



Agriculture and Food

The E-Newsletter of the ISA Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC40)

Volume 8 Number 1June 2014

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From the President

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2014 has been designated as the International Year of Family Farming by agencies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). However, there exists no agreement about the proportion of the world's farm land that belongs to small-scale producers and there is no common definition of what family farm land is.

The Director General of the FAO, Graziano da Silva, stated that family farms already manage most of the world's farmland,¹ around 70 percent of all arable land using his team.² Other studies from

United Nations agencies talk about 60 percent of total farmland.³

In contrast, a report published by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), GRAIN, refutes those data.⁴ According to the NGO, land in the hand of small farmers makes up less than a quarter of the world's farmland and farms are continuously getting smaller. Land is being taken away from their owners to grab their water, their mineral resources and oil, or for tourism development. Despite this situation, family

¹ Graziano da Silva, opening speech at the Global Forum on Family Farming, Budapest, 5 March 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/nmkhffc>

² Sarah K. Lowder, Jakob Skoet and Saumya Singh, "What do we really know about the number and distribution of farms and family farms in the world?" Background paper for The State of Food and Agriculture 2014. FAO April 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/qh6ql7l>

³ Beverly D. McIntyre (editor), IAASTD "International assessment of agricultural knowledge, science and technology for development: global report", 2008, page 8, <http://tinyurl.com/mlmuzqy>

⁴ Grain, 2014, Hungry for land: small farmers feed the world with less than a quarter of all farmland. <http://www.grain.org/article/entries/4929hungry-for-land-small-farmers-feed-the-world-with-less-than-a-quarter-of-all-farmland> .

farms are more productive and, according to GRAIN, small farms continue to be the major food producers in the world, with a major participation by women. Land to these producers is more than a productive input; it is their territory, the framework of their identity and their cultural legacy; in a word, it is the backbone of their life.

These differences in perspectives and results about what is a small farm are disturbing since the perception about what really is family farming will determine the guidelines of agrarian and agricultural politics, the actions toward these production models, their territories and their natural resources. The grabbing of farm land and its concentration in fewer hands in the majority of countries should be answered with new land reform policies. The discrepancy between data on the farm land's possession shows us the need for further studies with regional and national focus to achieve a clear definition of the situation and hence, of public politics to be established.

2014 ha sido designado por agencias internacionales como el año mundial de la agricultura familiar. Sin embargo, no existe ni siquiera un acuerdo sobre qué proporción de las tierras agrícolas del mundo están en manos de pequeños productores familiares ni existe una definición unívoca de qué son tierras agrícolas.

Declaraciones del Director de la FAO afirman que los pequeños productores poseen la mayor parte de las tierras agrícolas mundiales (1), alrededor del 70% de las mismas, según su equipo (2). Otros estudios de oficinas de las Naciones Unidas manejan la cifra de 60% (3).

Al contrario, un estudio de la Organización No Gubernamental GRAIN refuta estos datos (4). Según la ONG, las tierras en manos de los pequeños campesinos son cada vez menos, un cuarto de las tierras agrícolas mundiales; tienden a fragmentarse y reducir su tamaño; les son arrebatadas a sus propietarios en muchos países para quedarse con su agua, sus recursos mineros y petroleros o para establecer desarrollos turísticos. A pesar de ello, siguen siendo más productivas y, siempre según GRAIN, siguen aportando la mayor parte de los alimentos de la población,

con una participación destacada de las mujeres. Para este tipo de productores, la tierra es más que un recurso productivo, es también territorio, la base de su identidad y patrimonio cultural y de su existencia.

Estas diferencias de perspectivas y resultados sobre lo que es una pequeña explotación no dejan de ser preocupantes ya que, de la percepción que se tenga de la agricultura familiar, dependerán los lineamientos de las políticas públicas agrícola y agraria así como las medidas de protección a esas formas productivas, a sus recursos naturales y a sus territorios. Frente al despojo, en muchos países, de las tierras de la agricultura familiar y la concentración creciente de las tierras agrícolas en pocas manos, sería urgente establecer una nueva reforma agraria como centro de las políticas. Las discrepancias entre los datos sobre la posesión de las tierras agrícolas nos muestran sobre todo, la necesidad de ahondar en los estudios regionales y nacionales sobre el tema para lograr una definición clara de la situación y, por ende, de las políticas públicas por implementar.

2014 a été déclarée l'année de l'agriculture familiale par les agences internationales. Il n'existe cependant pas de consensus sur la proportion des terres agricoles mondiales qui se trouveraient dans les mains des petits producteurs ni sur une définition univoque des terres agricoles.

Le Directeur de la FAO a déclaré que les petits producteurs de l'agriculture familiale possèdent la majorité des terres agricoles mondiales (1), près de 70%, selon son équipe (2). D'autres études provenant d'agences des Nations Unies avancent le chiffre de 60% (3).

Au contraire, un rapport de l'Organisation Non Gouvernementale GRAIN contredit ces données (4). Selon cette ONG, les terres propriété des petits producteurs diminuent constamment et ne représentent qu'un quart des terres mondiales ; elles tendent à rétrécir et à se fractionner. Dans de nombreux pays, elles sont volées à leurs propriétaires pour en obtenir de l'eau, des ressources minières et naturelles, du pétrole ou pour construire des projets touristiques. Malgré cela, elles

continuent à être plus productives et, toujours selon GRAIN, elles apportent la plus grande partie des aliments de la population, avec une participation notable des femmes. Pour ce type de producteurs, la terre n'est pas seulement une ressource productive, elle est aussi un territoire, la base de leur identité, de leur patrimoine culturel et de leur existence.

Ces différences de perspectives et de résultats concernant ce qu'est une exploitation familiale sont préoccupantes : en effet, de la conception que l'on aura de l'agriculture familiale dépendra la formulation de politiques agraires et

agricoles, les mesures de protection à ces modèles de production, à leurs territoires et à leurs ressources naturelles. Face à la dépossession des terres de l'agriculture familiale dans de nombreux pays et à la concentration croissante des terres agricoles dans quelques mains, une nouvelle réforme agraire constituerait une mesure urgente. Les désaccords entre les données sur la propriété des terres agricoles nous montrent surtout la nécessité de réaliser de nouvelles études aux niveaux régional et national afin d'obtenir une définition claire de la situation et, par conséquent, des politiques publiques à établir.

Election Results for 2014-2018 RC40 Officers

President

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XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD:
CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY

13-19 July 2014



RC40 Sessions - Program

Available at:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2014/webprogram/Symposium246.html>

Program Coordinators: Marie-Christine RENARD (Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico) and Carmen BAIN (Iowa State University, USA).

Monday

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Alternative Food Practices in the Global South: Organic and Sustainable Production and Local/Global Issues in Distribution and Consumption. Part I

Session Organizer: Patricia TOMIC

Chair: Elizabeth RANSOM

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Alternative Food Practices in the Global South: Organic and Sustainable Production and Local/Global Issues in Distribution and Consumption. Part II

Session Organizer: Patricia TOMIC

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Global Agri-Food and Labor Relations: Exploitation, Vulnerabilities and Resistance of Agri-Food Workers

Session Organizers: Alessandro BONANNO and Josefa Salete B. CAVALCANTI

7:30 PM - 8:50 PM

RC40 Business Meeting

Tuesday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Food Security: Intersections Between Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods. Part I

Session Organizers: Bill PRITCHARD and Emmanuel DAS

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Food Security: Intersections Between Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods. Part II

Session Organizers: Bill PRITCHARD and Emmanuel DAS

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Food Security: Politics of Food Security in Asia Pacific: Neoliberal Reforms, Contamination, and Social Movements. Part I

Session Organizers: Keiko TANAKA, Shuji HISANO, Aya H. KIMURA and Yohei KATANO

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Food Security: Politics of Food Security in Asia Pacific: Neoliberal Reforms, Contamination, and Social Movements. Part II

Session Organizers: Keiko TANAKA, Shuji HISANO, Aya H. KIMURA and Yohei KATANO

Wednesday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Food Security: Critical Perspectives on Food Crises, World Hunger and Farming Alternatives

Session Organizers: Alia GANA and Shelley FELDMAN

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Contemporary Research in the Agrifood System

Session Organizers: Carmen BAIN and Marie-Christine RENARD

Chair: Masashi TACHIKAWA

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Land As an Asset Class: The Future of Food and Farming. Part I

Session Organizers: Hilde BJORKHAUG, Geoffrey LAWRENCE, Carol RICHARDS, Phillip MCMICHAEL and Bruce MUIRHEAD

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Land As an Asset Class: The Future of Food and Farming. Part II

Session Organizers: Hilde BJORKHAUG, Geoffrey LAWRENCE, Carol RICHARDS, Phillip MCMICHAEL and Bruce MUIRHEAD

Thursday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Towards a Different and More Future-Oriented Understanding of Agricultural Modernization. Part I

Session Organizers: Karlheinz KNICKEL and Douglas H. CONSTANCE

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Towards a Different and More Future-Oriented Understanding of Agricultural Modernization. Part II

Session Organizers: Karlheinz KNICKEL and Douglas H. CONSTANCE

Report from the Editors
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
SOCIOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
Mara Miele, Vaughan Higgins, Farshad Araghi

Issues since the last RC-40 Newsletter

Vol 21: Issue 1 (2014) has been published online.

Special Issue

GLOBAL SHOCKS, CHANGING AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND THE VIABILITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Available at: <http://ijsaf.org/contents/21-1/index.html>

Editorial Introduction

[Global Shocks, Changing Agricultural Policy and the Viability of Rural Communities](#)

Authors: Hilde Bjørkhaug and Katrina Rønningen

Articles

[Conversion of Family Farms and Resilience in Southland, New Zealand](#)

Authors: Jérémie Forney and Paul V. Stock

[Governing Australia's Dairy Farm Workforce: A New Terrain for Negotiating Rural Community Sustainability](#)

Authors: Michael Santhanam-Martin and Ruth Nettle

[Crisis? What Crisis? Marginal Farming, Rural Communities and Climate Robustness: The Case of Northern Norway](#)

Authors: Hilde Bjørkhaug and Katrina Rønningen

[The Rural under the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union: Sustainable Rural Development aspects of Pillar II in Finland and Estonia](#)

Authors: Michael Kull, Olli Voutilainen, Stamatios Christopoulos and Ramon Reimets

[Multifunctional Agricultural Policies: Pathways towards Sustainable Rural Development?](#)

Author: Tanja Mölders

[Agricultural Policy in Russia: Global Challenges and the Viability of Rural Communities](#)

Author: Zemfira I. Kalugina

[A Twenty-first Century Socialist Agriculture? Land Reform, Food Sovereignty and Peasant-State Dynamics in Venezuela](#)

Author: Daniel Lavelle

[Peasant-managed Agricultural Growth in China: Mechanisms of Labour-driven Intensification](#)

Authors: Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Jingzhong Ye, Huifang Wu and Chunyu Wang

[Sustainable Food Security: An Emerging Research and Policy Agenda](#)

Authors: Roberta Sonnino, Ana Moragues Faus and Albino Maggio

RC40 By-Laws

I. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

I.A. Members are those who pay RC-40 dues and participate in the scientific activities of the committee. Dues are set by the Executive Committee of RC-40.

I.B. Members of RC-40 have the right to

I.B.1. Run for office

I.B.2. Vote in all RC-40 elections

I.B.3. Participate in RC-40 business meetings

I.B.3.a. To participate in the quadrennial business meetings, individuals must be members of the International Sociological Association

I.B.4. Have priority status for participation in any of the scientific activities of the committee

I.C. Members are strongly urged to maintain membership in good standing in the International Sociological Association

I.D. Officers of the RC-40 are

I.D.1. The President

I.D.2. The Secretary

I.D.3. The Executive Committee, which consists of

I.D.3.a. The current president and secretary-treasurer

I.D.3.b. The immediate past president and secretary-treasurer

I.D.3.c. Four elected representatives

I.E. Officers are elected in the year prior to the quadrennial World Congress and take office at that Congress

I.E.1. Officers cannot succeed themselves

I.E.2. All Officers must be members in good standing in the International Sociological Association

I.F. Duties of the President

I.F.1. The president has executive authority to organize the scientific and administrative work of the committee in consultation with the secretary-treasurer and members of the executive committee

I.F.2. The president convenes and organizes the quadrennial business meeting as well as any meetings of the executive committee

I.F.3. The president appoints the editorial committee of the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food

I.F.4. The president, with the assistance of the secretary, organizes the publication and distribution of the semi-annual newsletter

I.G. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

I.G.1. The secretary assists the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC-40

I.G.2. The secretary-treasurer shall maintain a record of all committee business and executive meetings, and maintain the financial records

I.G.3. The secretary shall make a yearly financial accounting to the executive committee and a quadrennial financial accounting to the membership at the quadrennial business meeting

I.G.4. The secretary shall be responsible for conducting the elections of new officers

I.H. Duties of the Members of the Executive Committee

I.H.1. Advise the President and Secretary on all scientific and business matters pertaining to the activities of the Research Committee

I.H.2. Review the secretary's annual financial report

II. SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

II.A. To promote and encourage scientific analysis of the social organization of agriculture and food systems

II.B. Organization of the substantive content of the RC-40 session of the quadrennial meetings of the World Congress of Sociology

II.C. Organization of additional international meetings, including those that are held in conjunction with the

World Congress and other scientific meetings

III ORGANIZATION OF THE JOURNAL

III.A. The International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food is the official scientific journal of RC-40.

III.B. The content of the journal shall reflect the scientific interests of the Research Committee, which is the sociological study of agriculture and food.

III.C. The editor(s) are appointed by the president in conjunction with the executive committee. The term of service for editors shall be negotiated in consultation with the executive committee.

III.D. The editors shall between them nominate a representative who is the main point of contact for, and liaison between, the journal and the executive committee.

III.E. The editors shall, in consultation with the executive committee, appoint an editorial assistant to take charge of the daily running of the journal. The editorial assistant shall have responsibility for co-ordinating the entire submission, reviewing and publication process; responding to contributors; liaising with reviewers; maintaining the website; ensuring that the editors are provided with regular updates on contributions and reviewing; and, assisting in the planning of future issues.

III.F. The president of RC-40, in consultation with the editors and the members of the executive committee, shall appoint the members of the editorial board. The editorial board members consist of distinguished researchers in the sociology of agriculture and food and at the time of appointment must be members of RC-40.

III.G. The executive committee shall, where possible, provide financial support to ensure the ongoing viability of the journal.

III.H. The editors shall transmit regular reports on the journal to the RC-40 newsletter and shall present a report at the quadrennial business meeting.

III.I. The editors shall transmit a complete record of journal finances to the secretary of RC-40, who shall add those records to the yearly financial report that is to be submitted to the executive committee and the quadrennial report submitted to the business meeting.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

IV.A. Amendments to the by-laws can be submitted by any member in good standing of the Research Committee.

IV.B. Amendments must be initially approved at RC-40 business meetings

IV.C. Amendments must then be ratified by mail ballot of members by a majority of those voting

Upcoming Events

Rural Sociological Society

*Re-centering Equity, Democracy, and the Commons:
Counter-narratives for Rural Transformation*

July 30-August 3, 2014

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

<http://www.ruralsociology.us/>

XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology

*Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and
Complexities*

August 10-14, 2016

Toronto, Canada

<http://www.irsaworld.org/>

RC40 Executive Council, 2010-2014

Office	Officer	Organizational Affiliation	Country	Email
President	Marie-Christine Renard	Universidad Autónoma Chapingo	México	mcrenard@gmail.com
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Southern Europe	Maria Fonte	mfonte@unina.it

From the Secretary

[1] About the electronic Mailing List of the RC-40:

If you would like to join this e-list or if you would like to share information among the members of the RC40 or our listserv, please contact the secretary, Carmen Bain, at cbain@iastate.edu

[2] About the membership fee:

Membership to the International Sociological Association (ISA) and RC40 covers a four year period. To apply for membership and see the fee structure, please go to http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm

Agriculture and Food is published twice a year by The International Sociological Association, Research Committee on Agriculture and Food. For more information contact:

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Volume 8, Number 1, June 2014