



IAWA Newsletter

2025 October

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- Local food-global labour: contradictions and tensions between farmers and migrant farmworkers and possibilities for solidarity in Canada
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- The border pineapple plantation economy: labor and social reproduction in the North of Costa Rica | Agriculture and Human Values
- Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption in Agriculture: A Systematic Review of Factors and Strategies
- Migrant Workers' Irregularity, Precarity, Dignity, and relevant Actors: A critical review of selected literature around key concepts and questions of the DignityFIRM project.

- The distinct drivers of diversification and job quality on BC organic vegetable farms
- Not as hard as it seems? Labor challenges and opportunities for agroecological practices in the United States
- Does the choice of multiple agricultural labour packages influence farm productivity and food (in)-security? Evidence from lowland rice farmers in southern Ghana
- Pesticide Use among Women Working in Horticultural Farms in Tanzania
- Transformations structurelles et emploi dans les chaînes de valeur alimentaire
- New FAO-ILO policy guidance on eliminating child labour in fisheries and aquaculture
- Labor reallocation in the heat: A comprehensive analysis in rural Bangladesh
- Impact of agricultural insurance on labor allocation
- Impact of Rural Wages on Rural Women's Decision Regarding Time Spent on Productive Work, Household Work and Care Work
- Sharing work and food within the household: Intra-couple time allocation effects on nutritional outcomes in rural Telangana, India

News

Tobacco workers unite for stronger global coordination amid growing industry challenges

The post Tobacco workers unite for stronger global coordination amid growing industry challenges appeared first on IUF.

Transformations structurelles et emploi dans les chaînes de valeur alimentaire

Dans un article publié en septembre 2025 dans Nature Food, des chercheurs américains étudient l'impact des transformations économiques structurelles sur l'emploi, tout au long des chaînes de valeur alimentaires, dans différents pays du monde. Les... L'article Transformations structurelles et emploi dans les chaînes de valeur alimentaire est apparu en premier sur Blog de veille du Centre d'études et de prospective.

Compétences numériques des agriculteurs et adoption des nouvelles technologies

Dans un article publié en septembre 2025 dans la revue AgriEngineering, des chercheurs font un état des lieux, au niveau mondial, des compétences des agriculteurs en « littératie numérique » (aptitude à comprendre et utiliser les outils... L'article Compétences numériques des agriculteurs et adoption des nouvelles technologies est apparu en premier sur Blog de veille du Centre d'études et de prospective.

Rural income diversification in Ethiopia: Drivers and welfare impact

Diversification of rural households into the nonfarm economy is a key driver of economic growth and structural transformation in countries where agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood. This study examines trends and patterns of income diversification, its determinants, and its association with household welfare in rural Ethiopia. Our analysis indicates that rural households in [...]

From participation to power: Advancing women's leadership in rural development

The International Day of Rural Women (October 15) highlights the essential roles that rural women play in sustaining households, managing natural resources, and contributing to rural economies. Yet even as they participate extensively in agriculture and local organizations, women's ability to influence the policies and institutions that shape their lives often remains limited.



Cinq éleveurs laitiers des Hauts-de-France révèlent leurs solutions pour travailler plus sereinement

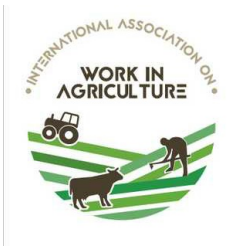
Les éleveurs du réseau Inosys bovins lait des Hauts-de-France expriment en 2025 être satisfaits de leurs conditions de travail à 3,6/5 grâce aux solutions qu'ils ont mis en place. Ils en témoignent : S'équiper ? Déléguer ? Simplifier ? À chacun ses solutions suivant ses objectifs !



Simplification, mal-être... La MSA, « amortisseur de crise »

Simplification, mal-être... La MSA, « amortisseur de crise » En pleine négociation de sa future Convention d'objectifs et de gestion avec l'Etat, la MSA défend le bilan de ses cinq dernières années, et réaffirme les spécificités du régime, au service d'un monde agricole en proie à des difficultés conjoncturelles et structurelles.

Congress



Webinaire - Conditions de travail et mobilité des migrants dans le secteur agricole et alimentaire, dans divers pays

Traditionnellement, les travailleurs migrants, en particulier ceux en situation irrégulière, sont confrontés à plusieurs obstacles pour obtenir des emplois agricoles décents dans les pays où ils s'installent. On observe actuellement une montée des tensions concernant le statut des travailleurs migrants dans les secteurs agricole et alimentaire en raison de l'émergence, dans les pays d'accueil, de politiques favorisant le protectionnisme ...



VI Congreso Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Ciencias Sociales de la FLACSO

"Pensar el futuro. Transformaciones sociales en América Latina y el Caribe". El evento más importante de las Ciencias Sociales en 2025 reúne durante tres días en Buenos Aires a referentes nacionales e internacionales. La agenda incluye conferencias magistrales, paneles, mesas temáticas, presentaciones de libros, entrevistas y simposios.



Webinaire : Amélioration du bien-être animal en élevage de porcs : quelles répercussions sur le travail des éleveurs ?

Dans les élevages de porcs, l'amélioration du bien-être des animaux amène à revoir les installations et les pratiques. Quel est l'impact sur le travail des éleveurs, en termes de temps, de pénibilité, de charge mentale et d'épanouissement ? Camille Gérard et Nicolas Villain, de la Chambre d'agriculture de Bretagne, nous présentent les résultats issus de leurs études en élevage, en s'appuyant sur différents cas concrets : les maternités et la verraterie liberté, l'arrêt de la caudectomie et la sociabilisation des porcelets en maternité.

CGIAR International Gender Conference 2025

The International Gender Conference themed "Accelerating Equality in Food, Land, and Water Systems: Driving solutions through Evidence and Learning" brings together researchers from various organizations and knowledge users policymakers, practitioners, private sector actors, local and indigenous communities and others who work toward creating innovations and generating evidence to transform food systems. The conference will be ...

Call for Papers

16th World Congress of Rural Sociology and 64th Congress of the Brazilian Society of Rural Economics, Management and Sociology

October 1 to December 18, 2025 Submission of ABSTRACTS to the working groups from the World Congress of Rural Sociology - IRSA January 15 to March 15, 2026 Submission of proposals for self-organized sections for both congresses January 19 to March 31, 2026 Submission of FULL PAPERS and EXPANDED ABSTRACTS for the working groups of the Congress of the Brazilian Society of Rural Economics, Management and Sociology - SOBER



EALE TOUR 2026 - Call for Papers - Deadline is 30 October 2025

EALE TOUR 2026 - Call for Papers - Deadline is 30 October 2025 The EALE Tour is an initiative by the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) to promote research by young scholars graduating from European Institutions. The EALE invites applications from job market candidates who work in the broad field of labour economics and will participate in the academic job market for economists 2025. The Executive Committee ...

Publications

Revisiting the concept of 'decent work' for agriculture

While the topic of work in agriculture is gaining more interest from researchers, reflected in increasing scholarly publications, there has been little engagement with the ILO concept of decent work (DW). Yet DW has gained increased prominence due to its inclusion in the UN SDGs, attracting media attention and political discussion, and influencing current and new policies. Moreover, agriculture is a highly hazardous industry which, in many countries, is currently facing different changes and challenges, such as new technologies, climate ...

Are Swiss farmers overworked? Evidence from a labour requirement calculation model

Abstract: This study focuses on workload as a sustainability indicator comparing the modelled demand for labour-based on a farm's production portfolio-with the deployed labour resources on the farm, according to self-declared statistics. It uses a sample of 700 farms that provide detailed bookkeeping data. The descriptive analysis indicates that 10 % of the sample are underworked, whereas 34 % are clearly overworked, with a labour deficit exceeding 20 %. The econometric analysis shows that diversified farms and those focusing on husbandry ...

Ecologization and transformation of work at the meso and micro levels of transition: findings from two territorial food projects in France

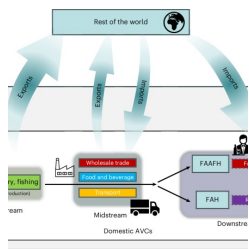
This article analyses the links between the ecologization of food systems and transformations of work in two Territorial Food Projects in France. Three case studies are explored, based on a reflective analysis conducted by the researchers: the governance of a Territorial Food Project; the management of a sustainable food offer in mass catering; and the project to replace plastic containers in a central kitchen. For each case, an ergonomics-based iterative methodology was used, drawing on observations, semi-structured interviews, working groups, and reflective workshops. The results reveal how workers act as essential mediators between the macro level (the Territorial Food Project and related laws), the meso level (collective action in local projects) and the micro level (the activity of actors in the food system).

Migrants, farmers and farmworkers and the politics of land and labour: an introduction to the symposium

In this article, framing and introducing the Special Issue on 'Migrants, Farmers and Farmworkers', we argue that the interaction between structural, institutional and political dynamics shapes the character and trajectory of social relations among migrants, farmers and farmworkers, which in turn influence or could influence the character and trajectory of broader struggles within and against capitalism, and the building of systemic alternatives. This collection looks into the specific entanglement of migrants, farmers and farmworkers in the context of this broader political process. The current phase of global capitalism has resulted in the fragmentation of the working class and the peasantry. This has resulted in a complex chain of hollowed-out rural villages interspersed with layers of different categories of migrant labour that are telecoupled in rural-rural/rural-urban (cross-border) migration corridors. In this introduction, we tease out theoretical, methodological and political implications highlighted by the 14 papers in the collection, individually and collectively, and identify some future research and public action agendas.

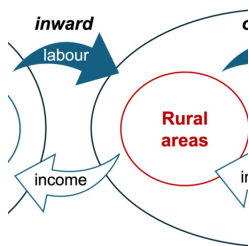
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN TWO SPANISH REGIONS WITH INTENSIVE USE OF FOREIGN LABOUR FORCE: A CASE STUDY OF ALMERIA AND MURCIA

Almeria and Murcia are regions that represent a tiny part of Spain in terms of area and population, but they account for a significant share of the national production and export of vegetables, supplying a large part of the EU Member States. As production and exports have grown, so has the demand for labour, and an increasing proportion of this demand has been met by immigrants. Thus, Murcia and Almería became Spain's major centres of immigrant-based agriculture, where intensive production resembles an industrial process. The aim of this ...



Agrifood value chain employment and compensation shift with structural transformation | Nature Food

The traditional structural transformation narrative emphasizes intersectoral labour reallocation out of agriculture. This study presents ten stylized facts about how employment and compensation evolve within agrifood value chains amid structural transformation, offering insights into post-farmgate dynamics and gender pay inequality.



Migrant labour flows and interconnected agrarian transformations in Southern China

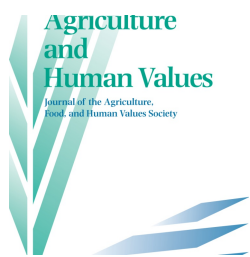
While contemporary debates about agrarian transformations that include topics like the persistence of family farms, agrarian capital accumulation, and simple reproduction squeeze remain vibrant, discussions about the increasingly significant role of migrant wage labour, which further complicates these processes, remain limited. In this paper, we argue that the process of capitalist accumulation in some sections of the agrarian and food system sectors in southern China is able to proceed despite recurring pressures — especially labour shortages in the rural economy caused by domestic rural-urban migration — because of the availability of migrant workers from neighbouring countries such as Myanmar. This development dynamic can be better understood through the lens of interrelated connections between land and labour and production and social reproduction across China and Myanmar. We highlighted the role of two land-related labour flows in the agrarian transformation in southern China-Myanmar regions. We argue that various social classes and groups across China and Myanmar are tied to land, wage work and capital accumulation and, in turn, their productive and social reproductive tasks are directly and indirectly linked to one another. If we are to understand agrarian transformation in settings like this, then methodologically, we will have to adopt an interconnected approach in order to bring the pieces of the puzzle together.

DYNAMICS OF THE AREAS, PRODUCTION, IMPORT AND EXPORT IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SECTORS AND LABOUR RESOURCES IN BULGARIA'S AGRICULTURE - TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE "FARM TO FORK" STRATEGY

Published in Scientific Papers. Series

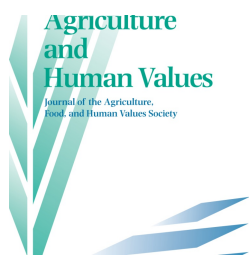
PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN ROMANIA: A QUALITATIVE APPROACH

Published in Scientific Papers. Series



Rethinking exploitation and control in migrant labour regimes: The case of Filipino workers in a Malaysian oil palm plantation

The expansion of oil palm farming in Southeast Asia has been premised on the mobilisation of both internal and transborder migrant labour. This paper exami



Local food-global labour: contradictions and tensions between farmers and migrant farmworkers and possibilities for solidarity in Canada

The logic of the corporate food regime requires a system of labour based on migration. Free trade agreements have entrenched a drive for ever-expanding exp

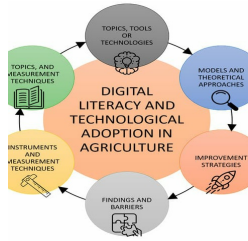


Re-Examining the Narrative of Structural Transformation: Insights from India's Development Experience

The narrative of structural transformation, based on the experience of global North, posits that the process of development involves gradual 'modernisation' of the overall structure of the economy, where the traditional/low-productivity sectors give way to and support the modern/high-productivity sectors. However, much of the global South has not been able to experience this process along the anticipated lines, as a significant proportion of their workforce is still engaged in the low-productivity agriculture and non-agriculture informal sectors for their livelihood. We highlight that the dominant narrative does not take into account the importance of specific historical conditions, particularly the role of colonialism, that facilitated the process of structural transformation in the global North. The altered structural conditions in the post-colonial era, both at global and domestic level, question the possibilities of a similar process unfolding in the global South. In this regard, we analyse India's development experience, both at macro and micro level, focusing on two villages of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, surveyed in 1994 and later in 2018. We illustrate that the process of labour and employment transition across sectors is highly complex and heterogeneous. Rather than being driven solely by productivity growth, the nature and direction of these changes are characterised by economic distress. We argue that the prevailing narrative, which presents a linear understanding focused on productivity differentials across sectors, is inadequate to understand the nature of this transition in the South. Instead, the process needs to be understood in the particular socio-economic and ecological context specific to a given space and time.

The border pineapple plantation economy: labor and social reproduction in the North of Costa Rica | Agriculture and Human Values

Costa Rica is the largest exporter of fresh pineapple in the world, with more than half of its production located in the border region with Nicaragua. Based on ethnographic research carried out in two Costa Rican communities located near the border, this article presents two main arguments: (1) that the border, and the way in which it produces a vulnerable and exploitable labor force, has been crucial for Costa Rica's rise as ...



Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption in Agriculture: A Systematic Review of Factors and Strategies

This systematic review analyzed a total of 109 scientific articles with the aim of identifying, organizing, and synthesizing academic output related to digital literacy, technology adoption in agricultural sectors, digital skills, and socioeconomic and cultural factors that influence the implementation of emerging technologies. Peer-reviewed academic publications available in open access and written in English were reviewed, complying ...

Migrant Workers' Irregularity, Precarity, Dignity, and relevant Actors: A critical review of selected literature around key concepts and questions of the DignityFIRM project.

The aim of this state-of-the-art report is to provide a (common) conceptual starting point and basis for the empirical research to be carried out within work packages four and five (WP4 & WP5) of the DignityFIRM project, on the conditions of "irregular migrant workers" (IMWs) employed in Farm to Fork Sectors and along the Food Production Chain. It is based on a selective review of existing literature related to four key elements that are defined in the project proposal: First of all, it discusses (1) IRREGULARITY in relation to (a) ...

The distinct drivers of diversification and job quality on BC organic vegetable farms

Agroecological diversification and job quality are key components of a nature- and people-centered approach to sustainable food production. Organic agriculture is often associated with both ecological health and social justice, but research has shown that organic certification doesn't guarantee more diversified or fair labour outcomes. To better understand the drivers of and interactions between agroecological diversification and job quality in organic agriculture, we conducted a survey of on-farm practices and approaches (how farmers ...

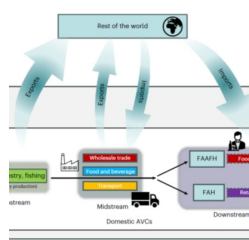
Not as hard as it seems? Labor challenges and opportunities for agroecological practices in the United States

Agroecology has been promoted as an alternative to industrial agriculture for many reasons, including the social and environmental benefits associated with agroecological practices. Yet, agroecological practices are commonly characterized as requiring more labor than non-agroecological, capital-intensive farm management. The anticipated high labor requirements of agroecological practices raise major questions about agroecological transitions in fruit and vegetable production in the United States, where political-economic pressures have ...

Does the choice of multiple agricultural labour packages influence farm productivity and food (in)-security? Evidence from lowland rice farmers in southern Ghana

Source:LAND USE POLICY158 (),,16 DOI:10.1016/j.landusepol.2025.107737Abstract:Attaining targets under the sustainable development goal (SDG) - 2 of no hunger by 2030 appears imminent. To deliver on the SDG -2, the government of Ghana recently introduced the feed Ghana programme (FGP). Labour is important in production. However, the discourse on the interplay between multiple agricultural labour packages and its intersection with land in the production of food crops, especially rice, remains peripheral in the policy- practice arena and ...

Pesticide Use among Women Working in Horticultural Farms in Tanzania



Transformations structurelles et emploi dans les chaînes de valeur alimentaire

Dans un article publié en septembre 2025 dans Nature Food, des chercheurs américains étudient l'impact des transformations économiques structurelles sur l'emploi, tout au long des chaînes de valeur alimentaires, dans différents pays du monde. Les



New FAO-ILO policy guidance on eliminating child labour in fisheries and aquaculture

The post New FAO-ILO policy guidance on eliminating child labour in fisheries and aquaculture appeared first on IUFL.

Labor reallocation in the heat: A comprehensive analysis in rural Bangladesh

Abstract:This paper examines the impact of extreme heat on the sectoral reallocation of working-age adult male labor in rural Bangladesh using a three-period panel on individual employment. It shows that high temperatures prompt a labor shift from the non-agricultural to agricultural sectors, primarily into agricultural wage jobs. Variations in employment choices in the agricultural sector depend on household land ownership. Individuals in households with more land tend to engage in crop cultivation, whereas individuals in households with ...

Impact of agricultural insurance on labor allocation

Source:CHINA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC REVIEW (),,18 DOI:10.1108/CAER-12-2024-0460Abstract:PurposeAgricultural insurance is an effective tool for agricultural risk management, which changes household production decisions by reducing the cost of risk-taking for agricultural operators. However, few studies have examined its impact on rural labor. This study examines the causal effect of agricultural insurance on the allocation of rural household labor and its potential mechanisms.Design/methodology/approachThis study utilizes a two-way fixed ...

Impact of Rural Wages on Rural Women's Decision Regarding Time Spent on Productive Work, Household Work and Care Work

Source:INDIAN JOURNAL OF LABOUR ECONOMICS (),,26 DOI:10.1007/s41027-025-00584-yAbstract:Recent employment data from India displays significant hikes in female labour force participation (FLFP) rates since 2017-18, departing from the decades-long phenomena of persistently declining and stagnating FLFP. Declines observed in FLFP in India in the past, as elsewhere in South Asia, have been flagged as a concern, being a marker of lost opportunities to raise economic growth and well-being for women. The role of wages in explaining the low pa...

Sharing work and food within the household: Intra-couple time allocation effects on nutritional outcomes in rural Telangana, India

Source:FEMINIST ECONOMICS (),,37 DOI:10.1080/13545701.2025.2548289Abstract:In the context of the ongoing rural transformation in many countries, women's opportunities for economic participation are expanding. However, there is limited understanding of how policy interventions can support rural households to adapt to the increasing opportunity cost of women's time in household activities. This article presents empirical evidence on the relationship between couple interdependencies in time use and nutritional outcomes in rural Telangana, ...