



2nd International Symposium on Work in Agriculture

Thinking the Future of Work in Agriculture

March 29th – April 1st, 2021

Workshop 8 - Innovations and adaptation to changes

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In a world of constant transformation, farmers reinvent their system, practices and strategy to adapt to climate change, politic and economic fluctuations, societal pressures and opportunities of use of new technologies and digital innovation (e.g. robots, sensors, internet). Which innovation system changes and new farming models (mega-farm, agro-ecological system, short food-chains, etc.) can be expected and what are the implications? The intersect between these opportunities and the future of agricultural work and skills has not received enough attention. Will these changes augment or replace labour? What, if any, new jobs or roles will emerge and current jobs or roles vanish in the agricultural system? What are the implications for future farm work, skills and education, farmer autonomy and farm workers? What advisory and other services are impacted or what new services are required? How responsive are the institutional actors to support adaptation and change in farming systems and services in the context of digital and technological disruption?

This workshop calls for papers that examine these issues through empirical studies and theoretical and methodological advances from different disciplinary approaches and from across the globe.

Papers exploring the intersect between these innovations and work in agriculture across the following areas will be considered for presentation/poster:

- The changes in work rhythms, workload, quality of working life, professional identities, social organization, careers and the skills required at farm level including farm staff, family labour and contractors
- Processes of deskilling and reskilling, and local adaptation,
- Farm decision making/farming systems design related to work arrangements and novel responses to these evolutions.
- The changes in agricultural advisory work and services to support new ways of farming and farm work
- Ways in which capacity is built to respond to innovations disruption including through education and professional development
- The organizational, institutional and societal level impacts on agricultural work
- Future trajectories for agricultural work (prospective/alternate/divergent trajectories)
- Ways in which agricultural innovation system actors are reconfiguring and responding these disruptions, including social innovations through collaborations and new partnerships and changes in working arrangements.

Papers examining farm-level, local, regional or country level cases and situations will enable consideration of common trends, key themes and prospective issues and challenges to be addressed or explored further. Through this workshop we aim to contribute to knowledge and practice as well as the theorization of the



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future of work in agriculture by asking “How is work in agriculture changing facing environmental, economic and digital changes?”