



What's up on work in agriculture?

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Working together for the sustainable mechanization of farming in Africa

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Conservation Tillage (ACT) Network today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage greater access for small-scale farmers to sustainable farm mechanization, such as two-wheeled tractors and other labour-saving machines.

The partnership also seeks to link the use of farming machinery to Conservation Agriculture which is a farming system that promotes minimum soil disturbance and the planting of complementary plant species to enhance biodiversity and natural biological processes.

In Africa, smallholder farmers use their own muscle power, such as hand hoes, for around 65 percent of the total labour needed for land preparation, with draught animal power accounting for 25 percent and engine-powered machines just 10 percent. In South Asia by comparison, human muscle power is used for 30 percent of land preparation work, while engine power represents 40 percent, and in Latin America and the Caribbean engine power is used for half of all land preparation.

Links : <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1179418/icode/>

Tags : Innovation

Students urged to become Farm ‘Champions for Safety’ - Teagasc



The Champions for Safety Seminars are designed to supplement the Farm Health and Safety training provided as part of the Teagasc Certificate in Farming programme, and are sponsored and supported by FBD Insurance.

Student placement takes place on Registered Host Farms which have attained excellent health and safety standards and practices. Leading by example, host farmers undertake training on risk assessment, and undertake through student supervision to coach and encourage students to make Health and Safety a top priority in

preparation for their farming careers.

Links : <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/news/2019/champions-for-safety.php>

Tags : Health and decent work

Youth employment and entrepreneurship in agrofood systems



Judith Francis from CTA, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation, and Jennie van der Mheen from Wageningen University & Research (WUR) presented a comprehensive framework and brief on “supply and demand factors impacting youth employment & entrepreneurship”

The purpose of this model and the brief is to propose a systems approach and to serve as a guide for those who are deciding where to best intervene or for their investments to have greatest impact on youth

employment and entrepreneurship in agrofood systems. The participants of the CoP meet-up were invited to reflect on the draft framework.

Links : <https://agrinatura-eu.eu/2019/02/youth-employment-and-entrepreneurship-in-agrofood-systems/>

Tags : Rural Employment, Youth

Millions living in poverty despite being employed says ILO report

The International Labour Organisation released the World Employment and Social Outlook Trends report yesterday*. Among the findings of the study is that, globally about seven-hundred million people are living in poverty, despite being employed. Siphumelele Zondi spoke to Stefan Kühn, Economist and lead author of the report.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/ilo-in-the-media/WCMS_671362/lang-en/index.htm

Could California produce soon cost you more?

“There’s nothing better than a hand-picked crop,” says Jeff Percy, vice president of southern production for Castroville-based Ocean Mist, the country’s largest grower of fresh artichokes.

“But there’s the minimum wage, the cost,” he says. “The bottom line is, we have to compete.”

California farmers, anchors of a \$50 billion industry that represents 13 percent of the nation’s agricultural value and a critical source of its produce and milk, are facing an unprecedented squeeze on their livelihoods that could have repercussions in households from coast to coast.

Beyond a decade-in-the-making labor shortage, spurred in part by a lack of replacements for an aging work force, California’s newly enacted overtime pay law and the Trump administration’s tense rhetoric over immigration have ratcheted up concern among both farmers and those they rely on to work the land.

Farm workers who once crossed the Mexican border routinely for seasonal work in el norte now express deep fears about making the trip, effectively cutting off the supply of labor south of the border.

Links : <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/2019/01/27/could-california-produce-soon-cost-you-more/2594964002/>

Tags : Rural Employment, Migration, Policy