



2nd International Symposium on Work in Agriculture

Thinking the Future of Work in Agriculture

March 29th – April 1st, 2021

Workshop 2 - Health and Work in Agricultural Activity

Convenors: Catherine Laurent - INRA, France
Peter Lundqvist - SLU, Sweden
Leandra Ulbricht - Federal University of Technology Parana, Brazil

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." This concept shows the association between health and workers' quality of life. To achieve a healthy life it is important to have a social life outside of work, despite the increasing demands and expectations from family, friends, employers and the worker himself.

Agricultural work is also involved with various occupational hazards, it is also important to further study them, as well as the increasing demands arising from mechanization, but also the introduction of new technologies (digitalization, automation, robotization, artificial intelligence), expanding the man-machine relationship in agricultural work, the issues related to poisoning (both pesticide use and equipment cleaning).

The development of mechanization of agricultural production and technological advances have increased in production in developed countries, yet family-based agriculture does not have these resources. Especially in undeveloped countries. Thus, there is still a higher degree of physical effort that is associated with older problems such as low pay and low qualification because the workforce has little or no education.

Large parts of the world is affected by climate change and serious weather conditions causing draughts, storms, flooding and wildfires. People working in agriculture and living in rural areas could get different types and levels of health effects during and after these events including increased risks of diseases, injuries and stress-related issues. This situation can be aggravated by migration, where people find in agriculture a way to maintain their livelihoods. However, there are no qualification courses or training for a performance in the area.

Agriculture has multiple realities ranging from agribusiness to artisanal and subsistence activities as well as the different types of farming, from the very small family farm to the large industrial farm and from the traditional type of farming to the certified organic farming. In a reality where it is necessary to maintain the natural and socially sustainable environment, for the maintenance of the populations that work in agriculture as well as the populations that consume the products and use the water from the aquatic springs. Thus, there are numerous paradoxes that must be researched, faced and resolved.

Within agriculture there are also a number of vulnerable groups relating to social problems such as child labor, sexual harassment against women, a large aging population still dependent on their outcome from work in this industry as well as exploitation of migrant workers. On the other hand is there also positive developments and good examples where agriculture provides a sustainable future including economic, ecologic and social aspects.

Thus, we invite researchers to submit their research involving the health of agricultural workers in their different fields and answer the multiple questions involving this area such as:

- How to maintain a sustainable life at work by balancing personal life with work?
- What factors most impact the quality of life of rural workers?



2nd International Symposium on Work in Agriculture

Thinking the Future of Work in Agriculture

March 29th – April 1st, 2021

- What are the main morbidity and mortality profiles involving the health of the worker who works in the agricultural activity? What are the main determinants and risk factors of this profile?
- What are the main actions and policies to promote and protect the health of rural workers? How effective or efficient are these actions?
- How can each discipline (ergonomics, agronomy, epidemiology...) help to elucidate risk factors? How can it propose new ways of organizing work in order to minimize the different overloads (physical, cognitive and mental) that may be present in the work with agriculture and livestock?
- How to keep agriculture a sustainable activity considering the health and socio-environmental aspects?

We welcome case studies, empirical data, methodological and theoretical proposals.