



What's up on work in agriculture?

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Technology and the future of work in emerging economies

Technological developments are likely to bring many new opportunities, which may be even larger in emerging economies and may allow them to “leapfrog” certain stages of development. Notwithstanding these opportunities, emerging economies face significant challenges associated with rapid technological progress. Many of these challenges are the same as in advanced economies, but differences in starting conditions may result in a greater threat for the emerging world. This study explores the benefits and risks brought by this new technological wave from the perspective of thirteen key emerging economies: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey. In particular, it examines: the risk of automation; whether labour markets are polarising; and the potential benefits (but also challenges) of the platform economy.

Links : https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/technology-and-the-future-of-work-in-emerging-economies_55354f8f-en

Tags : Innovation

The faces of empowerment - Photo Essay about the beneficiaries of the Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment

This photo essay describes the different types of changes in the life of women that are participating in the JP RWEE: social inclusion, gender roles and women's rights, adaptation to climate change, sustainable livelihoods, ICTs and innovation, and women's leadership.

Links : <https://www.ifad.org/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41631639>

Tags : Gender

ILO to launch new report on global employment and social trends

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO), will be launched by the ILO's Director-General, Guy Ryder, on Monday 20 January. The WESO analyses key labour market issues, including unemployment, under-employment, labour underutilization, working poverty, pay inequality, and factors that exclude people from the world of work. It includes some new projections, as well as revised estimates of the share of labour income going to the world's workforce.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_734180/lang-en/index.htm

Why we need a human-centred future of work

People need to be at the heart of future of work policies, says the International Labour Organization - the UN agency for the world of work.

Mention the future of work and very quickly questions start to come up: will robots steal our jobs? Will my boss be an algorithm?

The world of work is undergoing transformative change, fuelled by technological innovation, demographics, climate change, and globalisation.

These disruptions, unprecedented in their pace and their scale, raise fundamental questions about the very nature and future of work and, by extension, the place and dignity of people in it. Not surprisingly, there is great uncertainty. People are questioning the capacity of our institutions and our policies to provide them with a future where they can feel secure.

While there is no doubt some jobs will be lost through these changes, there is also a huge potential to create decent work - for example, in the care sector or the green economy. But, at the moment, these are just possibilities. It is up to us to turn them into reality, to shape a future that delivers economic security, equal opportunity and social justice for all people. For example, technology should be used to

alleviate drudgery and reduce dangers at work, not dictate how we work. But it is up to us to make sure that this happens, and that humans control the algorithms, not the other way around.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_735544/lang--en/index.htm

'Invisible livestock' - On the central roles of working horses, donkeys and mules on the smallholder farms that feed the world



According to World Bank data, 80% of the 770 million people living in extreme poverty are located in rural areas and most of them work in agriculture.

The vast majority of the world's farms are small or very small. These small farms produce 80% of the developing world's food, say the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

So it is fair to say that to be poor today is to be a smallholder farmer.

However, something we and our partners in the International Coalition for Working Equids (ICWE) also observe in our work, which is not currently captured in official data, is that to be poor means to rely on working animals—horses, donkeys and mules, which are collectively known as equids. In the words of a member of a rural women's group in Kenya: 'Farming is made possible by donkeys'.

On smallholder farms that feed most of the world's poor, animals are used to plough fields; transport water for crops and other livestock; carry supplies, fertilizers and equipment necessary for agricultural work; and transport produce to and from the market. In India, for instance, two-thirds of the country's cultivated area is ploughed using animal energy.

Working livestock such as horses, donkeys and mules make a significant, yet largely unrecognized, contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Links : <https://news.ilri.org/2020/01/29/invisible-livestock-on-the-central-roles-of-working-horses-donkeys-and-mules-on-the-smallholder-farms-that-feed-the-world/>