



Congress and Publications

2020/08

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Congress

XX ABERGO Virtual 2020

2020 é um ano de grandes desafios. Dada a pandemia da Covid-19 e seu impacto na saúde, economia, e nas formas de socialização, a ABERGO inova em seu XX Congresso Brasileiro de Ergonomia e realiza pela primeira vez um Congresso Virtual.

O ABERGO Virtual será em 2020 um espaço de interlocução que possibilitará a participação de diversos profissionais e acadêmicos em qualquer parte do mundo, aumentando a visibilidade do evento e possibilitando um contexto de debate sobre cenários e desafios na temática aplicada em nosso contexto: Inovação, Sustentabilidade e Interdisciplinaridade na Ergonomia.

Links : <https://www.abergo2020.com.br/>

XXXIII Congreso Internacional: La Sociología en tiempos de crisis e incertidumbre: Práctica social, nuevos paradigmas y procesos de transformación en América Latina y el Caribe

La Presidencia y el Comité Directivo de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología (ALAS) los invita a participar de su XXXIII Congreso Internacional: La Sociología en tiempos de crisis e incertidumbre: Práctica social, nuevos paradigmas y procesos de transformación en América Latina y el Caribe, a realizarse entre el 28 de noviembre al viernes 03 diciembre del 2021 en la Ciudad de Santo Domingo República Dominicana.

Links : <http://sociologia-alas.org/2020/08/18/xxxiii-congreso-internacional-la-sociologia-en-tiempos-de-crisis-e-incertidumbre-practica-social-nuevos-paradigmas-y-procesos-de-transformacion-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

Publications

The effect of input-trade liberalization on farm and non-farm labour participation in rural Vietnam

This study investigates the impact of trade liberalization policy on the farm-nonfarm balance of labour in rural Vietnam. Using data from the detailed "Vietnam Living Standards Surveys", the researchers provide new empirical evidence of the relationship between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. The team finds evidence that the increased use of imported chemical fertilizers - due to trade liberalization - has a direct impact on labour reallocation, including increased participation in agriculture and reduced participation in nonfarm activities. Based on these findings, the team outlines several recommendations for policy to improve productivity and to remain competitive in the international markets, as Vietnam joins the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

Links : <https://www.pep-net.org/effect-input-trade-liberalization-farm-and-non-farm-labour-participation-rural-vietnam>

Tags : Rural Employment, Work organisation

Scale and Drivers of Female Agricultural Labor: Evidence from Pakistan

Agricultural labor is largely informal, particularly for female agricultural labor in developing countries. Despite significant participation in the agricultural labor force in Pakistan, women's contribution is not properly acknowledged and rewarded. The issue is further aggravated by the dearth of literature on gender-labor relations in cropping and livestock activities. Considering this gap in the literature, the current study was conducted with the specific objective of exploring the labor composition of different agricultural activities in different farm size categories in general and, particularly, female agricultural labor (family and hired labor) participation and its determinants in the rice-wheat cropping system of the Punjab province, Pakistan. The data were collected from 300 households across four districts of the province. Labor participation was calculated on an official farm size classification basis, i.e., small (25 acres) farms. The findings show that female labor is predominantly demanded in the manual harvesting of wheat, rice nursery transplantation and harvesting, and the majority of the livestock-related activities. The regression model results showed that family female labor and hired female labor participation significantly depend on the landholding status of farmers, household size, family type and level of education. The interviews also illustrated that labor relations are rapidly changing—ongoing mechanization threatens conventional female labor activities due to the lack of machinery operation skills among females, caused by informal state policies and cultural barriers. The findings of the study have important policy implications for mainstreaming gender status in agricultural policy and rural development and contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals on Gender Equality (SDG#5) and Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG#8), and indirectly to No Poverty (SDG#1), Zero Hunger (SDG#2), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG#12) and Climate Action (SDG#13).

Links : <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/16/6633>

Tags : Gender, Rural Employment

Can employment empower women? Female workers in the pineapple sector in Ghana

The transformation of global agri-food systems has led to the increased establishment of export-oriented horticultural plantations in developing countries. These labor intense production sites are associated with feminized employment patterns and therefore can provide more paid work opportunities for women in rural areas. The social implications of these developments for women's empowerment remain hardly understood; which is why we investigate empowerment among female workers in the pineapple sector in Ghana, in this paper. Our data set contains primary survey data of 420 married households in Ghana, living in areas of large-scale pineapple plantations. We apply entropy balancing, a new re-weighting technique, and combine this with regression analysis. Our regression results show that female employment has a statistically significant and positive effect on overall household income, female income share, female income and asset ownership and a negative effect on female reproductive workload. We also assess the effect of sole male employment and find that it has a negative effect on female household income share, female income and the female spouse's ability to sell assets and a positive effect on reproductive workload. Neither female nor male employment alone but only joint horticultural employment of both spouses seems to lead to female spouses having more input into household decision-making. Our findings

for the pineapple sector in Ghana suggest that large-scale, export-oriented horticultural plantations can contribute to women's empowerment through employment creation for both male and female workers.

Links : https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0743016719310150?dgcid=rss_sd_all

Tags : Gender, Rural Employment

Conservation Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management Practices Improve Yield and Income while Reducing Labor, Pests, Diseases and Chemical Pesticide Use in Smallholder Vegetable Farms in Nepal

Improving smallholder vegetable farms are critical for improving food security and livelihoods of people in low-income countries. Vegetable production is labor intensive and prone to pests and diseases. Conservation agriculture (CA) and integrated pest management (IPM) practices provide options to increase yields and minimize the use of chemical pesticides. We compared integration of CA and IPM practices (improved alternative system) with farmers' traditional practice (conventional system) under replicated on-farm tests in four different locations (Lalitpur, Banke, Surkhet, and Dadeldhura) in Nepal. Data on yield, benefit-cost ratio (B:C), labor requirement, insect and disease infestation, and pesticide sprays on five major vegetable crops (tomato, cucumber, bitter melon, cabbage, cauliflower) were measured. In tomatoes, cucumbers, and bitter melons, the improved alternative system produced a significantly higher yield, greater benefit-cost ratio, reduced labor, decreased the infestation of pests and diseases, and required fewer pesticidal sprays. Average yield and net income were superior in cabbages and cauliflowers, but nonsignificant. Improved alternative system for all the vegetables were sprayed significantly fewer times than the conventional system. Overall, the improved alternative system for vegetable crops contributed not only to the improved income and livelihoods of people, but also can improve environment and human health due to the reduced use of pesticides. Further research on scaling these improved alternative practices through appropriate farmer organizations, and government and non-government actors can enhance the adoption of CA and IPM practices by smallholder vegetable producers.

Links : <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/16/6418>

Tags : Health and decent work

Operator and Potential Exposure to Hydrogen Sulfide: A Study of the British Columbia Dairy Industry

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) is produced in manure storage facilities and released during manure agitation. Exposure to this gas presents health risks to workers at daily exposure of greater than 10 parts per million (ppm). Exposure levels on BC dairy farms are unknown. The aim of this study was to document peak H₂S exposure levels to operators and bystanders during manure agitation on British Columbia dairy farms to determine if action levels were exceeded. Farms were evaluated at two time points during manure agitation. Both operator exposure and potential exposure sampling were undertaken. Peak hydrogen sulfide levels were measured and categorized as greater than or less than the ceiling level (10 ppm) and action level (5 ppm). Associations between H₂S levels above the ceiling level and farm factors were assessed. Measures were recorded at 43 dairy farms with 91 total measures recorded. Action levels were exceeded in 30% of operator measures and 64% of potential exposure measures while 20% of operator and

53% of potential peak H₂S measures exceeded 10 ppm. Manure storage facilities were evenly distributed between indoor and outdoor locations with under-barn (43%) and outdoor storage (47%) most common. Sawdust was the most prominent bedding type (65%). Tractor operated propeller was the most common type of agitation equipment (62%). Manure temperature remained a significant predictor in the multivariate model for operator peak exposure. Exposure to H₂S above the action level commonly occurs on BC Dairy farms. Given that Worksafe BC requires exposure control plans for H₂S levels above 5 ppm, and that on dairy farms, measures of operator and potential H₂S exposures were recorded above these levels, best practices to reduce potential H₂S exposure are necessary to reduce possible operator and bystander exposure.

Links : <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1059924X.2020.1795036?af=R>

Tags : Health and decent work

“What a stay-at-home order means for migrant dairy workers”

Like farms across the United States, Vermont’s farms have been deemed “essential businesses” as the COVID-19 pandemic ravages the nation’s health and economy. By extension, those working on these farms—including the 1000-1200 Latinx immigrant farmworkers laboring in Vermont’s dairy economy—are classified as “essential workers.” The cruel irony of immigrant farmworkers being seen as essential while simultaneously facing further repression and exploitation is perhaps most blatant in Trump’s recent proposition (crafted by Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Agriculture Secretary Perdue) to lower the pay for an estimated 250,000 guest workers in the food system as a supposed solution to the economic consequences of the pandemic. Indeed, as many labor advocates have postulated, perhaps a better classifier for these essential workers in the food systems during these harrowing times is “sacrificial.”

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-020-10068-y>

Tags : Migration, Health and decent work

COVID-19 in Argentine agriculture: global threats, local contradictions and possible responses

Many agricultural employers did not interpret this permission as a public utility function, but as an authorization to continue their business “as usual”. Many rural workers did not want to go to work “as usual”: they were afraid of catching the disease and demanded guarantees for their health. This meant investing money and the companies did not want to. So the social function of producing food in the middle of the crisis was put at risk by these short-term economic interests.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-020-10096-8>

Tags : Rural Employment, Health and decent work, Policy

Food frights: COVID-19 and the specter of hunger

Food workers are at the forefront of our failing systems of distribution. They are some of the lowest paid, least secure workers in the economy. In large part this is because work that makes life possible, like growing and cooking food, has long been relegated to women and racialized groups of people—from immigrants in the fields and enslaved people before them to domestic workers and restaurant staff.

These workers, viewed as cheap and disposable before the crisis, are now deemed essential. And yet, they have not been provided with the protections and pay commensurate with their status. They are being asked to risk their lives for paltry wages and with no protections so that the rest of us can eat. Essential workers are making terrible choices between going to work and risking illness or quitting the job that pays the bills and puts food on the table.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-020-10063-3>

Tags : Rural Employment, Health and decent work

Food System Workers are the Unexpected but Under Protected COVID Heroes

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) poses an occupational health risk to food system workers including farmers/producers, grocery store workers, emergency food system staff and volunteers (e.g., food pantry workers), and others. These food system workers have been pushed to the front-line of this pandemic, providing essential services that support food consumption for all Americans. Food system workers are some of the most economically vulnerable populations and are at risk of further financial disparities and contraction of COVID-19 during this pandemic. As we continue to grapple with the best strategies to support the food system and mitigate concerns around the spread of COVID-19, appropriate measures must be considered to better protect and support front-line food system workers that safeguard food access for all Americans.

Links : <https://academic.oup.com/in/article/150/8/2006/5862589>

Tags : Health and decent work

O que a opinião pública está falando sobre o impacto do coronavírus no trabalho na agricultura?

De acordo com o Banco Mundial, a agricultura é uma das maiores fontes de emprego, pois é responsável por 28% dos empregos no mundo. No Brasil, mais de 15 milhões de pessoas trabalham na agricultura, segundo o Censo Agropecuário de 2017. Estes números representam a importância da agricultura para a economia do Brasil e do mundo. Durante a pandemia do novo coronavírus, as atividades do setor não podem parar para que não falte alimentos, ou seja, os trabalhadores rurais devem continuar a realizar suas atividades. Mas, quais são os impactos do coronavírus sobre o trabalho na agricultura?

Links : http://www.cpr.uem.br/images/grupo-agro/09-agro-covid-19-tema3_texto3-final.pdf

Tags : Rural Employment, Health and decent work