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To cite this version:

C. Macombe, S. Madelrieux, B. Dedieu, H. Langeveld. Family farming under pressure: reassessing options for liveability and permanence - An overview. 9th European International Farming Systems Association Symposium (IFSA), Jul 2010, Vienne, Austria. 2 p. hal-00523004

HAL Id: hal-00523004

https://hal.science/hal-00523004v1

Submitted on 4 Oct 2010

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Family Farming Under Pressure: Reassessing options for liveability and permanence

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Keywords: *liveability, social impacts, farm ending, farm maintaining, work conditions, land use management, farming system shifts*

Presentation of the WS 2.3

Building sustainable future of rural areas requires more sustainable farming systems with better working conditions for farmers. Liveability is defined as the characteristics of the systems which satisfy farmers' expectations with respect to farming and relations with family and other activities. Farmers expectations of farming conditions are diverse, and deal with many issues: income, work load, options for vacations, nature of work, physical work, recognition by society, usefulness feeling etc. Until recently, farming systems appeared to be fairly stable entities, both in time and space, characterised by continuity and based on a steady set of productive and cultural activities. A range of societal changes are causing tensions which are exacerbated by the uncertainties stemming from globalization and demographic transitions.

Farming systems are affected by these developments just like other elements of society. New land use and production schemes are appearing. In this workshop, we address some of the social impacts caused by these shifts, with a special focus on work conditions and on continuity of farming. We deal with methods to analyse liveability and changes in farming systems, we ask how to improve farming systems to fulfil work duration and work patterns expectations, we get insights about integration of marginal people, job quality, interests for community, conditions and consequences of ending farm activities, etc.

A special session (**session 1**) **"Social impacts of shifts in land use management"** will be devoted to the social impacts caused by the farming systems shifts that affect land use management. We study three case studies from Portugal (*Barroso et al.; Menezes at al.)* and from the Sudano-Sahelian Africa zone (*Dongmo et al.)* where new organizations for plant biomass management are arising.

The workshop addresses the main social impacts of evolving farming systems through (**session 2**) and (**session 3**) **"When the farming system evolves".** What happens when new crops are introduced (biofuel crops in Brazil, *by Magalhaes*; rubber in China, *by Tang et al.;* tea intercropping in China, *by Leshem et al.)*? In this ocean of uncertainties, preserving local resources may be worthwhile. Keeping local animal breeds may enhance food security (in Serbia, *by Rodriguez et al.)* and the Croatian smallholders pig farmers are the warranty for certain way of living, threatened by modernization (*Wellbrock et al*.). The workshop, further, tackles liveability of new farming systems, be it organic (in France, *by Hellec and Blouet)* or more conventional dairy farming *(Madelrieux et al.).* From a Greek case study*, (Alexopoulos et al*.) highlight the factors affecting farmers' decision to convert or to abandon organic farming, while *(Hayashi and Sato)* link interest for community practices with organic rice farming in Japan.

"From job and working conditions to permanence" is the title of the (**session 4**) and (**session 5**). The workshop produces a main piece of debate about the work conditions topic, wrapping up from job practices to the issue of farm permanence. A first paper (*Crawford et al.*) describes the special programme supporting liveability of dairy farms in Australia. Two papers aim to provide methods for the assessment of work conditions, either from the

farmers (*Fiorelli et al*.) or as a way to characterize actual work features (*Cournut and Chauvat*). Liveability is at the core of the farms networks described in France, *(by Kling-Eveillard et al.).* It is the crucial issue when new supply chains *(Petit et al.)* too*. (Schmitt and Inhetveen)* deal with the assessment of the diversity of farm trajectories considering farming women coping with 30 years of agricultural restructuring in Germany, while (*Rueff and Gibon*) do the same by considering family dynamics during 60 years in South of France.

Sometimes, it is difficult to draw a clear line between social conditions and social impacts. This is demonstrated by the issue of farm continuation and termination. (*Rossier)* highlights conditions related to farm discontinuation for Switzerland, an issue discussed for Belgium by (*Rogge and Kerselaers)*.

As usual, the strength of the International Farming System community is to deliver contrasted insights about the same topic, thanks to different backgrounds, countries and scopes. This workshop is a perfect illustration. The detailed contributions from this workshop are given below.