Call for applications: Occupational Health and Safety Issues in Agriculture

ICDD conference together with Center for International Health (CIH) and Food Security Center (FSC), November 6-10, 2017

Location: Autonomous University of Yucatán at Merida

Proposal

At the exceed conference in October 2016 in Berlin, under the convener Javier Becerril (ICDD México) members of the exceed networks CIH, FSC, and ICDD explored their common interest in the issue of work in rural areas. The decent work deficit is most pronounced in rural areas: the extent of employment creation is very low in rural areas and leads to outmigration, pay and income levels are usually lower than the national average, working conditions are harsh, health and safety issues are frequently ignored, and the rural population mostly lacks political voice for gaining meaningful support from government and a serious hearing from powerful actors in the supply chain.

The three centers involved cover different aspects of the mentioned decent work deficits. While the ICDD carries the term decent work in its name, it focuses primarily on employment creation and relations. This leaves out the occupational health and safety risks that are in the focus of the CIH and the issue of food production and consumption, the main focus of the FSC. In Berlin, the participants from the three networks saw great benefits in continuing the conversation among these perspectives on decent work in rural areas. They are aware that the dimensions of decent work are interdependent. Employment creation and especially employment upgrading requires a healthy workforce which not only depends on food availability but also precautionary health measures in the various workplace. Without employment creation, however, it will be difficult to sustain the required health services. Participants, therefore, agreed that it would be worthwhile to address the decent work deficit in rural areas in an interdisciplinary fashion.

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the possibilities of cooperation with the aim of learning about the different approaches, creating a platform for further exchanges on research designs and training manuals and establishing working groups for developing research project proposals.

Given that most participants at the Berlin conference interested in the decent work issue came from Latin America (the focal area of the CIH), and that the workshop host, the Agricultural University of Yucatán at Merida (ICDD) is in Latin America, the workshop should be of a regional character but to a limited extent open to exceed network partners from other areas.

Call for application

Occupational safety and health (OSH) is a core element of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. Decent Work is Safe Work. Farming is among the most hazardous of occupations. For example in Nicaragua, the occupational injury fatality rate for agriculture is almost 3 times as high as for industry.
The workshop provides a forum for exploring possible areas of research collaboration with members of the CIH network who have specialized in addressing occupational health issues.

Given the multitude of health risks in agriculture and the multidimensional factors enhancing the vulnerability of smallholders and farm labor to these risks, papers are invited to cover issues such as:

- measurement of occupational health risk in agriculture
- the politics of pesticides use
- environmentally damaging spillovers from industrial sites
- reasons for the insufficient provision / use of protective gear
- gender dimensions of occupational health risks in agriculture
- trade union responses to occupational health risks in agriculture
- strategies for making supermarkets and transnational corporations responsible for Occupational Health & Safety along the supply chain
- affordable engineering solutions to safety risks in agriculture.

**Deadline for abstracts: June 30, 2017**

Send abstracts to: scherrer@uni-kassel.de
Call for applications: Sustainable Development Goals and Place of Labour

ICDD Self-Organised PhD Workshop (November 6-10, 2017)

Location: Autonomous University of Yucatán at Merida

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York set up 17 goals and 169 targets for promoting sustainable development across all nations. Built largely with the intentions of promoting justice, equity, empowerment and sustained economic progress worldwide, the SDGs were a step ahead of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Of the 17 SDGs, Goal 8 mentions “promotion of sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Full and productive employment with decent work is taken to be both ideal outcome as well as parameter of sustained economic progress. However, in the present scenario of widening austerity measures, income inequality and growing informality of labour, work is far from what can be regarded as decent. Most importantly, majority of the labour are in lower paid jobs with little or no social protection. Global integration has resulted in benefitting capital much more than labour with the situation of rising unemployment and erosion of labour rights. Against this backdrop, the workshop to be organised by the ICDD PhD scholars wish to re-establish the primacy and centrality of the discussions pertaining to labour in achieving sustainable development goals.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aims to draw attention to the deficits in the understanding of critical labour issues in efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Target group

The expected targeted groups are all PhD fellows (including associates) of the ICDD. PhD students with other institutional affiliations particularly the host university who are working in the subject area or show a strong interest are encouraged to participate.

Mode of the workshop

The workshop will take the form of interventions from experts (senior scholars), case studies presentations, as well as self-organised discussion groups by the participants. The activities will be tailored to the needs of various target groups and their areas of specialization.
Workshop content

The specific topics to be covered at the workshop are:

1. Conceptualising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Labour (Organised Labour and Unorganised Labour)
2. Agriculture Workers, Agricultural Value Chain and SDGs
3. Social Protection and Labour Market
4. Working in Global Supply Chains—towards formalizing work?
5. Labour Organisations, its role and challenges in achieving SDGs
6. Women’s Work and Challenges to Gender Equity in Labour Markets

Application requirements

1. ICDD PhDs
   - Motivation letter describing the link between your PhD work and the workshop theme (in about 500 words).

2. Merida PhDs
   - Motivation letter describing the link between your PhD work and the workshop theme (in about 500 words).
   - Curriculum Vitae
   - Recommendation letter from your PhD supervisor

Application deadline

The deadline for receipt of application is 06 June, 2017. Incomplete and late application will not be considered. All applications should be submitted electronically to

- graduateschool@icdd.uni-kassel.de
- copy: john.amoah@stu.ucc.edu.gh and basuhemantika@gmail.com

For further information please contact: john.amoah@stu.ucc.edu.gh or basuhemantika@gmail.com