

Documenting strategies of preservation in agricultural work: relationships, health, and attractiveness at the scale of farms and territories

Convenors

Goutille Fabienne, Université Clermont Auvergne, fabienne.goutille@uca.fr– Contact person

Barbier Cécile, Université Paris 8, cecile.barbier@univ-paris8.fr

Chauvat Sophie, IDELE, Sophie.C Chauvat@idele.fr

Topic

The renewal of the agricultural workforce raises crucial questions about working conditions and health in a context of ecological, economic, and social transformation. Understanding what makes agricultural work sustainable and attractive requires getting closer to actual work activity — observing how farmers, women and men alike, organise their daily activity to preserve themselves, others, and the living environment.

In this Working Group we propose to document and compare differentiated strategies developed by women and men farmers to sustain health, quality of work, and relationships with living beings, at different scales: within farms, within working collectives, and sometimes across territories (for example through inter-professional cooperation such as silvopastoral practices to prevent forest fires).

The aim is to understand how these situated practices contribute to the vitality of farms, the transmission of knowledge, and the transformation of production models towards more decent and desirable forms of work.

The Working Group will draw on practice-based and activity-centred methods: work analysis, explicitation interviews, and collective inquiries involving both researchers and practitioners. These approaches make visible the concrete regulations and adjustments of actual work, acknowledge the diversity of sensory and technical knowledge, and open a dialogue between research, training, and agricultural practice.

Aims

- To document concrete strategies of preservation of self, others, and the living in agricultural work;
- To identify their effects on health, attractiveness, and sustainability;
- To compare practice-based approaches to documenting and transforming actual work across different agricultural contexts.

Format

The Working Group will combine scientific presentations and practice-based discussions. Contributions will include both completed and ongoing research analysing actual agricultural work and the differentiated strategies developed by women and men to preserve themselves, others, and the living environment.

Part of the session will take the form of participatory exchanges involving researchers, farmers, and other field-based actors such as union representatives, agricultural advisors, or officers from Chambers of Agriculture and professional organisations. These discussions will address concrete practices related to health, work organisation, and inter-professional cooperation.

A collective synthesis of the discussions and examples presented will be shared within the symposium network to foster collaboration between research, training, and agricultural practice.