



IAWA Newsletter

2026 August

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News



« La banque de travail est l'outil qui a formalisé l'entraide » entre nos fermes

Le collectif Hum'Agri, qui rassemble huit fermes bio, a créé une banque de travail pour donner un cadre formel à l'entraide entre les structures.

Take time out to focus on safety

Farming accounts for approximately 40% of all workplace fatalities, yet only accounts for a relatively small proportion of the working population. There are also huge numbers of serious farm accidents that occur each year, many of which result in life-changing injuries. Based on these figures, an examination of safety on the farm is a must-do in August. So how might you go about it?

Making Gender Count: Building Evidence-Based Agricultural Policies in Odisha

Women sustain agri-food systems making up 42 % of the global agri-food systems workforce, and agri-food systems sustain women depending on them for their livelihoods (FAO, 2026). This is a relationship of mutual interdependence. Odisha is no different to this trend. In fact, 54% of the agricultural workforce in Odisha is women. Recognizing this central role of women, the state has implemented multipronged strategies to reach, benefit and empower them. These include expansion and strengthening of self-help groups' network, gender-focused ...

Congress

The book of Abstracts - 3rd International Symposium on Work in Agriculture

All abstracts of the 25 Working Groups

Call for Papers



Femmes et travail : hors cadre ou hors regard ?

De multiples structures sociales perpétuent l'invisibilisation et la sous-protection de l'activité économique des femmes. Cette vulnérabilité se manifeste autant dans le travail de soin non rémunéré et le travail informel que dans les nouveaux modèles de l'économie numérique. Par ailleurs, l'accès aux espaces professionnels institutionnels ne garantit pas l'équité, les femmes y affrontant systématiquement des disparités salariales, ...

Publications

Burnout among female farmers and farm workers in Germany - Results of an online cross-sectional survey

The mental health of farmers has been receiving increasing attention in recent years. While studies are available in many European and non-European countries, there is a lack of corresponding data in Germany. This study therefore examines the prevalence of burnout among women on farms in Germany and the relationship to various, partly gender-specific, risk factors. The study uses data of an online survey of 7345 women that was conducted in 2021. The risk of burnout was measured using the "Personal Burnout Scale" of the Copenhagen Burnout ...

Invisible labour, active agency: a feminist geography of maize farming in the Philippines

Abstract:Maize farming in the Philippines is a gendered livelihood system shaped by unequal access to resources, decision-making power, and institutional support. Using a sex-disaggregated household survey of 337 farmers, this study examines how women and men differ in agricultural roles, livelihood constraints, and access to services. Guided by Gender and Development and feminist geography, the findings show that women, who comprised two-thirds of respondents, were central to financial management, post-harvest work, and household provisioning, ...

Labour shortages and food loss: evidence from tomato farmers in Nigeria

Abstract:Many lower-income countries face high unemployment alongside labour shortages in rural farming-a paradox with important implications for food security and policy. This study examines Nigeria's tomato sector, where labour scarcity and food loss are severe. Using survey data, we provide descriptive evidence and apply probit and fractional GLM models to analyse the prevalence and intensity of labour shortages and their link to food loss. Results show that 63% of tomato farmers struggle to find enough workers, and labour shortages ...

Caught Between Slavery and Precarity in the Agricultural Sector: South Asian Migrant Farm Laborers' Working Conditions, Health, and Quality of Life in Nea Manolada, Greece

Abstract:The agricultural sector in Greece heavily relies on migrant workers, particularly from South Asian countries, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India. Research has shown that these workers face numerous challenges, including unsanitary living conditions, exposure to hazardous working conditions, harmful chemicals, a lack of safety equipment, accidents, abuse, violence, and exploitative conduct from employers. Drawing on 45 in-depth interviews, this article analyzes the experiences of Bangladeshi migrant farmworkers employed as ...

The Migrantisation of Agricultural Labour in the Global Core: A Longitudinal Test

Abstract: Migrant workers have become a structural feature of agriculture across the global core, yet whether this dependence is deepening has not been established over a long time series or tested against a major shock. This article revisits the question through a longitudinal comparative case study of seven core states—the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Spain and Italy—selected on a most-dissimilar-systems logic and read through the world-ecology framework, in which cheap food rests on cheap labour. Drawing on primary ...

Do commonly used workload indicators capture the social sustainability of farm workload? Evidence from Switzerland

Abstract: Farm workload is typically measured using quantitative indicators that may overlook how farmers actually experience their work. This study empirically examines how three commonly used workload indicators, namely self-reported working hours, available workforce, and modeled working hours, relate to farmers' perceived workload burden as a proxy for the social sustainability of farm labor. The data comprise information on 571 Swiss farms, with farm characteristics merged from three datasets: the Swiss agricultural census (AGIS), ...

More than a job: Identity, belonging, and well-being in Canadian agriculture

- Participants described identity through seven interconnected themes organized within the Farmer Identity Systems Framework.
- Work ethic, honesty, and integrity emerged as the values most central to farmer identity.
- Participants viewed their work as a mission and way of life, not simply an occupation.
- Belonging within agricultural communities and recognition from the public shaped farmer identity and well-being.
- Findings support the development of identity-informed approaches to farmer mental health and well-being.

From food producers to CEOs and everything in between: Women's diverse entrepreneurial orientations and identities in food entrepreneurship in rural Norway

Research on women's entrepreneurship has often highlighted gendered barriers, masculine entrepreneurial norms and challenges related to legitimacy and identity. Less attention has been paid to how gender and entrepreneurial identity are experienced in contexts characterised by relatively high levels of gender equality and strong institutional support. This article examines the role of gender and entrepreneurial identity in women's local food entrepreneurship in rural Norway. Drawing on interviews with women local food entrepreneurs and ...

Export Price Fluctuations and Gender-Specific Labor Allocation: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh

Abstract: Smallholder farmers in developing countries are often vulnerable to global commodity price fluctuations, with impacts that differ by gender. Using a three-wave rural household panel survey from 2011 to 2019, this study exploits geographic variation between major jute-producing and non-jute-growing areas to examine the gender-specific effects of jute export prices on individual employment choices in Bangladesh. Jute price fluctuations do not significantly affect the likelihood of adult males engaging in cultivation. Instead, higher ...

Do Shifts in Migrant Labour due to COVID-19 Affect Climate Change Adaptation Practices of Climate-Vulnerable Farmers? Implications for the Post-Pandemic Future

Abstract: The objective of our study is to examine how migrant labour shifts due to the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the adaptation behaviour of climate-vulnerable farmers in Nepal. We examine how the resulting temporary change in climate change adaptation behaviour may be sustainable and improved after migrant labour returns to overseas employment by examining the relationship of institutional factors on climate change adaptation practices. A case study is presented using survey data collected from farmers in the Sunsari district of the ...

Seasonal Workers In Serra Gaúcha: An Analysis Of Labor Issues From 2023 Onwards

This study aims to highlight the scenario of possible changes regarding the hiring of seasonal workers, especially during the grape harvest period, in the Serra Gaúcha region of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, starting in 2023. The analysis period is justified by the fact that, in the year and region, labor inspectors from the Public Prosecutor's Office found outsourced workers in conditions analogous to slavery in viticultural activities. ...

The Vulnerability Fix: How U.S. Immigration Policies Institutionalize Worker Precarity

This article brings together theories of the political economy of labor with theories about labor market inequality to construct the concept of vulnerability fix and explore its use in U.S. agriculture. An increasingly dysfunctional immigration system in the United States has created categories of workers for whom the rules are different. By mobilizing these differences, employers, sanctioned by the state, are able to exert greater ...

The Web Of Violence In The Countryside: A Complex Dynamic Of Farmer Suicide In Brazil

This study analyzes the relations between work and suicide among farmers in Brazil, the occupational category with the highest suicide mortality rate (16.5%). Methodologically, this narrative literature review grounded in the Psychodynamics of Work, a clinical discipline analyzing the relationship between work organization and mental health, and in the concept of Chemical Colonialism. The analysis challenges the neoliberal logic ...

Ocupações Produtivas No Rural Da Região Norte Do Brasil: Uma Perspectiva De Gênero

Este artigo analisa a evolução das ocupações, segundo o gênero, no meio rural da região Norte do Brasil no período de 2012 e 2024. A metodologia baseia-se na análise dos microdados da Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Contínua do Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (PNADC/IBGE), a partir de uma tipologia de famílias. Os resultados mostram que o número de famílias rurais cresceu no período, alcançando cerca de ...

O Trabalho Da Mulher Do Campo É Invisível? Entraves Administrativos Na Concessão De Benefícios Previdenciários Para Assentadas Da Reforma Agrária

A invisibilidade do trabalho é uma das marcas latentes dessas desigualdades de gênero que as mulheres do campo enfrentam de forma histórica no Brasil. Nesse artigo buscamos compreender as dificuldades enfrentadas por mulheres assentadas da reforma agrária da Região da Campanha do RS para acessar o direito à aposentadoria, ao salário-maternidade e ao auxílio-doença nos casos com homem no lote que desenvolva atividade não-agrícola. ...

Asalariadas Rurales En Artigas: Estrategias De Trabajo, Organización Familiar Y Cuidados

Este artículo analiza las condiciones de trabajo de las mujeres asalariadas rurales del departamento de Artigas (Uruguay), un territorio históricamente caracterizado por pobreza persistente, mercados laborales estrechos y estrategias productivas cada vez más limitadas. A partir de entrevistas en profundidad y una lectura situada del contexto territorial, el estudio documenta la precariedad estructural que atraviesa al trabajo rural ...

Abuelas, Madres Y Nietas De La Fruticultura Intensiva Globalizada: Jornaleras Rurales Del Maule, Chile, Desde Una Mirada Intergeneracional

¿Cómo son las trayectorias laborales intrafamiliares de las jornaleras de territorios rurales del Maule, incluyendo sus condiciones laborales y vitales? y ¿cómo se transmite intergeneracionalmente el vínculo femenino con el trabajo asalariado incluyendo el plano de la conformación identitaria de género y la relación con el territorio? fueron las preguntas que guiaron un trabajo de campo cualitativo y etnográfico. Obtuvimos como ...

The Appropriation Of Land, Labour And Technology And The Process Of Unequal Exchange In The Development Of Capitalist Forestry In Chile

This paper offers an analysis of the development of capitalist forestry in Chile from a historical materialist lens, by focusing on the regional process of appropriation of land, labour and technology and the global process of unequal exchange. The paper uses empirical material from extensive and long-term fieldwork in the Ñuble region in Southern Chile. The paper analyses interviews, documents and observations to conceptually ...

Precariat And Rural Labour: Evidence From Uruguayan Intensive Fruit And Vegetable Production

In this paper we study how agrarian change is reshaping Uruguayan rural territories. In doing so, we analyse the precariat involved in agrarian labour from an intersectional perspective. We discuss the precarization processes associated with the installation and expansion of agricultural value chains in viticulture, citriculture (oriented to the external market) and other vegetable production oriented towards the internal market. ...

Multi-Scalar Labour Regimes: Seasonal Migrant Farmwork In Australia

In high-income countries, labour-intensive food production is increasingly dependent on migrant workers recruited through seasonal and temporary migration programs designed to address chronic agricultural labour shortages. While the concept of labour regimes has been widely used to analyse the institutional and political organisation of work, it has rarely been examined in conjunction with migration regimes. This article addresses ...

Recent Transformations In The Labor Market In Brazilian Agriculture Value Chains

Based on data from the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Continuous PNAD) and interviews with representatives of production chains, the objective is to present some of the main recent transformations in the Brazilian agricultural labor market, highlighting the processes of automation, digitalization and the participation of Generation Z in agricultural work. In recent decades, changes in the composition of agricultural ...

Labour In Agroecological Transition: A Socio-Political Analysis In Southern Italy

This paper contributes to the sociology of agroecology by examining the intersections between labor, socio-ecological practices, and agroecological transition. Its objective is to understand how diverse labor categories—including local and migrant workers, family farmers, and collective producers—mediate the reproduction of rural livelihoods and the transformation of agri-food systems. Central to the analysis is the relationship ...

Labor-Return Orientation And Extensive Farming Among Smallholders In Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence From Tanzania

Food production growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has long relied more on cropland expansion than on yield improvement. Yet as land pressure rises, many smallholders still do not systematically adopt labor-intensive yield-enhancing technologies, instead following an “extensive” pathway of cultivating more land with low yields. This paper advances a labor-return-oriented explanation. When the marginal cost of land is relatively non-salient ...

Income Instability Under Climate Shocks: Evidence From The Rural Labor Market In Brazil

Adverse climate conditions directly affect economic activities in rural areas and are immediately reflected in workers’ earnings, generating deviations between usual and effectively received wages. This article analyses the dynamics of this deviation by identifying which crops and socioeconomic groups are more affected under adverse climate conditions. Focusing on rural areas in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, one of the regions ...

Climate-Smart Forestry As A Driver Of Sustainable Rural Development? Rural Labor, The Corporate Forest Regime And The Politics Of Land Use Change In Sweden, South Africa And Brazil

New approaches to forestry, as represented by climate smart forestry (CSF), often lack an in-depth and critical analysis of the interlinkages between the politics of land use and access, and the role of large forest companies as drivers or barriers for the use of forests for sustainable rural development. This raises a new question regarding the current and future contributions of forests to broader, sustainable rural development, ...

Coffee Pickers In Colombia: Territorial Mobility Of Rural Labor In Globalized Crops

Coffee is Colombia’s most important agricultural commodity. Although its contribution to GDP has declined, the country remains the world’s third-largest exporter. Since the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in 1989, Colombian coffee production has shifted from a volume-based model to one centered on quality, resulting in a reduction in the number of bags produced and exported. Coffee quality is based on factors associated ...

'I'm farming because I'm a wife' - An enduring navigational approach to meaningful work and vocational choice

Abstract: This paper investigates how meaningful work is sustained under conditions of social and cultural constraint. Drawing on interviews with thirty-eight female farmers in Northern Vietnam, it examines how meaningfulness emerges as an ongoing navigation between unification, the moral obligation to preserve familial harmony and social continuity, and contribution, the desire to act purposefully and be valued. The findings reveal a process of enduring navigation through which meaningful work is sustained, extending Rosso et al.'s (2010) ...

Labor Scarcity and Technology Adoption in Agriculture: Evidence from Rural India during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Abstract: This study examines how rice farmers adjust production technology because of negative migrant labor supply shocks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using village-, household-, and plot-level data in rural India, we find that farmers adopt direct seeding of rice (DSR), a labor-saving method, in response to migrant labor scarcity, and that the average profit from DSR is almost the same as that from transplanting rice during the pandemic. We also find that downside risk tends to be higher for the DSR plots due to yield losses caused ...

Cocoa farming, welfare, human capital, and child labour in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon

Abstract: This study examines how cocoa cultivation influences the welfare and human-capital development of smallholders in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon, using nationally representative survey data. In Côte d'Ivoire, cocoa production is associated with higher welfare and investments in children's education: boys and girls in cocoa-growing households show higher enrolment, though only girls experience higher rates of grade repetition compared to peers in non-cocoa households. In Cameroon, only boys show higher enrolment, ...

Agriculture as a conditional employment buffer: evidence of multidimensional labor vulnerability in Indonesia

Abstract: Agriculture is often viewed as a labor market buffer in developing economies because it absorbs workers during periods of economic disruption. However, its role in protecting workers from broader labor vulnerability remains unclear. Using data from the 2022 Indonesian National Labor Force Survey (SAKERNAS), this study examines whether agricultural employment is associated with job loss, reductions in working hours, and income vulnerability. Logit and Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) models are estimated while controlling for individual, ...

Generational differences in farming: impacts on workplace relationships and mental health

Abstract: This article explores younger farmers' perspectives on how generational differences in values, beliefs and attitudes impact wellbeing and working relationships in agricultural settings. Generational theory contends that these differences are shaped by the sociocultural and historical contexts in which each generation has been raised. This research is situated within the New Zealand farming context and draws on 19 semi-structured interviews with young farmers and agricultural industry representatives. Informed by generational theory, ...

Government Policy, Low- and High-Skilled Labour, and Technical Inefficiency in Chinese Agriculture, 1952–2008

We utilize Chinese provincial data to explore how government policies affected grain production between 1952 and 2008. We adapt the Caselli-Coleman framework to allow multiple inputs including fertilizer, land and capital as well as skilled and unskilled labour. We also extend the method to allow for comparisons of production possibilities over time as well as across provinces. We derive measures of the technological frontier for Chinese agricultural production for each year over the 56-year period. The empirical estimates illustrate how ...

Cuestión agraria y trabajo familiar rural en el Uruguay contemporáneo: reflexiones desde una práctica de Trabajo Social

El análisis de la cuestión agraria en Uruguay permite reconocer la persistencia de desigualdades ligadas a la concentración de la tierra y a la precariedad del trabajo familiar rural. A pesar de la intervención estatal a través del Instituto Nacional de Colonización (INC), los resultados han sido muy limitados. Los procesos de colonización rural, mediados por la acción estatal, refieren a la modalidad específica mediante la cual ...