, of which 78% have been overseas acquired. Australia and Queensland acted early to address COVID-19 by putting in place a range of strategies including travel bans (international and domestic), isolation measures, testing regimes, advice to business, economic support, and research funding. Agriculture was designated an essential business and as such has continued operating throughout the pandemic. They have however had to develop and implement COVID plans to keep workers safe. To help agricultural business establish plans information was developed by Safe Work Australia, National Farmers Federation and the Queensland Department of Workplace Health and Safety. Workforce issues were identified early, particularly seasonal workers (those who travel from their usual place of residence to another place to work). The Queensland Government enacted a directive about how seasonal workers were to be managed and also developed a guide specifically for horticulture to help manage their COVID-19 response. We provide two case studies demonstrating how agriculture has responded to COVID-19. Agriculture has successfully, in Queensland, adapted quickly to the changing work conditions due to COVID-19. This is due to all levels of government coming together with industry to find solutions. Some changes have had wider benefits such as improved sanitation, better communication and a greater recognition of seasonal worker needs. Being prepared and resilient has enabled agriculture to alleviate the impact on their businesses ensuring the health of all.

Links : https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1815620?af=R

Tags : Health and decent work

Work-related Symptoms and Asthma among Fish Processing Workers

After observing several clinical patients with respiratory symptoms, we initiated a questionnaire survey to assess prevalence of and predictors for asthma and work-related symptoms among workers in fish processing plants. A questionnaire with items on work conditions, work-related symptoms, and respiratory symptoms/diseases was sent to 916 fish processing workers, the 1836 licenced fishermen in Sweden, and 1965 controls; of those, 43%, 57%, and 53%, respectively, responded. Risks, hazard ratios (HRs), and prevalence ratios (PRs) were calculated with Cox regression, and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were computed. The risk of asthma among fish filleting workers was increased during the years working in the fish processing industry when compared to the other fish processing workers and controls (HR 3.6, 95% CI 1.6-8.1, adjusted for atopy, gender, and ever smoking). The filleters had an increased PR for most of the work-related respiratory symptoms investigated. All fish processing workers had a higher PR for flu-like symptoms. Use of a pressure sprayer was identified as a risk for asthma and respiratory symptoms among both fish processing workers and controls. Filleters had changed work tasks because of respiratory symptoms more often (Fisher's exact test, p = 0.02) than other fish processing workers. In conclusion the fish filleters and pressure sprayer users reported more adult asthma and cough with phlegm compared to the other fish processing workers and controls. The use of pressure sprayers must be reduced and machinery should be completely encased to reduce workers' exposure to bioaerosols and its effects on the respiratory tract.

Links : https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1834481?af=R

Tags : Health and decent work

Automatic milking systems and farmer wellbeing-exploring the effects of automation and digitalization in dairy farming

In recent years the concept of wellbeing, encompassing an individual's satisfaction with different aspects of their life, has received increased attention in literature. However, we find few studies of wellbeing in dairy farming. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to explore the wellbeing of Norwegian dairy farmers with automatic milking systems, and which factors are associated with wellbeing. We explore four dimensions of wellbeing; income, job satisfaction, mental health and family work balance. Data were collected from 739 Norwegian farmers using automatic milking systems. Linear regression, exploratory factor analysis and structural equation modelling were used to analyse the data. The results show that the following factors are associated with farmer wellbeing; gender, education, having a successor and colleagues, herd size and experience with automatic milking systems, together with training in use of the system and access to counselling. Our findings show that while being a female farmer is strongly associated with better family-work balance, it is negatively associated with mental health. Furthermore, we find that training in AMS, better management systems which avoids data overload, and access to extension services and colleagues are important for farmer wellbeing. Finally, our findings show that having a successor increases wellbeing, while increasing herd size reduces wellbeing. The findings have implications for farmers, extension services and for suppliers of automated systems to farmers. Suppliers and advisory services need to provide adequate training in AMS. Future advisory service models could offer back-office services monitoring key performance variables and help farmers interpret data for better decision making. Suppliers, preferrably in collaboration with extension services, should improve the AMS management software to avoid farmer technostress.

Links : <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016720305180?dgcid=rss_sd_all</u>

Tags : Gender, Health and decent work, Extension, Skills and training

Farmers' health and social insurance perceptions - A case study from a remote rural region in Greece

The agricultural sector, an important economic sector in Greece, is inextricably faced with health and safety risks, with farmers encountering various health and safety risks in their farming activities. A quantitative survey on a random sample of 263 farmers in a remote Greek region was conducted to achieve the threefold objectives of this work: First, to assess the health and safety hazards associated with the agricultural profession, along with exploring the distinct socio-demographic characteristics of farmers that express job satisfaction and prefer the public health and insurance system; second, to investigate the effectiveness of social policies on health and safety issues confronted by farmers; third, to assess any correlation between job satisfaction and perception of social policy practices. Results indicate that women, younger and highly educated farmers are more optimistic about the agricultural profession and take individual protective measures. Women in their 30s, highly educated and with lower incomes prefer the public health and insurance system is the choice of male farmers with high family incomes and large farms. Most farmers have mainly experienced respiratory, ophthalmic and otalgia problems and had more working accidents in comparison to other economic activities.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016720308378?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Gender, Health and decent work, Policy

Fundamental principles and rights at work: Issue paper on COVID-19 and fundamental principles and rights at work



At this moment of crisis, safeguarding the four fundamental principles and rights at work - the freedom to organize and bargain collectively, and the freedom from forced labour, child labour, and discrimination in employment and occupation - is more important than ever. These rights are not only at heightened risk from the crisis but also constitute the foundation for building back a better, more just world of work in its aftermath. Universal and inalienable human rights in and of themselves, they are also essential enablers of decent work and social justice. They are the starting point for a virtuous circle of effective social dialogue, better incomes and conditions for workers and employers, and formalizing the informal economy.

Links : <u>https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/fprw/WCMS_757247/lang--en/index.htm</u>

Tags : Child labour, Health and decent work

How does international migration impact on rural areas in developing countries? A systematic review

This study is a systematic review of literature on the impact of international migration on rural areas. We examined this impact on six rural welfare indicators, including labour, livelihood activities, income, food security, land use, and rural development. We selected 44 papers from a pool of 1544 articles published from 2007 to 2018. We found that the impact of international migration on selected indicators varies and are highly context-specific. The results point to the existence of heterogeneity in impacts, capable of creating a space of losers and winners among migrants and non-migrants households. The immediate impact is the loss labour effect, which leads to a process of feminisation of agriculture and the use of child labour. In the intermediate, this trend changes the power relationship in rural areas, briefly increasing the opportunities for the non-migrants household to control land. However, remittance helps the migrant household to move up in the income ladder, improving their food security, enabling the repurchase of land and causing a transition away from agriculture. We submit that international migrations in rural areas, which may ultimately lead to a transition away from agriculture. We provide several policy implications and identified some research gaps for future studies.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016719308034?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Migration, Policy

Changing Structure of Rural Employment in Bihar: Issues and Challenges

In India, Bihar has been among the less developed states, but has been showing an impressive growth pattern in recent years. While Bihar's economic structure is changing, the pattern of labour employment is also presenting a shift from farm to non-farm sector. The share of the workforce employed in agriculture has declined from over 70% to around 40% between 2004 and 2017-2018, while the share of employment in industries and services has increased substantially. The growth of non-farm employment provides opportunities to contain the pressing unemployment problem which according to the current Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-2018 report has recorded more than 7% of the unemployment rate (UR). The rural sector that constitutes a major portion of farm employment has also seen a growth of employment in the non-farm sector, though the rate of unemployment here has increased at a faster rate. While migration has been an important aspect of Bihar's economy, there is a need to provide employment problem in urban centres. Thus, using the latest PLFS (2017-2018) data set, this paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the structural transformation in Bihar since bifurcation and more importantly the changing employment structure focus on rural areas.

Links : https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-020-00279-6

Tags: Rural Employment, Migration