



Workshop 2.3: Family farming under pressure. Reassessing options for liveability and permanence – Social impacts of shifts in land use management

Convenors: **Catherine Macombe, Sophie Madelrieux, Benoît Dedieu and Hans Langeveld**

Identifying land management typologies: Transition to multifunctionality in Mediterranean extensive farming systems

Filipe Barroso, Helena Menezes,
and Teresa Pinto-Correia

Mediterranean Ecosystems and Landscapes
Research Group (ICAAM), University of Évora,
Portugal

European peripheric rural areas have been under significant changes, affecting agriculture and landscape pattern. In this context, opposite terms as productivism versus post-productivism arise, pointing to a shift within the actors in the rural world. New ways of managing the land take place, with external production income, and with different concerns. Based on a case study applied in a municipally located in southern Portugal, this paper presents an analysis of land management typologies based on an expert analysis. From the data collected through enquiries to landowners, differences concerning management were identified. The knowledge generated could highlight the importance of creating new sources of income through innovative management, capable of supporting the rural development in peripheral areas.

How can we link farm management to amenity functions, through the landscape pattern? Application to a case study in Southern Portugal.

Helena Menezes, Filipe Barroso,
and Teresa Pinto-Correia

Mediterranean Ecosystems and Landscapes
Research Group (ICAAM), University of Évora,
Portugal

What is valued by the different landscape users towards rural landscape? Are land managers aware of a new role of agriculture and adapting their options for land management, in order to fulfil these needs? This presentation intends to link landscape preferences and land management, in a peripheric area of Southern Portugal. Preferences divide within more naturalized, productive, utilitarian or living landscapes; and relate to four main land management trends occurring. A challenge rises for land managers, in the sense of taking advantage from the multifunctionality potentials, as the new functions can provide or even override farm production income.

Who owns the plant biomass? Designing a process of co-management of crop residues for cattle and soils in Sudano-Sahelian Africa

Aimé Landry Dongmo, Eric Vall,
Jean Lossouarn, Patrick Dugué,
and Aboubakar Njoya

Irad/Prasac, Cameroon

Over the past 30 years, the southern part of the Sudano-Sahelian Africa, has hosted a large population of farmers and herders in search of arable land and pastures. Today, human pressure on these areas has led to poor feeding of herds, and the end of fallow has highly decreased the soil fertility of farmers. The plant biomass becomes a stake for agriculture and animal husbandry. Different models of production, management, processing and exchange of biomass among stakeholders have been developed by leaning on the northern Cameroon, the south of Mali and the west of Burkina Faso.



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A coherent agri-energy policy to foster social inclusion for peasant families: The role of Petrobas on the Joao Camara and Ceara-Mirim sites (Brazil)

Claudia Magalhaes, Hubert Drouvot and Preston Perluss

Institut Administration des Entreprises,
Grenoble University, France

This article illustrates the possibility of improving social insertion for families of small farmers living in a semi-arid region in north-eastern Brazil. Such improvement resulted from the creation of farming cooperatives supported by the Petrobas group within the framework of the Brazilian National Biofuels Program. We sought to identify the keys for the project's success. Four conditions stand forth: gaining the peasants' confidence, developing a coherent set of value-adding activities that incorporate a range of by-products and waste-products, a charismatic leader sharing the same social origins as the farming families and capable of mobilizing the peasants (group leadership role), Petrobas' crucial role in a project which coincides with the corporation's policy of social and environmental responsibility.

Smallholder pig farming in Croatia: Destined to become extinct or worth saving?

Wiebke Wellbrock, Boris Antunović, Simon Oosting and Bettina Bock

Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University,
The Netherlands

Croatian pig farms are being modernised to ensure European standards in product quality and competitiveness. This process involves the termination of small farms which are deeply rooted in Croatian rural culture. Based on empirical data, social and cultural impacts of the modernisation process are discussed. It is shown that smallholders are interested in conserving their lifestyle and frustrated about lacking support. Four scenarios of engaging smallholding pig farmers in rural development plans are presented (e.g. organic agriculture, rural tourism, nature and landscape management, local food production schemes), to open discussions on the reasonability of conserving smallholder pig farming in Croatia.

Is organic farming more liveable? A survey of dairy farmers in the east of France

Florence Hellec and André Blouet

ASTER, INRA, France

Some people claim that conversion to organic farming is not only a technical change. It may also involve personal and cultural changes and modify farmer's relations to its social and natural environment. This communication presents a sociological analysis of the conversion to organic farming, based on farmers' experiences. Biographic interviews have been made with eleven dairy breeders in the East of France. We have identified two different ideal-typical stories of conversion. In both cases, the conversion allows a recovery of the family heritage. It's also an attempt at emancipating from agricultural advisers and food-processing-industries.

Farm, family and work: New forms, new adjustments? Liveability in the dynamics of livestock farming systems

Sophie Madelrieux, Baptiste Nettier, and Laurent Dobremez

UR Développement des Territoires
Montagnards, Cemagref, France

Farming has been undergoing profound changes as not only agriculture but also work patterns have evolved. The continuity of farm businesses depends now on technico-economic performance but also on life conditions. We define the liveability as the upholding of an articulation between farm, family and work. To better understand how farming is changing, in this view, we surveyed fourteen livestock farms in the French Alps. We found seven forms of work-family-farm relations, which can be linked together in the households' paths. We discuss the importance to consider family and work in their relations with farm to understand farming system dynamics.

Conserving autochthonous animal farm breeds through rural initiatives in South-Eastern Serbia

Juan-Pablo Rodriguez, Sergej Ivanov, Aleksander Vasov, and Gerald Schwarz

HUB-FAH, Germany

The paper presents results from a case study on the role and impacts of rural initiatives in South-Eastern Serbia. Endogenous development is an important component to carry out rural initiatives and strengthening social capital among farmers. Rural initiatives are supported by own funds, private investor, external cooperation and local projects, partly coordinated by governmental agencies. The conserving autochthonous animal farm breeds become a biological capital for rural livelihoods as well as a means of ensuring local food security and sustainable rural development. These activities represent a good strategy to revalorize and preserve the local resources and local heritage.



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Farming system changes in south-west China: Impacts of rubber cultivation

Lixia Tang, Patrick Artur Grötz,
Thomas Aenis and Uwe Jens Nagel

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany and
China Agricultural University, China

NNNR is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world with highly diverse nature, societies and cultures, as well as agriculture in west south of China. The land-tenure reformation and the formal governmental agricultural extension have been the main drivers for the introduction of new crops and varieties. The farming system shifted from a subsistence slash-and-burn system to an intensive, market oriented one. The role of agriculture for farmers changed from ensuring food security towards income generation and consumption. The pathway of development might be similar to the one followed in other regions. The main distinction is in the speed.

Should I stay or should I go? Factors affecting farmers' decision to convert to organic farming or to abandon it

George Alexopoulos, Alex Koutsouris
and Irene Tzouramani

Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

The paper aims at exploring differences between a) conventional and organic farmers and b) organic farmers intending to continue organic farming vs. those intending to re-convert to conventional farming. Analysis shows that conversion to organic farming relates positively to farmer's age, farm size, farmer's innovativeness and farm planning along with perceptions about markets, the contribution of organic farming to environmental protection and influence of 'important others'. On the other hand, less innovativeness, unsupportive networks and low prices as well as farm size and pluriactivity relate positively to reconversion. Such findings are critically discussed and thus relevant policy measures are recommended.

Farmers' responses to social impact indicators for agricultural and community practices: A case study of organic rice production in Japan

Kiyotada Hayashi and Masaei Sato

National Agriculture and Food Research
Organization, Japan

Farmers' perception on social impacts of organic agriculture was measured using social impact indicators and compared with that of conventional agriculture. A rice production area in the northern part of Japan was analysed as a typical example. The results indicate that organic farmers tend to be interested in the implications of agricultural and community practices and in social values. These results imply that organic farmers may appreciate social responsibility in organic agriculture and that this study will be useful in discussing the applicability of social LCA and life cycle sustainability assessment to organic agriculture.

Can intercropping innovations bring ecological and economic goals together? The case of Nabanhe Nature Reserve, China

Asaf Leshem, Thomas Aenis,
and Patrick Grötz

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

Farmers in high altitudes of Nabanhe National Nature Reserve (NNNR) in Yunnan province (China) grew accustomed to watching their lowland counterparts enjoying rapid economic growth. Not being able to grow rubber trees brings farmers to consider alternative farming livelihoods. Stakeholders in the NNNR have conflicting ecological and economic goals. In this study, agriculture innovations were examined to assert whether they can bring those contradicting goals together. Tea-intercropping was used to assess whether it can bring ecological and economic goals together. The research disclosed that tea-intercropping is more ecologically sound and reduces economic uncertainty in the farms of the high altitudes.



Workshop 2.3: **Family farming under pressure. Reassessing options for liveability and permanence – From job and working conditions to permanence (1)**

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Enhancing the liveability of farm systems: Supporting new farm and advisory practices in the Australian dairy industry

Anne Crawford, Ruth Nettle,
Pauline Brightling and Chris Hibburt

Rural Innovation Research Group,
Melbourne School of Land and Environment,
University of Melbourne, Australia

Long working hours and farming systems complexity challenge the 'liveability' of dairy farming, and industry sustainability, as it affects business performance and ability to attract people. The Australian program 'The People in Dairy' aims to create change in farm working culture and practices to improve this situation. Three fundamental principles underpin its approach: design farm systems to suit people, increase efficiency and productivity by matching people to jobs, and place great value on having effective working relationships. We report on the innovative design principles and program activities, with an ultimate goal of improving satisfaction with farming, benefiting the industry.

Improving farm working conditions: A proposal to characterise the individual relationship to work

Cécile Fiorelli, Jocelyne Porcher,
Benoît Dedieu

Equipe Transformations des Systèmes
d'Elevage, UMR1273 Métafort, INRA, France

To address the challenge of improving working conditions of livestock farmers, farmer unions, agricultural extension services, animal scientists improve the liveability of livestock farming systems. They think liveability as acceptable working conditions with respect to work hardness and duration, free-time possibilities. Psychodynamics of work argues that good working conditions allow combining production and self-fulfilment, thought as freedom expressing, sensitivity and affectivity blossoming, identity to be enriched. This implies that good working conditions differ from one farmer to another one, according to their individual relationship to work. We propose a way to characterise the individual relationship to farm work.

Balancing uncertainties – Women farmers on small- and medium-scale enterprises face the modernization of agriculture

Mathilde Schmitt,
and Heide Inhetveen

Mountain Research: Man & Environment,
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
University of Göttingen, Germany

Based on a longitudinal study carried out over the last three decades in Bavaria, Germany, our paper shows how farming women on 134 small- and medium sized farms have coped with 30 years of agricultural restructuring. The reorganization of the farms under the ever-changing adaptation requirements ("grow or go") and the concept of pluriactivity have created new economic responsibilities for the women and resulted in a new visibility of female farmers ("feminization of the farm"). The women in our sample have chosen a variety of ways to balance traditional thinking, particularly the desire for autonomy and self-determination, with the challenges of modernity.

The effects of transition towards short supply chains on the liveability of farming systems

Caroline Petit, Frédérique Bressoud
and Christine Aubry

UMR SADAPT, INRA, France

Because of the confidence crisis in conventional agri-food system, an intense dynamics is observed in the development of short supply chains, as we can show in two different regions of France. As agronomists, we question the consequences of this dynamics on the technical and marketing management on the farms. We made hypotheses made about aspects of liveability for farmers: increasing workload, complexity of decision-making, specific constraints of marketing were tested in first studies. We propose to deep these preliminary studies through a compared common survey to better inform the variability of liveability for farmers in short supply chains systems.

Work organisation in livestock farms and farm liveability: Research findings from France

Sylvie Cournut and Sophie Chauvat

VetagroSup, UMR Métafort, France

Work organization of 640 French livestock farms from five herbivore and two mono-gastric production sectors were characterised. With the Work Assessment method, which quantifies the work duration and evaluates time room for manoeuvre for farmers, we characterised work organization logics and identified the influence of the production sector and of the workforce composition. We built archetypes for work organisation which represent the dominant logic in each sector and described their specificities. We discuss the contributions of such results for extension.



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The Work on Livestock Farms Network (WLFN): Building a new domain of learning and intervention

Florence Kling-Eveillard,

Sophie Chauvat, Benoît Dedieu,

Gérard Servière, and

Nathalie Sabatté

Institut de l'Élevage, France

Helping livestock farmers to cope with their work issues is essential to the continued existence of farms. Many different aspects need to be considered, such as the production system, organisation and working groups, techniques, economics, personal identity and farmers' expectations etc. The Work on Livestock Farms Network (WLFN) is an original debating forum, enabling advisors, researchers and teachers to share their experiences and formulate new questionings. Its activities and widely distributed publications (advisory tools, technical and economic references, educational guides, case studies, etc.) are presented and detailed in the text.

Using a view of livestock farms as social-ecological systems to study the local variety in their trajectories of change

Camille Rueff and Annick Gibon

INP/ENSA, INRA, France

Rural development stakeholders place an increasing value on the maintenance of livestock farms and their multifunctional role. The capacity of family farms to maintain is increasingly challenged by growing uncertainties about social-economic conditions. We attempt to build an integrated assessment of the diversity of individual family farm trajectories from 1950 to 2003. We combined a conceptual model of family farms as social-ecological systems and multivariate analysis methods to support this assessment. Our tentative analysis of 24 Pyrenean livestock farms highlights four farm trajectories' groups whose evolutions are explained in regard to family temporal patterns of change.

Should I stay or should I go? The impact of major trends in the agricultural sector on farmers' decision to continue or end their business

Elke Rogge and Roost Dessein

Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Belgium

An important trend within agriculture over the last decades is the increase of scale. Combined with trends such as intensification, specialization and high societal expectations, this has changed the sector profoundly. This research unravels the reasons farmers have to continue or end their business in these changing circumstances. It also gives insight in the social implications starting or stopping a farming business has. A qualitative approach using the Grounded Theory method results in a theoretical scheme showing the factors influencing a farmer's decision on the one hand and the social implications of that decision on the other hand.

Giving up agriculture for a new career

Ruth Rossier

Research Station ART, Switzerland

Structural change in agriculture may end with a farm exit. The Swiss Ministry of Agriculture provides financial support for farm managers to start a new non-agricultural career if they leave farming before retirement. Few people take advantage of this programme. Case studies show that early farm exit is the last recourse when both farming and family system break down. Opting out of farming is easier when female partners don't work on the farm or don't self-identify as farmers, when children show no interest in agriculture or farm succession, and when parents can remain in the same place as before.