



# Congress and Publications

2021/05

Realized by Priscila Malanski at 03/06/2021

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## Congress

### Société d'ergonomie de langue française

Les vidéos de toutes les communications des JdB 2021 sont disponibles en libre accès.

Links : <https://ergonomie-self.org/2021/05/07/actes-des-journees-de-bordeaux-2021/>

### ISASH | Protecting People in Agriculture

We are very excited to be hosting the 2021 ISASH Conference virtually this year on **June 21-24**. The planning committee has brought together a program that will provide safety and health education, networking and of course some great FUN!

A few conference highlights:

- A session that will take us on a journey examining the rich history of ISASH through the lens of our long-time members
- Four sessions bringing international partners together to discuss novel safety and health initiatives and emerging issues from across the globe
- Over 60 research and program presentations
- Interest Committee meetings
- Networking time in the “Hospitality Room”

We look forward in 2021 to continuing the long tradition of ISASH, bringing together agricultural safety and health professionals to learn, share ideas, find new collaborators and have some fun along the way.

We hope that you plan on joining us!

Links : <https://isash.org/>

### 109th International Labour Conference to be held virtually, opening in May

The 109th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) will, for the first time in its history, be held virtually, reflecting changes imposed by the COVID-19 crisis.

In another special arrangement the ILC will open on 20 May (13:00 - Geneva time) to elect its Officers and set the Conference in motion. The Conference will then proceed in two parts; the first in June 2021 and a second in November-December 2021.

The June sittings will start on 3 June, with meetings of the Conference committees that are expected to run for two and a half weeks.

Work in plenary will commence on 7 June and will be addressed by the President of the Swiss Confederation. The ILO's Director-General, Guy Ryder and the Chairperson of the Governing Body will also present their reports, which will cover two years. This will be followed by the introductory statements of the Presidents of the ILC's Employers and Workers groups.

Links : [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_791932/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_791932/lang--en/index.htm)

## Récits de la charge mentale des femmes

La notion de « charge mentale » a été introduite dans les années 1980 dans le champ de la sociologie du travail. Elle est le pendant de la « charge (de travail) physique ». Elle permet de décrire et de mesurer les pressions exercées sur le psychisme des travailleurs. On peut aussi décrire le contexte socio-économique du renforcement de la charge mentale. On sait par exemple qu'elle est amplifiée par de fortes contraintes de rythme.

En 1984, la sociologue Monique Haicault utilise pour la première fois la notion pour référer à la charge mentale des femmes, mariées, mères de famille, en activité. « La charge mentale de la journée "redoublée" est lourde d'une tension constante, pour ajuster des temporalités et des espaces différents, mais non autonomes, qui interfèrent de manière multiplicative ». Ici aussi, la notion de charge mentale est connexe de celle de surcharge. Mais la particularité de la charge mentale des femmes vient de la nécessité d'avoir à gérer quotidiennement deux espace-temps inextricablement enchevêtrés.

Dans ce colloque, nous nous intéresserons aux récits de la charge mentale des femmes, de l'ubiquité mentale des femmes et de leur anticipation constante des tâches inhérentes à la vie domestique et familiale. Les récits en question seront empruntés à des corpus de récits de la vie réelle ou à des récits littéraires et des œuvres narratives dans différents media.

### Modalités de participation

Le colloque se tiendra en visioconférence le **jeudi 27 et le vendredi 28 mai 2021**, entre 9h30 et 17h (heure de Paris). Les personnes qui souhaitent y assister devront se connecter sur Zoom à partir du lien suivant

ID de réunion : 848 3908 5888

Code secret : 046685

Links : <https://calenda.org/875060>

## Inspired by Annie's: Farm Stress and Wellness Webinars

The Inspired by Annie's: Farm Stress and Wellness event aims to address stress resiliency of farmers and ranchers in Louisiana. Understanding stress and its nature, factors influencing stress on the farm and the consequences of farm stress is key for a handling stress.

The webinars will cover a variety of topics, from identifying behavioral health, and to how to incorporate stress-reducing techniques into your day, to nutrition and wellness. These efforts are supported by La NRCS.

Links : <http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/AEABlog/~3/BJH5wCoqipM/inspired-by-annies-farm-stress-and.html>

Tags : Health and decent work

## Publications

### Résister dans une exploitation

À partir du cas d'une firme de production agricole, située en France et spécialisée dans la culture du melon, cet article analyse les évolutions de l'organisation du travail et notamment les résistances au management. Nous montrerons qu'elles peuvent être individuelles ou collectives, « pour soi » ou « pour les autres », freiner la production ou, au contraire, l'accélérer. Elles résultent toujours d'une volonté de desserrer l'étau du contrôle et de se réappropriier le travail, conséquence d'un contrôle plus récent, celui de la grande distribution sur l'exploitation agricole, exigeant toujours plus de dispositifs de normalisation et de certification des produits comme des procédés.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/etudesrurales/22571>

Tags : Hired work

### Des cultures sous tension. Les rationalisations des grandes entreprises agricoles

À partir d'entretiens qualitatifs et d'observations in situ réalisés dans la filière française des fruits et légumes, cet article met au jour les tensions entre rationalisations formelle et matérielle au sein de grandes entreprises agricoles. À travers l'exemple des chefs de culture et l'étude d'un outil de gestion, il montre que l'émergence d'une rationalisation formelle, imposée par les acteurs de l'aval, revêt trois formes : une rationalisation du travail de la plante, une rationalisation de la gestion de la main-d'œuvre ainsi qu'une rationalisation par le processus d'intégration de la firme. Celle-ci entraîne alors une transformation des professionnalités des chefs de culture, en allant jusqu'à infléchir leurs pratiques et remettre en question leurs territoires professionnels. Elle conduit à faire du chef de culture un représentant d'une domination rationnelle, similaire à celle exercée par un bureaucrate wébérien.

Links : <https://www.cairn.info/revue-l-annee-sociologique-2021-1-page-127.htm>

Tags : Hired work, HRM, Identity

### Multi-level management of harvest for fresh fruit: the case of Corsican clementine

Despite their crucial importance for food product quality, harvest management practices remain understudied. Harvest is particularly challenging in the fresh fruit sector, due to the fruit's perishable, variable, and seasonal nature. In this study, we seek to better understand the agronomic, organizational, and institutional drivers influencing fruit harvest management, using the Corsican clementine harvest as a case study. In that production area, the standard "Clémentine de Corse" protected geographical indication is used by local actors to define and enforce appropriate harvest practices. The data were gathered through interviews with the farmers, packing station managers, and shippers who form the first link in the production chain. We show that harvest practices are shaped by the interactions between three management levels: (i) the plot, where picking teams select the fruit to be picked from those to be left on the tree for the next pass; (ii) the farm level, at which growers synchronize the harvesting dynamics with the ripening process of a set of plots with heterogeneous degrees of maturity; and (iii) the marketing

level, where shippers and packers must match up the harvesting dynamics of all their suppliers with the demands of their buyers' market. According to this multi-level perspective, we analyzed the agronomic, organizational, and institutional drivers influencing the diversity of harvest management practices among farmers, and the influence of the protected geographical indication on the harvest process. Our study is the first to highlight how harvest practices are constructed and how various hierarchical levels of agricultural systems act together to shape them. Based on these results, we draw generic lessons and perspectives with a view to improving fresh fruit harvest management.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-021-00686-z>

Tags : Work organisation, Value chains

## **A comparison of farm labour, profitability, and carbon footprint of different management strategies in Northern European grassland sheep systems**

### CONTEXT

Sheep production systems need to become more carbon efficient to meet growing public demands on climate change. Some of the ways postulated to achieve this is to implement new technologies and management strategies such as precision livestock farming (PLF), increased use of high genetic merit animals with estimated breeding values through artificial insemination (AI) where practical, and the use of prolific breeds. However, the carbon footprint impact of these strategies has not to-date been quantified. Additionally, international experience indicates that uptake of such strategies is low due, in part, to the perception of increased workload especially during busy periods of the sheep year.

### OBJECTIVES

This trans-European study investigates the impact of differing sheep management strategies on farm labour input, carbon footprint as well as the on-farm profitability, to address these concerns.

### METHODS

Four management strategies were considered i) use of technology (PLF), ii) use of performance recording for higher genetic merit, iii) use of AI for higher genetic merit and iv) and use of prolific breeds, in 14 case study flocks located in areas typical of Northern European grassland sheep production systems across Scotland, France, Ireland and Norway. For each management strategy, paired case study flocks were identified. Labour was assessed at key handling events using video recording, farmers' diaries, and questionnaires, which were later quantified and classed into key tasks to create normalised labour profiles for each case study flock. The carbon footprint was quantified using a carbon calculator tool ([www.agrecalc.com](http://www.agrecalc.com)). Financial net margins were calculated.

### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Results highlighted that introducing PLF technology on extensive farms reduced labour by 20% and increased economic margins by £9/ewe but with a concurrent increase in carbon emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/ kg of meat produced). Using performance recording on sheep farms for achieving higher genetic merit increased economic margins by £6/ewe, and reduced carbon emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e) per kg of meat produced but resulted in 10% extra labour. AI on farms increased economic margins by £50/ewe, did not incur extra labour and increased carbon efficiency in terms of kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg meat produced. Finally, high prolific breeds did not significantly increase labour input at key handling events and resulted by higher economic margins (+£3/ewe), without a change in terms of kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg meat produced.

## SIGNIFICANCE

These novel case studies clearly illustrate it is possible to increase carbon and labour efficiency by adopting technology, changing breeding management or ewe breed on sheep farms.

Links :

[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X21001086?dgcid=raven\\_sd\\_via\\_email](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X21001086?dgcid=raven_sd_via_email)

Tags : Work productivity

## Designing a Model via Grounded Theory to Reduce Agricultural Work Injury among Orchardists in Ilam Province

The present study aimed to design a model to reduce agricultural work injury among orchardists in Ilam Province, Iran. This was a qualitative research study that used grounded theory to analyze data. The study included 25 specialists, managers, and experts of horticulture in Ilam Province who were selected through purposive sampling. Field observations and interviews in the form of focus groups were used for collecting data. The results were extracted from the research data through the coding process (open, axial, and selective) in the form of concepts, subcategories, and categories using MAXqda12. The paradigm model included causal, contextual and intervening conditions, strategy, and consequences. The results indicated that several causal conditions can affect work injury in agriculture. These were identified as vulnerability level, personal characteristics of orchardists, subsistence level, general health, climatic conditions, and academic qualifications. Contextual conditions also included categories like trends, occupational safety and health principles, infrastructure, government support, and government incentives. Meanwhile, intervening conditions were identified as structural, educational-research factors, economic criteria, regulation and development of marketing horticultural and greenhouse products, type of exploitation system, and orchardists' motivation. Finally, reducing agricultural work injuries among orchardists involved the multi-faceted identification of various aspects of production and education, along with technical, operational, executive, and supervisory management strategies. Reducing the number of agricultural work injuries among orchardists would lead to regional, economic, individual, and social benefits. The results helped researchers to identify what areas to address and mitigate safety issues of horticultural activities in Ilam.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1900971?af=R&>

Tags : Health and decent work

## Book Review: Ruth Milkman, Immigrant Labor and the New Precariat

Existing demand-based theories of migration maintain that international labour migration is the result of demand for low wage, flexible workers in postindustrial societies and native workers' refusal to take up low paid, low status jobs. It has, furthermore, been argued that variation in labour market institutions across countries results in varying demand for migrant workers by structuring the quality of jobs and the availability of local workers. Milkman's study contributes to this literature by identifying the origins of the downgrading of wages, benefits and working conditions in particular US occupations/sectors since the 1970s, which led to a shrinking of the available labour supply. The overarching aim of the book is, however, a political one. Milkman provides a concise, readable, evidence-based counter-narrative to the 'immigrant threat narrative', arguing that poorly educated US born workers should direct their anger



towards employers for degrading their jobs and promoting policies, which foster income inequality, rather than towards immigrants who have filled the resulting low wage jobs refuted by Americans.

Links : <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00380385211015550>

Tags : Migration

## What knowledge is required to grow food? A framework for understanding horticulture's skills 'crisis'

For more than a decade actors in Europe, North America and Australasia have been warning of crises with horticultural skills, highlighting shortages of specialists, educational programmes and traineeships. Related warnings predict worsening shortages of skilled workers essential for production of horticultural crops. Analysis of recent strategies from the UK finds these problems poorly defined and characterised, without articulating what horticultural skills comprise, tending to misconstrue problems and causes. This paper aims to characterise food growing knowledge systems and challenges they face. The result is a new definition of and conceptual framework for horticultural skills to enhance understanding of the sector's problems and formulation of solutions. The framework valorises knowledge of workers often portrayed as unskilled, and demonstrates how skills and labour challenges are wholly inter-linked. Knowledge flows are found to be affected by multiple impediments which contribute to a sense of crisis. Unresolved questions regarding this skills system present avenues for research to better understand the future prospects of food production skills, and demonstrate the value critical social science can bring to this topic.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001236?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001236?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Skills and training

## New perspectives on the agriculture-migration nexus

In this introductory article to the special issue on 'Agricultural Regimes and Migrant Labour', we first propose the analytical concept of the 'agriculture-migration nexus'. This is made up of a series of causal and co-constructive links between specialised agriculture, on the one hand, and seasonal and temporary regimes of migrant labour on the other. In the second part of the paper we identify a number of cross-cutting themes which resonate across the papers that make up the special issue. These include new geographical patterns of agricultural labour migration, especially in Europe; a focus on specialised agricultural districts involving the intensive production of crops such as tomatoes and strawberries; the disciplining function of time, inscribed into regimes of seasonal migrant labour and daily work rhythms; and moral questions surrounding the justification for agricultural labour exploitation and how it can be challenged. The final section of the article presents highlights from the eight substantive papers that follow, demonstrating how they are logically sequenced and integrated as a whole.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001261?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001261?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration

## Immigration and integration in rural areas and the agricultural sector: An EU perspective

Immigrants in rural areas and immigrant employment in the agricultural sector have been studied from a variety of perspectives. However, we currently lack a bird's-eye view of these two phenomena covering all EU member states through time. This paper tackles that gap, first by describing the main features of immigrant settlement and economic integration in rural areas in the EU. Second, it offers an EU-wide overview of immigrants' integration in the agricultural sector. Then, it investigates empirically the degree to which the different characteristics of agricultural production in two member states - Italy and Spain - are associated with a migrant presence in the area. The study finds that, in the context of a shrinking agricultural labour force, the share of migrant workers in that sector in several regions is increasing over time. Migrants living in rural areas are more likely to be unemployed and face economic hardship than locals. Migrants employed in agriculture are, also, more likely to work in elementary occupations and temporary jobs. Finally, the case studies on Italy and Spain demonstrate that the relative size of the migrant population is related to the typology of agricultural land use and to the labour intensity and seasonality of cultivation.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016721001170?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016721001170?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration

## **Determinants of corporate social responsibility among farms in Russia and Kazakhstan: a multilevel approach using survey data**

Building on the institutional theory of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and research on CSR in the agriculture of post-Soviet transition economies, the present paper investigates the institutional, organizational and individual factors of farm engagement in CSR activities. Based on a survey of 800 farms in Russia and Kazakhstan, the interaction between the farms' social role and multilevel institutional characteristics is addressed. We observe notable positive effects of local labor sourcing, insecure land use conditions and farm size (in terms of land area) on farms' CSR engagement. Individually owned farms, as opposed to corporate farms, tend to be more CSR affine. In addition, we find weak statistical evidence of CSR engagement among the farms affiliated with agrohholdings. We discuss the results in the context of different levels of CSR analysis.

Links : <https://www.wageningenacademic.com/doi/abs/10.22434/IFAMR2020.0197?af=R>

Tags : Rural Employment

## **On the Challenges Faced by Female Members of Agricultural Cooperatives in Southeast Nigeria**

This study uses structural equation modelling (SEM) and path diagram techniques to examine challenges faced by women in the agricultural sector cooperatives in Southeast Nigeria. The data are from a cross-section survey of randomly selected women cooperative members. Results suggest that women with poor economic status are less likely to have access to improved technology, labour, off-farm employment, and improved infrastructure. The authors also found that cultural factors increase women's failure to own land, farm inputs, and agricultural credit. Additionally, the results show that compared to men, institutional factors increase women's unequal access to extension training as well as their domestic workload. This study also found that older women face fewer challenges in the agricultural sector cooperatives than younger ones while more educated ones face more challenges. This study provides useful policy insights to mitigate the challenges women face in agricultural cooperatives. Most

importantly, they argue that economic freedom among women in cooperatives may not be achieved unless they are emancipated from existing cultural, economic, institutional, and management constraints.

Links : <https://academicjournals.org/journal/JAERD/article-abstract/7B614B466789>

Tags : Gender, Policy

## **A Mobile Primary Care Clinic Mitigates an Early COVID-19 Outbreak Among Migrant Farmworkers in Iowa**

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are a vulnerable population with unique health and safety challenges related to the entire spectrum of the social determinants of health. These challenges place migrant and seasonal farmworkers at a disproportionate risk of infection and illness because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report presents a case study of an early COVID-19 outbreak among migrant farmworkers in Iowa and describes the role that a nimble and responsive mobile federally qualified health center played in the successful mitigation and response to this outbreak. Early during the pandemic, the clinic adopted a new model of service delivery utilizing telemedicine primary care visits, followed by in-person visits when necessary. As the pandemic progressed, clinic staff strategized to provide increased pandemic-related support to agricultural employers and migrant farmworkers across the state. Emphasis was placed on on-site testing and education regarding social distancing, mask utilization, and hand washing. Eventually, as migrant workers were infected and became symptomatic, more complex mitigation strategies such as isolation, quarantine, and clinical follow-up were also implemented. This report describes how a mobile primary care clinic developed a pandemic responsive model to provide successful mitigation of an early COVID-19 outbreak among essential and highly vulnerable migrant farmworkers.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1913272?af=R&>

Tags : Migration, Health and decent work

## **‘There is no time’: Agri-food internal migrant workers in Morocco's tomato industry**

Agri-industrial production is supported by the agriculture-migration nexus, in which industrial-scale horticultural production relies on migrant workers. In this article I consider the time-related pressures on workers who are internal migrants from rural regions of Morocco. My account illustrates how workers are impacted by the demands from consumers for fresh food, year round, as well as by the rhythms of nature, and of social reproduction. I use concepts from EP Thompson's depiction of the transition from rural to factory work to describe the tensions in agricultural production at industrial scale for foreign markets. The concepts used are nature's time (related to seasonality, weather, daylight) and industrial time (of the market), and I adjoin to this the category of social-reproductive time in order to show these three time-related pressures function together. The identification of this threefold time-pressure on migrant workers in agri-food production builds on the recent attention of scholars to seasonality as a conceptual lens, and the identification of rhythms to highlight intersectional inequalities in the everyday. The paper is based on ethnographic and interview data from the Moroccan region of Chtouka Aït Baha, from which tomatoes and other crops are produced at industrial scale for export. I find that, together, the three temporal pressures lead to workers suffering exhaustion and finding themselves far from mobile and available to move with the seasons; rather, they are 'locked in' to this low-wage sector.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001157?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001157?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Gender, Migration, Work organisation

## **Praised, prized, yet penalised: A critical examination of low-wage hiring queues in the global strawberry industry**

Employers often have preferences with respect to workers based on group-level characteristics including geographical origin, gender, class, race, age, family status, appearance, etc. These 'hiring queues' can shape recruitment and promotion decisions and explain why certain characteristics may be more or less common within a workplace and across a sector. Drawing on one rural industry known in particular for low-wage and seasonal employment - the strawberry industry - this paper compares employer hiring queues in the US, Norway and UK. We find variety in the hierarchies that employers construct: US, Norwegian and UK strawberry growers recruit their low-wage workers from different nationalities. However, the underlying basis for these hiring queues appears to be the same across study contexts in that they are predominantly contingent upon geographical variables - mobility, nationality and ethnicity - to identify who are seen by employers as the most attractive low-wage seasonal workers. Migrants from more peripheral economies are consistently preferred above local workers and farmers employ mobility, nationality and ethnicity as short-hand for 'good' workers. We find that employers articulate what we refer to as 'informed stereotypes' that are connected, albeit selectively, to the political, economic, social and legal context(s) within which labour power is produced, reproduced and activated.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001145?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001145?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration

## **New food regime geographies: Scale, state, labor**

Food regime analysis is a prominent approach to the role of food and agriculture in global capitalism. Yet recent advancement within the approach has not received as much attention as it deserves outside of specialized circles of agrarian research. Food regime scholarship has over the last few years taken several steps to move away from its previous prevalent emphasis on macro-scale phenomena to make it more applicable to empirical research on agricultural development. This article reviews recent scholarship in food regime analysis to bring out central aspects of such advancement. In particular, this review discusses three key aspects of recent food regime scholarship: First, I find an increased problematizing of spatiality and scale with calls for downscaling the food regime approach. Second, I find a rising centrality of theorizing and analyzing the state. Third, despite these advancements, an important gap remains in sustained attention to questions of labor. I call for further scrutiny of labor in order to bring food regime analysis forwards.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X21001352>

## **Promoting Farmer occupational safety and health (OSH) services through Extension**

Strategies for improving OSH in European agriculture are urgently required given the high level of reported injuries and ill health in the sector. The agriculture sector in Europe is enormous in scale and diverse in production systems. A dispersed labour force is deployed in the sector, predominantly using family labour, which is self-employed. Accordingly, a large proportion of the agricultural workforce is outside the scope

of EU directives on occupational safety and health (OSH). The aim of this paper is to examine the role and engagement of the discipline of agricultural extension in promoting OSH in agriculture and consider methodologies that this discipline can use most effectively to gain OSH adoption. The paper compares regulatory and extension approaches to consider their respective roles in promoting OSH in agriculture. EU developments related to extension and OSH are then outlined. Regarding extension engagement, findings of a survey among extension and OSH professionals throughout Europe found that OSH is considered an important topic and worthwhile for inclusion in extension but it indicates that currently the level of extension programming is limited. Irish data on OSH extension methodologies indicates that advisors consider that a range of extension approaches are available to motivate farmers on OSH adoption with TV victim testimonials, on-farm social learning discussion groups and on-farm demonstrations having the highest preferences. Data presented indicates that Irish farmers expressed good satisfaction ratings with OSH extension relevance to their farms. Overall, the study advocates giving more consideration of the role of extension in promoting agricultural OSH.

Links : <https://dspace.emu.ee/handle/10492/6468>

Tags : Health and decent work

## **Precision Agriculture: Where do We Stand? A Review of the Adoption of Precision Agriculture Technologies on Field Crops Farms in Developed Countries**

Precision agriculture is a management concept, which relies on intensive data collection and data processing for guiding targeted actions that improve the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of agricultural operations. Several studies have assessed the adoption rate of precision agriculture technologies at regional or national scale, but the literature lacks global evaluations of the development of precision agriculture. For this paper, a review of 17 papers was conducted to provide an evaluation of the adoption rate of precision agriculture technologies on field crops farms in developed countries. This review shows a fast development of Global Navigation Satellite System-based technologies (such as guidance system and automatic section control), and yield monitor on combine harvesters, with a rate of adoption ranging from 60 to 80% in 2016. The adoption rate of these technologies is higher for North American farms than for European farms, with an average rate of adoption 17% higher in North America than in Europe. The three technologies closely correlated with variable rate application (soil mapping, variate rate fertilizing, and variable rate seeding) have seen a slower pace of growth, with only a third of the field crops farms of developed countries using automated methods of managing the spatial crop variability and spatial soil variability within a field. Three hypotheses to explain this difference are discussed: successive adoption of technologies, reject of complex technologies and preference for technologies improving working conditions.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40003-021-00539-x>

Tags : Innovation

## **Diversification supports farm income and improved working conditions during agroecological transitions in southern Brazil**

Management of crop diversity for improved agroecosystem functioning can provide economic co-benefits to farmers. Yet, there remain critical gaps in understanding how farm management practices evolve

through agroecological transitions and how agroecological practices affect socioeconomic outcomes such as income and working conditions. We conducted a case study of farms transitioning from conventional tobacco production to diversified agroecological management in a participatory certification network in southern Brazil. We purposively sampled farms along a transition gradient and conducted crop diversity and management surveys and semi-structured, in-depth interviews with household members. Using these data, we assessed indicators of ecological management, income, and working conditions across three transition stages—conventional, transitioning, and agroecological. We found that ecological management indicators increased in magnitude and evenness by transition stage, as transitioning farmers increasingly used practices to support ecological complexity. Agroecological farmers utilized system redesign, a transformative approach to agroecosystem management, rather than efficiency-based or substitution-oriented practices adopted by conventional and transitioning farmers. While farms in transition reported more difficult working conditions and lower incomes, agroecological farmers had similar per capita working hours and improved work quality and occupational safety relative to conventional farmers in the region. On a per capita basis, experienced agroecological farmers earned similar net agricultural incomes and higher net household incomes than conventional farmers, by reducing agricultural expenses and diversifying their markets and livelihoods. Our study is the first to our knowledge to use a transition gradient approach to examine how agroecological transition stage affects both ecological and socioeconomic indicators on farms, providing insights into the processes and pathways by which farmers overcome challenges during transitions. Results highlight the potential for stable profits and improved working conditions on farms following agroecological transitions, within a supportive policy and market context.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-021-00688-x#Tab3>

Tags : Family work, Health and decent work

## Ecological network analysis to link interactions between system components and performances in multispecies livestock farms

Organic farming relies on ecological processes to replace chemical inputs, and organic farmers have developed various strategies, including several forms of diversification, to remain viable. Herein, we hypothesized that diversified organic farming systems can enhance their performance by increasing the level of interactions between system components. We therefore performed an ecological network analysis to characterize both within-farm and farm-environment interactions. Flows were expressed on an annual basis according to the quantity of biomass exchanges multiplied by nitrogen content. Seventeen organic farms were surveyed in French grassland areas, each associating beef cattle with either sheep, pigs, or poultry. The ecological network analysis was then coupled with the assessment of farm economic, environmental, and social performances. A hierarchical clustering on principal components distinguished five groups of farms based on farm and herd size, presence of monogastrics, percentage of crops in the farm area, and system activity indicators. A large farm size, in terms of area or number of workers, can limit the implementation of a homogeneous flow network within the system. A higher level of within-system interactions did not lead to better farm economic, environmental, and social performances. Systems with large monogastric production enterprises were highly dependent on inputs, which led to less homogeneous flow networks and a poor farm nitrogen balance without gaining economic efficiency. Managing a complex system with a dense and complex flow network did not appear to increase farmers' mental workload. To our knowledge, this study is the first to quantify farm-scale interactions using ecological network indicators in temperate livestock farms and to analyze the links between farm performance and operating processes. The ecological network analysis thus potentially provides a common framework for comparing a wide range of livestock farms. Given the variability of multispecies livestock farms, a larger database will be used to extend our conclusions.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-021-00696-x>

Tags : Work organisation

## **Entwined ruralities: Seasonality, simultaneity and precarity among transnational migrant workers in the wild berry industry**

Agrarian industries in rural areas are increasingly relying on seasonal migrant workers, who arrive in transnationally organised settings. This paper focuses on the concept of transnational simultaneity in order to further analyse the dynamics that are sustaining low-wage, seasonal labour migration in transnational social fields. It is suggested that the concepts of seasonal livelihood diversification and biographical simultaneity contribute to explain this process, which is highlighted in relation to the empirical case of Thai wild berry pickers in Sweden. The ability of the workers to co-arrange life in the homeland with work overseas, together with a firmly institutionalised, transnational social network, lay the ground for the Thai-Swedish migration process. It is characterised by high circularity and frequency among the migrant workers, who oscillate on a seasonal basis between multi-sited work places, despite relatively low economic return. It is argued that simultaneity within the transnational social field, which is embedded in seasonal livelihood diversification and prospects of improved futures for their children, lowers the threshold for accepting exploitative work conditions, thus paving the way for precarious migrant work.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S074301672100108X?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S074301672100108X?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Migration

## **‘Ghetto tomatoes’ and ‘taxi drivers’: The exploitation and control of Sub-Saharan African migrant tomato pickers in Puglia, Southern Italy**

This study focuses on the exploitation and control of Sub-Saharan migrants who pick tomatoes in the Capitanata area in the South Italian region of Puglia. Large-scale organised distribution puts pressure on the growers to seek cheap agricultural labour, which is currently largely provided by migrants. The historical phenomenon of the caporalato labour contracting system is still widely practised and impacts in particular the Sub-Saharan migrants. Through the application of the concept of differential inclusion, the study focuses on the subordinate layering processes to which the Sub-Saharan migrants are subjected: racialisation, ‘refugeeisation’, criminalisation, deportability and invisibility. The ethnographic case study of the ‘taxi-driver’ sheds light on the difficulty in identifying caporali who have traditionally been blamed for a system that exploits labourers while instead protecting the owners. Recent anti-caporalato laws have been ineffective in contributing to the creation of a more just labour system and have only served to increase the pressure on the Sub-Saharan migrants for whom work is synonymous with survival.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001091?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001091?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

Tags : Migration

## Solutions to youth agripreneurship challenges - Lessons learned from youth agripreneur champions in Uganda

Uganda has a comparatively young population, with over 75 percent of its population below the age of 30. Youth unemployment and underemployment are among the most serious development challenges that the country is facing. In 2017, the unemployment rate stood at 13.3 percent among youth aged 18-30, which is higher compared with the national average unemployment rate of 9.2 percent. The agricultural sector continues to provide livelihoods to many Ugandans, with 41 percent of the population employed in the sector and an additional 33 percent in subsistence agriculture. Most of the youth (69 percent) live in rural areas, and 55 percent of the rural youth are employed in the sector (UBOS, 2018).<sup>1</sup> Agripreneurship is therefore regarded as an approach to addressing the issues of unemployment and underemployment. However, youth seeking to launch agribusinesses still face a number of challenges. The major challenges affecting youth include limited access to land and premises; limited access to financial services; limited knowledge, skills and work experience; and limited access to markets (both input and output markets). Although these challenges may also apply to adults, youth are more likely to face and be susceptible to them. But are those challenges really insurmountable for youth?

Links : <http://www.fao.org/3/cb4704en/cb4704en.pdf>

Tags : Rural Employment, Youth

## Seeing the workers for the trees: exalted and devalued manual labour in the Pacific Northwest craft cider industry

Craft food and beverage makers regularly emphasize transparency about the ethical, sustainable sourcing of their ingredients and the human labour underpinning their production, all of which helps elevate the status of their products and occupational communities. Yet, as with other niche ethical consumption markets, craft industries continue to rely on employment conditions for agricultural workers that reproduce inequalities of race, class, and citizenship in the dominant food system. This paper interrogates the contradiction between the exaltation of craft cidemakers' labour and the devaluation of farmworker labour by assessing how craft beverage actors make sense of inequalities facing manually skilled agricultural workers. Through a focus on the emerging craft cider industry, this paper draws on in-depth interviews and ethnographic data with a range of urban and rural cider actors in the Pacific Northwest (British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington State). I find that actors in the craft cider industry engage with inequalities affecting farmworkers through three main patterns: (1) Justifications of the status quo; (2) Supply chain fog; and (3) Misgiving/critique. By using an analytical framework that integrates critical agrarianism and the politics of sight, this study provides insights into both barriers and opportunities to redistribute social recognition and material rewards across food supply chains.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-021-10226-w>

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration, Value chains

## Trends and Issues Relevant for the US Tree Nut Sector

The United States is the second largest producer of tree nuts worldwide. Commercial tree nuts produced in the United States include almonds, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, and macadamias. California is the sole producer of almonds, walnuts, and pistachios, accounting for 94% of the total U.S. tree nut



production value. Pecans are produced in several states; from largest to lowest, the main commercial producers are New Mexico, Georgia, Texas, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Oregon is the main hazelnut-producing state, while the state of Washington only contributes 1% of total production. Total farm revenue for U.S. tree nut farming has expanded significantly, from \$1.5 billion in 2000 to \$9.5 billion in 2018 (USDA, 2020a). U.S. tree nuts are mainly exported to other countries, but the domestic demand for tree nuts is also steadily growing, supported by their promotion as nutritious and healthy snacks by government programs, marketing boards, and trade associations. However, environmental concerns, water shortage issues, labor shortfall, and trade issues challenge the sustainability of continued expansion in the United States. This article examines trends in tree nut supply, international trade, domestic demand, and current and future potential issues in the U.S. tree nut sector. This study further simulates changes in consumer spending on tree nuts and discusses potential policies to eliminate problems associated with increasing demand and sustainable tree nut supply in the United States.

Links : <http://www.aaea.org/publications/publications-update/trends-and-issues-relevant-for-the-us-tree-nut-sector>

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration

## Temporal fix, hierarchies of work and post-socialist hopes for a better way of life

This paper proposes to rethink the agriculture-migration nexus through the notions of temporal fix and migrant hierarchies. Its empirical setting is the post-socialist migration of Latvians who move to the Channel Island of Guernsey and to Norway, where they take temporary jobs picking crops such as tomatoes and strawberries. I analyse both how agricultural migrants are viewed by others and how they evaluate themselves. The research material comes from long-term ethnographic engagement with Latvian migrants in these two destinations. In both geographical contexts, temporary agricultural work positions migrants at the bottom of the labour hierarchy. Yet, because of their experience of agriculture in the homeland in Soviet and early post-Soviet times, and because being close to nature is part of Latvian cultural identity, such work is viewed as fundamental and positive. Experiences abroad are nevertheless 'shocking' because of the tough work under strict capitalist regulations. Yet the work is endured either as a step to a better job abroad, or as a means of accumulating income for a better life upon return 'home'.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001182?dgcid=rss\\_sd\\_all](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016721001182?dgcid=rss_sd_all)

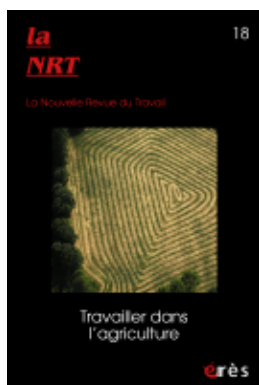
Tags : Migration

## Concevoir le travail, le défi de l'ergonomie

Les éditions Octares publient un nouvel ouvrage, « Concevoir le travail, le défi de l'ergonomie » sous la direction de François Guérin, Valérie Pueyo, Pascal Béguin, Alain Garrigou, François Hubault, Joël Maline, Thierry Morlet. Résumé : Écrit près de trente ans après la parution de Comprendre le travail pour le transformer - la pratique de l'ergonomie, ce livre prend acte de deux évolutions massives qui appelaient à la rédaction d'un nouvel opus : les transformations des modes de production et de travail d'une part, et les évolutions de l'ergonomie elle-même, en particulier l'approfondissement de son programme sur la conception.

Links : <https://ergonomie-self.org/2021/04/22/ouvrage-concevoir-le-travail-le-defi-de-l-ergonomie/>

## Travailler dans l'agriculture



Proposer un Corpus sur « Travailler dans l'agriculture » consiste à rappeler la distance entretenue entre la Sociologie du travail et le travail dans ce secteur économique. Ce numéro de la Nouvelle Revue du Travail accompagne le regain d'intérêt des chercheurs pour cette branche d'activité depuis deux décennies. Il montre la diversité des approches qui portent non seulement sur le travail lui-même, mais sur les trajectoires des travailleurs et des travailleuses, sur la diversité des statuts de leurs emplois, sur la montée des compétences exigées, etc. Ce Corpus traite aussi des transformations des activités agricoles, voire des objectifs assignés aux agriculteurs, qui de près ou de loin, influent sur l'organisation de la production et du travail dans les exploitations, par exemple par une rationalisation croissante de la production ou par une intensification du travail. Par ailleurs, de nouveaux métiers émergent, combinant ou non d'anciennes pratiques, tandis que l'internationalisation des échanges et les mouvements migratoires continuent à modifier les visages de l'agriculture.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/7944>

## Introduction

La présentation de ce Corpus revient sur la distance longtemps entretenue entre la sociologie du travail et l'étude du travail dans l'agriculture. Les travailleurs et travailleuses agricoles font depuis une vingtaine d'années l'objet d'un regain d'intérêt, et ce corpus s'inscrit dans ce renouveau en adoptant une approche centrée sur le travail et l'emploi. Entre transformations des modèles productifs, mutations des statuts d'emploi et changements des organisations de travail, les articles présentés documentent les permanences et évolutions qui traversent les groupes sociaux d'agriculteurs, indépendant·e·s comme salarié·e·s, hommes ou femmes, en France mais aussi à l'étranger.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8072>

## Les chefs de culture : entre « têtes de pont » et « têtes àignons »

Cet article a pour objectif de rendre compte des nouvelles formes d'organisation et de conditions de travail dans le secteur agricole. À travers l'étude du groupe professionnel des chefs de cultures dans les firmes agricoles, nous analysons en quoi l'affranchissement par la firme des dispositifs de mise en marché portés par les organisations professionnelles agricoles et la conquête de nouveaux marchés fragilisent le groupe professionnel, qu'on peut pourtant considérer comme un stable parmi les salariés agricoles. À la fois par une logique d'intégration des métiers chargés de mettre en œuvre la commercialisation et le conditionnement, qui redéfinit le territoire professionnel des chefs de cultures ; et par une logique de gestionnarisation de l'entreprise agricole qui les éloigne du travail technique de la plante qu'ils considèrent être le cœur de leur métier.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8428>

Tags : Hired work, HRM

## Les travailleurs détachés dans l'agriculture provençale

Cet article s'intéresse au travail détaché dans le secteur de l'agriculture intensive. Il aborde le cas de la main-d'œuvre latino-américaine mise à disposition des maraichers et des arboriculteurs provençaux par des agences d'intérim espagnoles. À travers ce cas d'étude, l'article analyse le fonctionnement du détachement au quotidien, les stratégies de contrôle de la mobilité et d'abaissement du coût de travail basées sur la flexibilité, la disponibilité temporelle et l'externalisation des risques que rend possible la prestation de services internationale. Nous y montrons enfin comment le détachement a engendré d'autres formes de mobilité, qui ont donné naissance à une communauté latino-américaine sur place et accentué ainsi encore un peu plus la segmentation ethnique et statutaire du marché du travail agricole provençal.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8378>

Tags : Gender, Hired work, Migration, Health and decent work

## « Travailler pour soi ? » Les petits exploitants en Ukraine post-socialiste

À partir d'une étude de cas en Ukraine, cet article explore les conditions économiques et sociales qui rendent possibles une conversion vers un travail indépendant agricole les jeunes hommes de classes populaires. De fait, la valorisation du « travail pour soi » découle non pas d'un esprit d'entreprise libéré par les réformes foncières postsocialistes, mais plutôt au regard de la détérioration des conditions de travail des salariés après la crise financière de 2008. Elle cache de nouvelles dépendances aux prix des marchés et aux petites ressources non agricoles qui rendent cette autonomie ressentie fragile. Elle suppose également l'invisibilisation du travail des femmes sur les exploitations.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8340>

Tags : Gender, Hired work

## L'énergiculteur, figure de la diversification en agriculture

La production d'énergie renouvelable par des agriculteurs s'accompagne de transformations importantes des organisations productives et du travail. A partir de l'analyse de trois cas situés dans le grand Ouest français, cet article présente tout d'abord les modalités et les logiques d'engagement des agriculteurs dans des projets de méthanisation associant également des industries agro-alimentaires, des coopératives, des organisations professionnelles et des collectivités locales. Il décrit ensuite les organisations collectives qui donnent forme à ces projets, ainsi que l'organisation du travail qui y est associée. Il identifie enfin les propriétés sociales de ces agriculteurs, positionnés sur des multiples scènes sociales.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8299>

Tags : Work organisation

## Le suicide d'un éleveur bio. Quand le travail perd de son sens

Contrairement aux suicides de salariés, le travail n'est pas systématiquement pris en compte pour comprendre la propension plus élevée des indépendants à se suicider. Nous montrons dans cet article que

les morts volontaires se rencontrent avec une acuité particulière chez des agriculteurs fortement engagés dans leur travail, ayant développé un rapport passionné à leur métier. L'indépendance statutaire et l'autonomie dans le travail jouent un rôle clé dans le maintien de l'investissement dans le travail des agriculteurs. Lorsque cette indépendance est menacée, ces derniers perdent le sens des investissements consentis, enclenchant une « crise suicidaire », à l'issue parfois tragique.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8184>

Tags : Health and decent work

## Des repreneuses d'exception ? Le rôle des parcours scolaires

L'examen des trajectoires socioprofessionnelles de six héritières de l'agriculture, à la fois intéressées à la reprise et encouragées à la poursuite d'études, montre que la fréquentation de système d'enseignement professionnel et général, en soutenant des déplacements sociaux vers le haut de la hiérarchie agricole, ouvre la voie à une réévaluation des places que souhaitent occuper ces femmes sur les exploitations familiales. Parce qu'elles les dotent de ressources culturelles et entrepreneuriales adaptées au fonctionnement contemporain de l'entreprise agricole (autonomie, esprit d'initiative, épanouissement personnel au travail), les institutions scolaires font de ces repreneuses des cheffes d'exploitation exemplaires de l'agriculture d'élite et des mutations des rapports de genre en agriculture.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8118>

Tags : Gender, Skills and training

## Travailler en circuits courts : des exploitations sous tensions

À rebours d'une vision unifiée des exploitations pratiquant les circuits courts, cet article mobilise une sociologie des activités entrepreneuriales pour interroger la façon dont les tensions entre les tâches productives et commerciales y sont arbitrées en pratique. Le traitement statistique du recensement agricole de 2010 combiné à une enquête ethnographique menée durant sept ans auprès de 14 exploitations montre trois types d'exploitations : les exploitations intermittentes au sein desquelles s'organise une division conjugale des tâches, les exploitations spécialisées qui, très impliquées dans les circuits courts, reposent sur une faible division du travail et les exploitations diversifiées caractérisées par une délégation partielle des compétences commerciales.

Links : <https://journals.openedition.org/nrt/8240#bodyftn10>

Tags : Work organisation, Value chains

## Smallholder farmer perceptions about the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and livelihoods in Senegal

### CONTEXT

The global COVID-19 pandemic has produced a variety of unanticipated shocks to farming and socio-economic systems around the world. In case of Senegal, the country was already facing number of challenges at the inception of the pandemic, including high rates of poverty, prevalence of food

insecurity, combined with other biophysical and socioeconomic challenges faced generally in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### OBJECTIVE

To understand farmer perceptions of the potential impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural systems and social well-being of smallholder farmers in Senegal. Particular attention was given to potential vulnerabilities and resilience in the targeted farming systems.

#### METHODS

A survey was developed to better understand smallholder farmer perceptions regarding the anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on their agriculture practices and social well-being. The survey was administered (between June 5 and June 20) with smallholder farmers (n = 872) in 14 regions covering all agroecological zones. Variables of interest included perceptions of potential impact on farming systems, agricultural productivity, communities, economics, markets, labor, gendered division of labor, food security, and community well-being.

#### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Across the three farming systems examined (cropping, livestock, and horticulture) significant majorities expressed concerns related to access to inputs, ability to plant (cropping, horticulture), reduction of yields (cropping, horticulture), ability to feed livestock, ability to sell livestock, and the ability to hire labor (horticulture). The majority of respondents also expressed concern that COVID-19 would make it more difficult to get enough food on a regular basis for their household (82.5%); that the markets where they purchase food will either be closed or significantly disrupted (79.5%); that the price of food would increase (73.5%); and the market where they sell their produce/livestock will be either closed or significantly disrupted (73.2%).

#### SIGNIFICANCE

Anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture will be felt on both the biophysical aspects such as production and access to inputs and socioeconomic aspects such as access to labor, markets, or rapid shifts in demand. Results support the need to use farming systems approach to gather perceived and actual impacts of COVID-19 and warrants a more in-depth examination of agronomic and biophysical issues as well as the impact on the livelihoods and social well-being of families at community and household levels. Further examination will help identify the characteristics that strengthen smallholder farming systems resilience to adjust to anticipated and unanticipated shocks, such as COVID-19, to decrease the negative impacts and increase the rate of recovery.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000615?dgcid=raven\\_sd\\_via\\_email](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000615?dgcid=raven_sd_via_email)

Tags : Rural Employment

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on apple orchards in Europe

#### CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has affected global agricultural chains and intensified the issue of food insecurity worldwide.

#### OBJECTIVE

We propose a short retrospective of the reported effects of the COVID-19 pandemic from its beginning in March 2020 in Europe, on orchard management and harvest, sales and agricultural chains, monitoring and research in orchards, and we expose some of the solutions undertaken to tackle down these issues.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

In Europe, the fruit and vegetable sector has been affected by the pandemic in terms of production, distribution, and disturbance in market performance. Concerning apple, the most harvested and exported fruit in Europe, national governments, European institutions, the industry and producers have undertaken actions to ensure production and supply demand. Yet, stakeholders have faced several difficulties and additional costs for growth and harvest, sales, but also monitoring and research. However, European Union demand for fresh apples has increased during the pandemic. In addition, apple harvest has started a couple of months after the end of the first lockdown in most countries, and European apple orchards are usually in more flexible smallholder or family farms. Finally, the fruit itself has relatively long shelf-life comparatively to other fruits. For these main reasons, we argue that the apple sector might be more resilient than other fruit sectors or other cultures, despite the negative effects of seasonal workforce shortage and unstable market. The apple sector may suffer more from side-effects such as increasing labor, distribution, and packaging costs, than from actual stock and production issues.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The pandemic could be an opportunity to reconsider production modes and to innovate for the future of food production in different crop systems in Europe, including apple orchards.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000500?dgcid=raven\\_sd\\_via\\_email](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000500?dgcid=raven_sd_via_email)

Tags : Rural Employment, Value chains

# Resilience of French organic dairy cattle farms and supply chains to the Covid-19 pandemic

## Context

Identifying and developing resilient farming and food systems has emerged as a top priority during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many academics suggest that farming and food systems should move towards agroecological models to achieve better resilience. However, there was limited evidence to support this statement during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Objective

Our objectives were to report evidence for the resilience of French organic dairy cattle farms and supply chains to the Covid-19 pandemic and to discuss the features of those farms and supply chains that promoted resilience.

## Methods

We combined online surveys with farmers, semi-structured interviews with supply chain actors and a review of the gray and technical literature, and whenever possible, we compared this qualitative data against quantitative industry data. We also asked farmers to rank 19 pre-identified risks according to their likelihood and potential impacts.

## Results and conclusions

We showed the pandemic had zero to moderate impacts on most farms. Among respondents, 38 farmers reported no impacts, another 43 experienced minor impacts on aspects such as their income and workload while only 5 faced major impacts, such as the closure of sales outlets. Most farms were family farms and were not greatly affected by worker availability issues. Moreover, the vast majority of these farms were nearly autonomous for livestock feeding and none reported input supply shortages or related impacts on farm functioning and productivity. The pandemic had moderate impacts on supply chains. Despite staff

reductions, supply chains continued producing sufficient amounts of dairy products to meet consumer demand. To do so, they narrowed the scope of products manufactured to concentrate on a basic mix: milk, cream, butter and plain yogurt. Logistics were also adapted by hiring retired drivers to keep up with milk collection and reorganizing the delivery of products by shunting usual sub-level platforms that were saturated. Consequently, even after this pandemic, farmers remained more concerned with climate change-related risks on their farms than by sanitary risks. Several resilience factors were identified that promoted buffer and adaptive capacity at the farm level and that favored adaptive capacity at the supply chain level.

#### Significance

These findings confirm the relevance of agroecological models in achieving resilience in farming and food systems against shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic. This preliminary work carried out at the end of the first lock-down period needs to be pursued in order to understand the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic over longer time horizons.

Links : [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000354?dgcid=raven\\_sd\\_via\\_email](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000354?dgcid=raven_sd_via_email)

Tags : Work organisation, Value chains

## The invisible labor and multidimensional impacts of negotiating childcare on farms

Social science inquiries of American agriculture have long recognized the inextricability of farm households and farm businesses. Efforts to train and support farmers, however, often privilege business realm indicators over social issues. Such framings implicitly position households as disconnected from farm stress or farm success. This article argues that systematically tracing the pathways between farm households and farm operations represents a potentially powerful inroad towards identifying effective support interventions. We argue childcare arrangements are an underrecognized challenge through which farm household dynamics directly influence agricultural production. We draw on interviews and focus group data with farmers in the Northeastern United States to understand how farmer-parents access and negotiate childcare. Farmer-parents value raising children on farms, but express reluctance to expect current or future labor from them. Years with young children thus represent an especially vulnerable phase during a farm's trajectory. We identify and analyze social, economic, and cognitive pathways through which childcare impacts farm operations. Social pathways include relationship tensions and gendered on-farm divisions of labor; economic pathways include farm layout and structure; cognitive pathways include how farmers think about and plan for their operations. Explicitly acknowledging such issues can better equip farmer-parents to anticipate and plan for conflicting demands on their time.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-020-10162-1>

Tags : Gender, Family work