

Congress and Publications

2019/06-02

Realized by Priscila Malanski at 09/07/2019

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Congress

9th European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming

Event Time - 26 August 2019 - 29 August 2019

Venue Teagasc Moorepark & University College Cork

Links: https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/9th-european-conference-o.php

Farm Safety to be highlighted at Teagasc Crops and Dairy Open Days

Teagasc will hold farm safety demonstrations at its two upcoming major events: Crops and Spreaders Open Day at Oak Park, Carlow on Wednesday, 26th June and at Moorepark '19 - the Teagasc National Dairy Open Day on Wednesday July 3rd July.

The safety demonstrations take place against the background of increased farm deaths so far in 2019. This year, 10 farm deaths have occurred to-date (provisional H.S.A figure, 24th June) compared to 16 in 2018, including 1 timber related fatality. A Teagasc National Farm Survey (NFS) in 2018 has also shown that levels of serious non-fatal farm accidents causing injury are also rising with an increase of 13% compared to a previous survey in 2012.

Links: https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/news/2019/farm-safety-to-be-highlig.php

Tags: Health and decent work

Publications

Characteristics of "work in agriculture" scientific communities. A bibliometric review

Work is a central concern for sustainable farming systems and rural communities, especially regarding specific issues of the agricultural sector, as the strong decrease in rural employment and the less attractive working conditions. Many articles covering diverse related topics have been published. However, the few studies analyzing the state of worldwide scientific research on work in agriculture give only a fragmented view, since they focus on specialized topics and disciplines. To fill this knowledge gap, the aim of this study was to review the state of research on work in agriculture addressed by the scientific literature, through a bibliometric analysis by country, institution, journal, author, and keywords. Our main finds are that (1) work in agriculture issues is divided into six main research domains: occupational health and safety, labor market and rural employment, labor and farm sustainability, work organization, agricultural policy and agrarian changes, and labor and family farms; (2) these research domains are analyzed by five scientific communities: ergonomics, agricultural economics, livestock farming systems, rural sociology, and agricultural policy; (3) the reference authors, most-cited articles, and main journals were identified for each scientific community; (4) USA, France, and China arise as leaders in the scientific landscape. We show for the first time the characteristics of the main scientific communities worldwide

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that have performed the most relevant research related to work in agriculture over the past 10 years. This review provides a benchmark for future research on agricultural work-related topics and encourages collaborations between researchers from different scientific communities for interdisciplinary innovation, which support sustainable working conditions in agriculture.

Links: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-019-0582-2

Recruiting Immigrant Workers: Canada 2019

Canada has not only the largest in terms of numbers, but also the most elaborate and longest-standing skilled labour migration system in the OECD. Largely as a result of many decades of managed labour migration, more than one in five people in Canada is foreign-born, one of the highest shares in the OECD. 60% of Canada's foreign-born population are highly educated, the highest share OECD-wide. The recent introduction of Express Entry, a two-step selection system based on an initial pre-sreening of suitable candidates who enter a pool by Expression of Interest and subsequent selection of the most skilled candidates from the pool, has further enhanced the competitive edge of the selection system relative to other countries. It also ensures that those with the skills to succeed are admitted to Canada in a quick and efficient way. Core to Canada's success is not only the elaborate selection system itself, but also the innovation and infrastructure around it, which ensures constant testing, monitoring and adaptation of its parameters. This includes a comprehensive and constantly improving data infrastructure, coupled with the capacity to analyse it, and swift policy reaction to new evidence and emerging challenges.

Links: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/recruiting-immigrant-workers-canada-2019 4abab00d-en

Tags: Migration

Territorial dynamics and social differentiation among peasants in the northern highlands of Ecuador

This article addresses the process of social differentiation among peasants who were beneficiaries of the 1960s agrarian reform in the northern highlands of Ecuador. Although peasants obtained access to land that was previously in the hands of the haciendas, the incipient process of social differentiation that arose at that time was not halted. Today, peasants are incorporated into a commercial dynamic through milk production for agribusiness that has deepened the process of social differentiation between communities and within them. The supremacy of economic capital in the social field leads to a crisis in the traditional practices of reciprocity and to the incorporation of productive strategies and new "habitus" of consumption that have generated profound transformations in the territory.

Links: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/joac.12322

Migrant farmworker injury: temporality, statistical representation, eventfulness

This article considers ethnographic field research in order to analyze the violence and exploitation inherent to our transnational agro-food system and the ways in which temporality and statistics may aid in making visible and invisible certain experiences of migrant farmworker injury as well as individual and

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collective actions for wellbeing. Based in long-term, in-depth ethnographic research, this article utilizes theories of temporality and events in order to highlight social and health inequalities in agricultural labor and encourage agricultural, food and health scholars to consider critically the effects of our methods. Juxtaposing the injury and health care experiences of one Mexican migrant farmworker with statistics on the health and health care of migrant and seasonal farmworkers more generally, the article confronts both the normalization of migrant farmworker injury and the taken-for-granted helpfulness of quantitative and qualitative research alike. In addition, the argument acknowledges the everyday, individual practices and collective actions migrant farmworkers engage into demand and build wellbeing for themselves, their families and beyond.

Links: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-019-09965-8

Tags: Migration, Health and decent work

Women's empowerment and gender equity in agriculture: A different perspective from Southeast Asia

Women's empowerment is considered a 'prerequisite' to achieving global food security. Gender systems, however, are diverse and complex. The nature and extent of gender inequity and the conditions necessary to empower women vary across countries, communities and regions. The study of different gender systems is thus fundamental to capture cross-cultural variations in gender specific needs and constraints to effectively address gender gaps. Although the status of women in agriculture has received extensive attention in the literature in recent decades, a research gap persists regarding the state of gender inequity in Southeast Asian agriculture. The current paper contributes to the geographical scope of the literature by presenting empirical evidence of gender inequity from four Southeast Asian countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. Using the framework recommended by the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), 37 focus group discussions were conducted with 290 women farmers in the above mentioned countries. The results reveal trends that contradict the conventional narratives of gender inequity in agriculture in certain domains of empowerment. In all four countries, women appear to have equal access to productive resources such as land and inputs, and greater control over household income than men. Important intra-regional heterogeneity is observed in terms of community-level empowerment. While women play an active role in agricultural groups in Thailand and in the Philippines, this is predominantly men's territory in Indonesia and Myanmar. These findings imply that country-specific gender intervention frameworks are necessary to overcome gender gaps in agriculture.

Links: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919217303688

Tags: Gender

Agricultural production mode transformation and production efficiency: A labor division and cooperation lens

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the impact of farmers' agricultural production mode transformation, from the perspective of agricultural division of labor and cooperation, on their agricultural production efficiency including technical efficiency, pure technical efficiency and scale efficiency.

Design/methodology/approach

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This paper analyzes the impact of the agricultural production mode's transformation on farmers' agricultural production efficiency, based on the classical theory of division of labor and specialization, transaction costs and cooperation. It uses 2013 survey data from 396 farms in 15 Chinese provinces to explore the contributing factors of agricultural production efficiency using a double selection model (DSM), which can correct the endogenous selection bias in farmers' decisions.

Findings

Farmers that participate in agricultural division of labor and cooperation means transform their agricultural production from a traditional self-sufficient mode to one that is specialized and intensive. Agricultural division of labor measured by farmers' participation in an agricultural division of labor in the production stages, or in agricultural products, and agricultural cooperation measured by farmers' participation in farmers' cooperatives significantly and positively influence their agricultural production efficiency after correcting farmers' endogenous selection bias.

Originality/value

This paper proposes a unified framework to analyze the impact of farmers' agricultural production mode transformation on their production efficiency. Further, it builds a DSM for an empirical analysis to avoid the endogenous biases in farmers' self-selection behavior. This paper also provides ways for policy makers to improve farmers' agricultural production efficiency from the modern agricultural production perspective.

Links: https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/CAER-07-2017-0129/full/html

Using chiles and comics to address the physical and emotional wellbeing of farmworkers in Vermont's borderlands

In Vermont, approximately 1000-1200 migrant workers from Latin America are helping to sustain the state's dairy industry. These dairy workers, the majority of whom are from Mexico and Guatemala, experience significant mental health impacts stemming from a combination of stressors due to leaving their home of origin and challenges related to working in rural Vermont. This article employs a framework of structural violence and structural vulnerability to situate the lived experiences and health concerns of migrant farmworkers in Vermont's dairy industry. It presents two case studies of applied projects that have been utilized to address these health concerns, a gardening project called Huertas that addresses issues of food insecurity and barriers in access to fresh and culturally familiar produce, and a participatory comics project called El Viaje Más Caro that aims to address mental health concerns through engaged storytelling and comics production. The authors of this article have designed and carried out these projects with the goal of interrupting the forms of structural violence and structural vulnerability that negatively impact the wellbeing of farmworkers in the state's dairy industry. This article describes the successes and limitations of these projects with the hope they can be adapted and replicated for other farmworker communities facing similar health barriers.

Links: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-019-09960-z

Tags: Migration, Health and decent work