



Congress and Publications

2021/03

Realized by Priscila Malanski at 23/04/2021

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Congress

APEN 2022

2022 APEN International Conference

Save the Dates: 9-11 February 2022. Planning for a conference at Melbourne University with virtual options and hubs in the regions.

More details as they become available.

APENs biennial conference, the heart and soul of APEN, provides an opportunity to:

- Network
- Coach and mentor
- Support and showcase students and their research
- Learn about and discuss extension theory
- Learn about new practice, new engagement and media trends.

APEN 2022 will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences among practitioners, researchers, policy makers and others involved in extension and education.

Links : 634288

LES SUICIDES DES AGRICULTEURS. PLURALITÉ DES APPROCHES POUR UNE ANALYSE CONFIGURATIONNELLE DU SUICIDE

Présentation du travail de recherche de Nicolas Deffontaines Une présentation et un échange autour du travail de recherche de Nicolas Deffontaines seront organisés à destination du réseau Solidarité Paysans et de ses partenaires (de recherche, insitutionnels, politiques.)le mercredi 17 mars de 17h30 à 20h00 en visio-conférence.Ce travail de recherche porte sur la question du "suicide paysan" et traite de trajectoires de personnes suicidées.

Links : <https://solidaritepaysans.org/agenda-national>

Tags : Health and decent work

Conférence « Une seule santé, en pratique ? » le 17 mars

L'ensemble des êtres vivants et les interactions qui les lient, entre eux et avec le milieu où ils vivent, est en constante évolution, sous l'effet de processus de sélection naturels et anthropiques.

L'homme fait partie de la biodiversité et, à ce titre, interagit avec les autres êtres vivants et ne pourrait vivre sans eux. Sa santé est donc intimement liée à celle des animaux, des plantes et plus largement, celle des écosystèmes au sein desquels la vie évolue.

Le concept « d'une seule santé » découle de cette évidence et nécessite de mieux comprendre les interrelations entre santé humaine, santé animale, santé végétale, santé des écosystèmes.

En tant que crise, la COVID-19 a éclairé comme rarement les défis à venir qui nous obligent à repenser les liens entre notre santé, celle des autres espèces vivantes et les fonctionnements des écosystèmes. Cette conférence, accessible en ligne, rassemblera experts et décideurs autour des enjeux et des actions à enclencher pour faire d'une seule santé une réalité opérationnelle.

Links : <https://www.agreenium.fr/actualites/conference-une-seule-sante-en-pratique-le-17-mars>

#OFE 2021 du 13 au 15 octobre

L'expérimentation à la ferme centrée-utilisateurs (OFE, On-Farm Experimentation) suscite un intérêt mondial. C'est un dispositif pour relier les connaissances théoriques et pratiques en intégrant la recherche et l'expérimentation agricole sur le terrain en particulier pour soutenir la transition agro-écologique. Pour faciliter la collecte des données une perspective prometteuse est d'utiliser les technologies numériques ouvrant la voie à une transformation dans l'innovation agricole et la recherche.

Links : <https://www.agreenium.fr/actualites/vos-agendas-ofe-2021-du-13-au-15-octobre>

Call for Papers

Le travail en Haïti

Le Centre haïtien de recherche en sciences sociales (Charesso) réalise une journée d'étude sur la question du travail en Haïti. Dans un contexte de désengagement de l'État et d'une débrouille systémique, le Centre invite les chercheurs et les chercheuses à réfléchir sur le travail en Haïti, sur son évolution dans le temps et ses différentes manifestations.

Links : <https://calenda.org/849493>

Atividade de trabalho, território, e seus protagonistas : para uma agenda do futuro

Propomos aos autores que reportem estudos desenvolvidos em contexto real de trabalho, sublinhando a sua inserção territorial, e se situem face às seguintes questões :

Pode o território abandonar o seu estatuto secundário, como se fosse tão somente o "terreno" em que a história das atividades de trabalho e dos seus protagonistas é quotidianamente tecida, para se constituir uma categoria de análise no estudo das atividades de trabalho?

Como refazer o mundo pós-pandemia, recorrendo a uma análise que atravessa diferentes escalas, incluindo o território e as atividades de trabalho ? Como pode o território ser também um dispositivo operatório para a ação?

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/laboreal/17466>

59° Congresso da SOBER & 6° EBPC 2021

O 59º Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira de Economia, Administração e Sociologia Rural (SOBER) será realizado, com muita honra, com o 6º Encontro Brasileiro de Pesquisadores em Cooperativismo (EBPC), entre os dias 02 a 06 de agosto de 2021. O tema geral desta edição será “Ações coletivas e resiliência: inovações políticas, socioeconômicas e ambientais”.

Com as incertezas da pandemia e a demora na vacinação, as duas instituições organizadoras, SOBER e a OCB (Organização das Cooperativas Brasileiras), decidiram pelo evento virtual, procurando preservar, em primeiro lugar, a saúde dos congressistas.

Links : <https://www.even3.com.br/soberebpc2021/>

Des contrats de plus en plus courts ?

Alors que le contrat à durée indéterminée (CDI) reste, en France, prédominant dans l'ensemble des emplois, la majorité des embauches s'effectue sur des formes d'emploi à durée limitée. Le raccourcissement de la durée s'accompagne d'un accroissement des cas de réembauche par un ancien employeur, la majorité de ces contrats étant donc concentrée sur une minorité de travailleurs, renforçant la dualité du marché du travail français. Dans cette perspective, la revue Travail et Emploi souhaite interroger cet accroissement de contrats courts, et dont la durée diminue, en s'intéressant à la fois à la diversité des pratiques des employeurs et à ses conséquences sur les parcours professionnels des salariés en les situant dans des contextes législatifs et institutionnels changeants.

Links : <https://calenda.org/849973>

Temps long/temps court : l'exploration des continuités et des discontinuités dans les sphères éducatives, formatives et professionnelles

La revue Recherches & Educations lance un appel à articles pour la publication en 2022 d'un numéro sur la thématique : Temps long/temps court : l'exploration des continuités et des discontinuités dans les sphères éducatives, formatives et professionnelles. Ce numéro, coordonné par Pascal Roquet et Chiara Biasin, vise à circonscrire dans le champ de l'éducation tout au long de la vie, de la formation des adultes, du travail, des espaces de tensions ou encore de frottements temporels qui participent à la construction de parcours identitaires formatifs ou/et professionnels alternant période de continuité/périodes de ruptures.

L'objectif est de rassembler un ensemble de textes dans le cadre national et international mobilisant des approches temporelles. L'article est à adresser (avant le 30 septembre 2021) en 30 000 signes à :

chiara.biasin@unipd.it

pascal.roquet@lecnam.net

Links : <https://recherche.cnam.fr/agenda-actus/temps-long-temps-court-l-exploration-des-continuites-et-des-discontinuites-dans-les-spheres-educatives-formatives-et-professionnelles-1237669.kjsp>

Publications

Heat Stress and Kidney Function in Farmworkers in the US: A Scoping Review

Chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) has been well described in farmworkers in Latin America. Agricultural workers in the United States (US) are exposed to similar hot and humid working conditions, but CKDu in the US is under-described. This review aims to better understand the current literature describing the connection between heat stress and kidney function in farmworkers in the United States. Utilizing a scoping review methodology, we searched CINAHL, Embase, PubMed, and Web of Science databases to better understand the current state of the heat stress and kidney function research in farmworkers within the United States. In this review, 229 pieces of literature were screened. Ultimately, 4 articles were chosen to be included in the scoping review. Common themes within the articles were variations in study protocol lengths and type of heat stress measurement. Additionally, the majority of the work completed was quantitative to date, with only one study providing a critical social lens for analysis of CKDu in the United States. We found evidence that more work is needed within the US to understand the relationship between working in the heat and kidney function in agricultural and other workers who experience high heat conditions at work and are susceptible to the deleterious effects of working in said conditions.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1893883?af=R>

Tags : Health and decent work

ELIMINATING HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR THROUGH SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

Pesticides represent a serious health risk for rural workers and communities. Given that child labour is predominantly found in the agriculture sector, addressing children's exposure to pesticides and agrochemicals should be made top priority.

Links : <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3587en/cb3587en.pdf>

Tags : Child labour

New farmers in the south of Italy: Capturing the complexity of contemporary strategies and networks

Though obscured by agricultural modernization efforts in the 1950s, peasant and peasant-like farm realities persist. Since the 1990s, Italy, like the rest of Europe, witnessed a wave of re-peasantization—a conceptual framework introduced by rural sociologist Jan Douwe van der Ploeg to mark the emergence of a mode of agriculture that is distinctively more peasant-like. Using a qualitative, field-based two-case design, this study explored this phenomenon in two new entrant farms in Campania and Sicily, in Italy. Each farm's practices and pursued objectives, as well as its social networks were analyzed. Findings revealed that the two farms adopt strategies grounded in the material and immaterial resources of their territories, thus minimizing their dependence on external inputs and expertise. Built social networks support the diversification of their activities, of their market circuits and of their knowledge sources. This study contributes to the documentation of new peasant realities in Italy, while highlighting the importance of contextual specificities for understanding new farming models and farmer identities.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721000875?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Identity

The Canadian pork industry and COVID-19: A year of resilience

While COVID-19 had the potential to be extremely disruptive to the Canadian pork supply chain, the sector showed resiliency by adjusting to market changes to ensure industry continuation. Unlike other non-agricultural firms that were mandated to close at times, the pork sector was deemed an essential service and allowed to continue operating throughout the pandemic. Evidence of this resiliency is seen in three main ways. First, market access to the United States was maintained for both live pigs and pork exports. Second, Canada not only maintained market share in global pork exports, but it also actually increased shipments because of strong demand from China caused by African swine fever. Third, the challenges of processing plant closures and labour shortages were overcome in a variety of ways including increasing interprovincial shipments and increasing live pig exports to the United States. Pork consumption on a per capita basis continued the historical downward trend, and it is expected that consumers will return to their normal consumption patterns (e.g., dining at restaurants) despite job losses. At the meat processing level, it is anticipated that there will be an acceleration in the process to automate.

Links : <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cjag.12276?af=R>

Tags : Rural Employment, Health and decent work

COVID-19 impact on fruit and vegetable markets: One year later

More than 1 year after the outbreak of COVID-19, Canadian fruit and vegetable markets continue to adjust to the evolving landscape. In this article, we focus on three key measures of input and output market performance that serve as indicators of the stability of fruit and vegetable markets in Canada in the medium-term, and offer some insight for how these markets will continue to adjust in the longer run. Specifically, we use data to highlight the most recent trends in (1) the production and aggregate movement for major fruit and vegetable crops in the United States and Canada, (2) labor supply and immigration visa patterns, and (3) U.S.-Canada trade patterns for fruits and vegetables. We provide evidence that the fresh produce supply chain in Canada, and for markets in their largest trade partner in the United States, has remained relatively robust.

Links : <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cjag.12272?af=R>

Tags : Migration, Health and decent work

“Farmers Aren’t into the Emotions and Things, Right?”: A Qualitative Exploration of Motivations and Barriers for Mental Health Help-Seeking among Canadian Farmers

Working in agriculture has been associated with an increased prevalence of psychological distress and mental health concerns. Farmers are also less likely than non-farmers to seek-help for their mental health. Previous research examining help-seeking among farmers has focused predominantly on male farmers, and has not included many of the Canadian agricultural commodity groups or provinces. The goal of this study was to explore perceptions of farmer help-seeking for mental health amongst farmers and

people who work with farmers. The study objectives were to characterize the motivations and barriers to help-seeking behaviours. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 75 farmers and individuals who work with farmers in Ontario, Canada, between 2017 and 2018. Interviews were conducted in person, and by telephone when needed. Topics of discussion included farming stresses and their impacts; personal well-being; agricultural crises and mental health help-seeking; use of mental health supports; motivators and barriers to help-seeking; and perceived ideals for mental health supports. Thematic analysis was conducted collaboratively by three authors using inductive and deductive coding. Our analysis resulted in five themes around help-seeking motivations and barriers: 1) Accessibility of mental health supports and services; 2) Stigma around mental health in the agricultural community; 3) Anonymity and/or lack of anonymity in seeking support; 4) Farm credibility; and 5) Recommendations for implementing mental health services for the agricultural community. This study provides insights around how farming culture and the accessibility and delivery of services may influence help-seeking for mental health, and proposes strategies to break down barriers to help-seeking in this population.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1893884?af=R>

Tags : Health and decent work

Fatigue and the Need for Recovery among Latino/a Immigrant Cattle Feedyard Workers

Cattle feedyards are animal feeding operations where beef cattle are finished to market weight on grain. Cattle feeding can be dirty, demanding, and dangerous work. This study sought to assess the predictors of fatigue and the need for recovery among Latino/a immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the United States. A path model was examined to explore direct and indirect relations among physical fatigue, mental fatigue, need for recovery, job characteristics, and health and sociodemographic covariates. Lower self-reported health, experiencing physical pain, not handling animals, and decreased decision latitude were directly related to increased physical fatigue. Shorter tenure working on cattle feedyards, lower educational level, experiencing physical pain, and increased job demands were directly related to heightened mental fatigue. Being female, experiencing physical pain, an elevated average of hours worked per day, increased job demands, and less decision latitude were directly related to an increased need for recovery and indirectly related to both physical and mental fatigue. Physical and mental fatigue have specific correlates, but job characteristics, including job demands and decision latitude, can directly and indirectly impact workers' levels of physical and mental fatigue and their need for recovery. Both preventive measures and restructuring work operations may reduce the risk for fatigue and the need for recovery. Implications for cattle feedyard workers, supervisors, and employers are discussed. Finding ways to balance productivity and the well-being of workers should be a high priority for cattle feedyards across the country.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1845894?af=R>

Tags : Migration, Health and decent work

Livestock farmers' working conditions in agroecological farming systems. A review

The livestock farming sector is under stress as fewer and fewer people are willing or able to become livestock farmers. Contributing to the decline in attractiveness of the profession are, among other factors, agricultural crises, higher consumer expectations, and difficult working conditions. Agroecology is a

sustainable solution that can maintain livestock production and provide positive contributions to society without negatively affecting the environment. Moreover, in its search for social sustainability, agroecological farming could offer better working conditions to farmers and thus contribute to a sustainable future for the livestock farming sector. Here, we review research on livestock farmers' working conditions in agroecological farming systems. This paper aims to give a comprehensive overview of the available research findings and the dimensions used to describe farmers' working conditions. The major findings are the following: (i) relatively little published research is available; (ii) it is difficult to compare findings across studies as different dimensions are used to study working conditions and, in certain cases, detailed descriptions of the farming systems are not provided; (iii) certain dimensions were rarely addressed, such as farmers' health, or work organization; and (iv) in general, farmers' work is addressed as a component of environmental and economic analyses of the performance of agroecological livestock farming systems, using most often indicators on labor productivity and/or efficiency. Comprehensive multidimensional approaches to study working conditions are lacking, as are studies on the interactions and trade-offs between dimensions (e.g., workload, fulfillment, work organization). To study livestock farmers' working conditions in agroecological farming systems, we recommend to use a comprehensive approach assessing different dimensions contributing to working conditions, combined with the description of farmers' activities and work environment.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-021-00679-y>

Tags : Health and decent work, Work productivity, Work organisation

ADDRESSING HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR AND REDUCING RISKS POSED BY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

In the agriculture sector, the 73 million children in hazardous work come from all age groups. In general, children in the 15-17 years cohort tend to carry out more hazardous work, but younger age cohorts also undertake hazardous work, even children as young as 5 years old.

ILO Global estimate from 2012-2016 Children in hazardous work 72 525 000, Children in child labour 151 622 000, Children in employment 218 019 000.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) 2017 Global estimates of child labour, in Africa, agriculture accounts for 85 percent of all child labour in absolute terms, and 9 percent of African children are involved in hazardous work - the highest of all the world's regions.

Links : <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3586en/cb3586en.pdf>

Tags : Child labour

Operation-Wise Labour Absorption in Jhum cultivation, WRC and WTC Under Mokokchung, Dimapur and Phek Districts, Nagaland

The paper made an attempt to examine the operation-wise labour absorption and also estimated the factors that determine the variations and the intensity of labour used per acre in three rice farming systems, namely jhum cultivation, wet rice cultivation (WRC) and wet terrace cultivation (WTC). Study revealed that all the three farming systems use more labour and less capital. Jhum absorbs the highest labour man days, among the three farming systems. Male labour absorption was found to be more than

that of the female labour in all the farming systems, and both male and female labour absorption was highest under jhum cultivation. Land clearing was the activity that absorbed the highest male labour under jhum cultivation, with an average of 8.49 labour man days, while ploughing, levelling/manuring absorbed the highest male labour under WTC/WRC, with an average of 9.88 and 9.36 labour man days. On the other hand, the highest female labour absorption activity was weeding, with an average of 5.10 (jhum), 4.99 (WRC) and 4.6 (WTC) man days. The participation of family labour was found to be more under jhum cultivation, whereas use of hired labour was more under wet rice cultivation. Regression result shows that hired labour man days and total labour man days per acre in all the farming systems are negatively associated, with a significant level of 1 and 5 per cent each. Since rice cultivation is seasonal in nature, rainfall and timing is an important determinant of yield and the use of inputs like labour may depend not only on total amount used but also on timing of application.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-021-00305-1>

Tags : Gender, Family work, Hired work

Dynamics of Agricultural Labour in Small-Farm Economy: Work, Gender and Technologies in Cotton Production in Telangana

This paper explores the nature and dynamics of labour in cotton production in Telangana which emerged as the third largest cotton-producing state in India. It also examines the roles of new technologies, gender and migrant labour in cotton farming while mapping various forms of labour. Cotton still remains the most labour intensive among the major crops in India, even as labour-replacing technologies are increasingly put to use. The changes in the extent of area under its cultivation are also significantly influenced by the availability and cost of labour which seem to drive the shift towards cotton in agriculturally backward regions in the recent years. The shift also appears among the farming classes that depend on family labour. Based on a field study in Telangana during the 2019-2020 Kharif season, this paper draws attention onto the prominent role of household labour relative to hired labour in the emergent agrarian structure marked by small farms. This dimension along with the new labour replacing technologies has significant implications for the conditions of labour including wages, and for our understanding of the nature and categories of farmers and farm labour.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-021-00308-y>

Tags : Gender, Rural Employment

National specialization policy versus farmers' priorities: Balancing subsistence farming and cash cropping in Nepal

The Nepali Government is currently implementing policies for a radical agricultural transformation into large-scale, mechanized, specialized and commercial farming. However, the peasants prioritize diversified subsistence production of resilient and versatile food crops and regard cash crops only as a supplement. Cash cropping represents a potentially profitable income source but involves risk. Complete agricultural commercialization would jeopardize household and community food security, weaken trust- and reciprocity-based social mechanisms for exchanging food and labour, and break with traditions. Peasants' motivations for balancing subsistence and market production are multiple and interrelated because their economic pursuits are deeply embedded in social and cultural structures.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016721000693?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Work organisation, Value chains

Exploring the link between farmers' entrepreneurial identities and work wellbeing

Pressure on farmers to behave more 'entrepreneurial' is increasing. Psychological and social science research therefore has examined what characterises farmers identifying as entrepreneurs. A previous study in Finland suggested that farmers' self-identities may conflict with the public paradigm describing farmers as entrepreneurs instead of food providers. Different expectations towards farming may cause identity issues and decrease work wellbeing. The present study examines the relationship of work wellbeing and entrepreneurial identification. Utilizing the Maslach Burnout Inventory and the theory of Entrepreneurial Identity, the results show that work wellbeing is higher for diversified farmers and rural business owners than for conventional farmers in Finland. Conventional farmers on the other hand experience higher rates of loss of personal control and self-efficacy, indicating that the political strategies for entrepreneurs, diversification and innovativeness, are not applicable to all farmer groups. Entrepreneurs aim for autonomy and personal control which generally may be limited in specialised, subsidy-dependent agricultural production systems. Identity formation processes and how farmers can gain more control over their businesses as well as the limitations of entrepreneurship in the momentary agricultural policy system, should be considered in upcoming policy strategies.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721000747?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Identity

Feminist agroecology: analyzing power relationships in food systems

Agroecology needs to increasingly integrate feminist contributions to understand and transform power relations in food systems. This study is based on the participation in and analysis of meetings led by women from different territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2018 in Chiapas (Mexico), in which they addressed problems and alternatives related to food and agriculture. Our analysis identifies the matrix of oppressions: heteropatriarchy, capitalism and colonialism, to understand the power relations in the current corporate industrial food system. We sustain that it is necessary to continue exploring practical alternatives to transcend inequalities and allow the territorial expansion of agroecology with socio-environmental justice.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21683565.2021.1888842>

Tags : Gender

Farmer Mental Health in the US Midwest: Key Informant Perspectives

In this study, we seek to illuminate: (1) the ways farm service providers and mental health professionals understand the drivers of farm stress, (2) the strategies, challenges, and opportunities farm service providers and mental health professionals identify for supporting the mental health needs of farm families, and; (3) opportunities for future research and outreach to improve the mental health of farmers

in the U.S. Midwest region. We obtained qualitative data from a series of semi-structured key informant interviews with 19 subject matter experts, using content analysis to identify themes across four domains: main challenges, unique impacts by subpopulation, coping strategies, and interventions and recommendations. The key informants we interviewed identified a variety of acute and chronic stressors, including several that are structural, rather than individual and interpersonal, and which lie outside of the control of farmers themselves. They also highlighted diversity within farm populations by socio-demographic and farm characteristics as well as positive and negative coping strategies, with negative being more common. For interventions and recommendations, they stressed the importance of education on mental health, improving access to care, and addressing root causes of stress. While farmer stress is well-documented, less is known about the perspectives of farm service professionals and mental health providers who care for them. The insights from this study add important information on how to best support the immediate and long-term mental health needs of farmers and farm families in the U.S. Midwest and beyond.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1893881?af=R>

Tags : Health and decent work

Developing and validating a competence framework for improving the productivity of smallholder farmers: a case study from Ethiopia

Purpose

Enhancing the relevance of rural extension services requires aligning extension education to the roles, tasks, activities and competencies of smallholder farmers. The objective of this study is to follow up on previous competence studies and to construct a validated competence framework.

Design/Methodology/Approach

Competence frameworks are generally being used to articulate performance requirements for certain jobs or professions. Whereas most competence frameworks display generic competencies and long lists of tasks, this study combines generic competencies, behavioural aspects, and content specifications of the job fields. The competence framework was empirically validated through workshops, focus-group discussions, and surveys involving 76 participants from stakeholder groups.

Findings

The results reveal nine roles: 1. Learner, 2. Manager, 3. Communicator, 4. Co-operator, 5. Professional, 6. Innovator, 7. Entrepreneur, 8. Planner, and 9. Producer. Furthermore, six job fields are defined, based on the content of the farmers' jobs: 1. Pre-planting, 2. During-planting, 3. After-planting, 4. During-harvesting, 5. Post-harvesting, and 6. Facilitating all farming activities. Combining the roles and the job fields results in the identification of 23 tasks and 25 competencies.

Practical implications

The competence framework validated in this study can serve as a starting point for extension workers to develop courses, training programs, and interactions with smallholder farmers.

Theoretical implications

The study demonstrates a research approach involving the contextualization of competencies, rendering them meaningful for improving rural innovation and the productivity of smallholder farming.

Originality/Value

The integrated approach used to develop the competence framework can be applied in any other context, and result in a comprehensive understanding of the respective job/profession.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1389224X.2021.1880452?af=R>

Tags : Extension, Skills and training

COVID-19 and small enterprises in the food supply chain: Early impacts and implications for longer-term food system resilience in low- and middle-income countries

Food and nutrition security play an essential role in weathering and overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic—and in achieving sustainable development. In most low- and middle-income countries, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) play an essential role in food supply chains and thus in ensuring food and nutrition security. However, limited attention has been paid to how these critical food system actors are being impacted by the pandemic and associated measures. This paper helps fill that gap through analysis of data from 367 agri-food MSMEs in 17 countries, collected in May 2020 and capturing early impacts of the pandemic on their operations. About 94.3% of respondents reported that their firm's operations had been impacted by the pandemic, primarily through decreased sales as well as lower access to inputs and financing amid limited financial reserves. Difficulty with staffing was also widely cited. Eighty-four percent of firms reported changing their production volume as a result of the pandemic; of these, about 13% reported stopping production and about 82% reported decreasing production. Approximately 54% had changed product prices as a result of the pandemic. The probability of being severely impacted was significantly higher for firms with $\leq 50,000$ USD in annual turnover; a larger decrease in consumer mobility for grocery/pharmacy shopping also increased the probability of a severe impact. Surprisingly, the youngest firms and those with the fewest employees (controlling for turnover) were less likely to be severely impacted. Over 80% of firms had taken actions to mitigate the pandemic's impact on their operations and/or staff, and about 44% were considering exploring new business areas, with some seeing opportunities for growth. We conclude by discussing implications for policy responses to address immediate challenges as well as increase long-term food system resilience to support further progress towards sustainable development.

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Tags : Health and decent work, Value chains

Dark and bright spots in the shadow of the pandemic: Rural livelihoods, social vulnerability, and local governance in India and Nepal

The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented disruption to lives and livelihoods around the world. These disruptions have brought into sharp focus experiences of vulnerability but also, at times, evidence of resilience as people and institutions gear up to respond to the crisis. Drawing on intensive qualitative enquiry in 16 villages of Himalayan India and Nepal, this paper documents both dark and bright spots from the early days of the pandemic. We find intense experiences of fear and uncertainty, heightened food insecurity, and drastic reductions in livelihood opportunities. However, we also find a

wide range of individual and collective responses as well as a patchwork of policy support mechanisms that have provided at least some measure of basic security. Local elected governments have played a critical role in coordinating responses and delivering social support, however the nature of their actions varies as a result of different institutional arrangements and state support systems in the two countries. Our findings highlight the changing nature of vulnerability in the present era, as demographic shifts, growing off-farm employment and dependence on remittances, and increasing market integration have all brought about new kinds of exposure to risk for rural populations in the context of the present disruption and beyond. Most importantly, our research shows the critical importance of strong systems of state support for protecting basic well-being in times of crises. Based on these findings, we argue that there is a need for greater knowledge of how local institutions work in tandem with a broader set of state support mechanisms to generate responses for urgent challenges; such knowledge holds the potential to develop governance systems that are better able to confront diverse shocks that households face, both now and in the future.

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Tags : Rural Employment, Health and decent work, Policy

Le nouvel esprit du salariat. Rémunérations, autonomie, inégalités

Ces dernières années, les travaux décrivant la déstabilisation du salariat sous l'effet du développement à ses marges des formes précaires d'emploi (CDD, intérim), ainsi que de l'essor de nouvelles formes d'indépendance (à travers par exemple le régime du micro-entrepreneur), se sont multipliés. Mais, rappelant que 90 % des actifs occupés sont salariés, dont une grande majorité en CDI, le pari de l'ouvrage de Sophie Bernard est de porter le regard sur le cœur de cette population active qu'est le « salariat stable ». On sait que celui-ci a subi de nombreuses transformations au cours des quarante dernières années, qu'il s'agisse de la menace du chômage qui s'est étendue aux plus diplômés, ou des réformes managériales qui, du secteur privé au public, dégradent les conditions de travail en érodant parfois le sens même de celui-ci. Pour les appréhender, Sophie Bernard adopte un angle original. Elle s'intéresse en effet aux modes de rémunération, et plus particulièrement à la place croissante accordée à toute une série de dispositifs qui entendent différencier les salariés pour mieux reconnaître leurs mérites individuels, garantir leur autonomie et in fine favoriser leur engagement.

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