

How effectively can production systems attract workers and support decent work?

Convenors:

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Topic :

Ongoing transformations in North and South countries, whether technical (mechanisation, digital agriculture, agroecology, environmental concerns, etc.), social (wage labour, outsourcing of tasks, use of mutual aid, etc.) or societal (food security, expectations in terms of animal welfare, product quality, etc.), are changing the livestock and crops production systems, which induce forms of work. The resulting forms of work can be more or less attractive to new entrants to the farming sector, and are also questioned in terms of their ability to provide decent work to farm owners and workers. Work related to the production systems can be analysed and assessed in terms of work organisation, productivity, efficiency, as well as flexibility (adaptive capacity, ability to cope with various hazards, transformative potential). They also warrant evaluation regarding the balance between private and professional life (work-life balance), physical and mental workload, and the impact on occupational identity and personal achievement.

The topic of this WG is included with two themes of symposium entitled i) Attractiveness of work in the agri-food sector and ii) decent work in the agri-food sector.

Aims:

This WG will address a wide range of questions relating to the on-going transformations of different production systems (animals and/or crops, agroecological or not, pasture based or housing system, etc.) in North and South countries: are certain productions systems better able to promote attractive and/or decent work for those working in the agricultural sector? To what extent these production systems can be supported by advisors, value chain actors and policy measure to enhance the attractiveness and decent work of agricultural employment?

To answer these questions, this WG welcomes proposals for papers with the following objectives:

- to analyse and evaluate the diversity of forms of work related to the production systems in light of different challenges (work organisation, productivity, labor flexibility, capacity to transform and adapt, work life balance, etc.),
- to analyse the influence of technical choices (combination of production, livestock and crop management, processing and marketing) on work,
- to present frameworks, concepts and methodologies to analyse work issues within production systems.

We welcome contributions across the globe that explore these topics from diverse disciplinary perspectives, including agronomy and animal science, rural sociology,

management, agricultural economics, geography, and agrarian studies. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged.

Format:

This working group is expected to occupy at least two sessions of 1.5 hours each. Different types of presentation will be accepted (academic paper sessions but also non-traditional formats)

Output:

It is expected that a report summarizing the discussions will be produced and possibly a scientific paper.