

AGST Module 1 Newsletter – April 2017

Comparative Analysis on Agricultural Holdings/ Family Farming – 3rd International Workshop on Study of Family-run Farming

As part of the promotion of the international programme of Kyoto University JGP AGST, the Graduate School of Agriculture, through its Division of Natural Resource Economics, held on March 15-16th, the 3rd International Workshop on Study of Family-run Farming entitled "Comparative Analysis on Agricultural Holdings/Family Farming". This initiative was a result of the cooperation between Kyoto University, Agropolis International (France) and the University of Göttingen (Germany).



participants have adopted an institutional approach; others have focused on quantitative aspects. Such diversity contributed to the multidisciplinary objective of the AGST project.



Figure 1 representation of the keywords discussed during the Workshop

The event was also organised in association with the Norinchukin Bank's Innovative Research for Farm Governance and Management (Endowed Chair) and the JSPS Grants in Aid for Scientific Research (A) 'Development of a Risk Communication Model and Requirements for Profession for Food Safety'.

The purpose of the workshop

The purpose of the workshop was multiple covering academic and institutional motives. The former included the opportunity to deepen and update information on family-run farms given the recent changes in agrifood systems. Therefore, thanks to statistical data, new analytical frameworks could be outlined and presented for countries such as China, France, Germany and Japan. Developing countries were not left behind. Specific cases on Mali, Madagascar and Zambia were presented and discussed in depth by the participants. For the institutional part, the workshop was an opportunity for Kyoto University, through the Division of Natural Resource Economics, to strengthen its collaboration and partnership with participating research institutes and universities.

The perspectives

The discussions during these two days were articulated around various perspectives. As Pierre Gasselin of the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) reminded: "Some use econometrics, others institutional economics, others geography. This workshop made it possible to reconcile different perspectives on the case of family-run farm agriculture through distinctive school of thoughts". Some of the

For the first day, on March 15th, students were given the honour to expose their on-going research in front of an audience from different academic background. Discussions were obviously focused on the keywords: education, agriculture, food, impact and Japan as illustrated in the word cloud presented above.

On the theme of education, a comparison of promotional strategies for taste education in Japan, France and Italy: Suggestions for the Shokuiku in Japan. Although the theme does not fully cover the theme of family-run farming, taste education is an essential element that can lead consumers to switch to good quality food. This, in turn, will give an impetus to a new mode of farming more concerned with the environment. The other topics were covering the characteristics of farms in Japan including their performances, technical efficiencies, managements and sales strategies, as well as the markets. For the case of Europe, the impact of the designation "Natura 2000" (a title given to protected space) on land price was presented for the case of Europe in general and the case of pasteurised milk and its production in Germany, as well as urban agriculture in France in particular, were discussed. Altogether, eight students from France, Austria, Germany and Japan presented.

Professors were at the centre of the stage for the second day, during which two themes were explored: 1) Understanding the current situation and changes of agricultural holdings based on statistics and 2) Proposition of a theoretical framework for comparative analysis to illustrate the uniqueness/commonality in a change of agricultural holdings/family farming.



Dean Hisashi Miyagawa, Graduate School of Agriculture

Dean Hisashi Miyagawa, Graduate School of Agriculture opened the session and recalled that this workshop is timely given the major upheavals in the agricultural world today.

The structure of agricultural holdings in contemporary Japan

“Categorisation of agricultural holdings has not been appropriately addressed by researchers and policy makers. Our objectives are to illustrate the status quo of agricultural census in Japan and obtain clues to make an analytical framework based on types of enterprise and status of labour. With this review, we will also discuss our future research agenda.”



Yoko Niyama & Kae Sekine, (respectively from Kyoto University & Aichi Gakuin University)

A labour-based approach to the analysis of structural transformation: the evolution of French agricultural holdings 2000-2010

“In this presentation, we aim to show two dynamics at stake: 1) an evolution towards off-farm labour for the smallest farms relying on family labour, and 2) a convergence towards a model based on hired wage labour for the largest family farms”.



Pierre-Marie Bosc, CIRAD (France)

The structure and changes of agricultural holdings in China

“China repeats the failure of the European Common Agricultural Policy in the 1980s. China should learn from Europe and abandon the self-sufficient policy in its agenda”



Xiaohua Yu, AGST Project Professor, the University of Göttingen (Germany)

Resilience of farming household in Zambia



Figure 2 Activities after droughts

“Resilience in semi-arid tropics context can be defined as the short-run recovery of food consumption, food

production and livelihoods. In the long-run, resilience can be defined as the adaptive capacity of a household, community and region to absorb shocks, adapt to changing conditions and to learn, innovate and transform. "Various assets including technology, livestock and land holdings and cash income opportunities are crucial for recovery of households and communities. Access to diverse resources helps households to recover from shocks more quickly. For example, the availability and the access to ecosystem services that supply wild food during the lean period."

Chieko Umetsu, Kyoto University

A Labour-Based Approach to the Analysis of Structural Transformation: the Evolution of French Agricultural Holdings 2000-2010



Jean-Michel Sourisseau, CIRAD (France)

"With the exception of North Africa, South Africa and several countries in the Gulf of Guinea, 60 percent of the population is rural. The majority of SSA population will remain rural till the mid-2040s, nearly 1 billion rural residents in 2050s (+35%). In Segou (Mali) there were 38,000 people on the job market in 2015. It will reach 64,000 in 2035 and more than 1 million in 20 years. The employment challenge is similar in Madagascar. In the Vakinankaratra region is similar: 32,000 new job seekers in 2015, 42,000 in 2035 and 700,000 in 20 years."

A Framework to Analyse the Activity System in Family Farming

"The activity system (presented today) thus defined invites to a comparative approach. It allows categorising social and technical forms observed in the various expressions of rural life, and not only the agricultural ones. It leads to re-examine the analysis of the activity, practices and decisions in a system where interact activities, resources for action and decision, the representations and the multiple motivations of the actor. It allows revisiting the way the activity systems are connected with higher levels of the organisation, be it markets, territories, social organisations or public policies."



Pierre Gasselin, INRA, (France)

The grazing decision of German farmers

"Milk production method and pasture usage have gained increasing attention in recent years. The decision to adopt grazing practice as well as the extent of these practices matters. The analysis of the German dairy farms indicates that the adoption of grazing practices is more probable for specialised farms and farms with greater pasture acreage per cow but less likely for farms with larger herds. Given the adoption, the daily pasture access length depends on production related variables, while the annual period only depends on the farm specialisation."



Ulf Roemer, the University of Göttingen (Germany)

Quick facts on Family-run Farm

According to the graphics below, the majority of farms are family-owned. A large difference is in size. While the average size of farms is 1 hectare in Africa, it is 2.2 hectares in Asia. The big difference is in North America and Latin America respectively of 117.8 and 74.4 hectares. These figures are however contrasted when looking at the distribution of these farms. Out of the 570 million farms identified by Lowder, Skoet, and Raney (2016), only 4 percent are located in high-income countries. Most of them are in China and India, probably because of the size of their population. Taking into account these data and the main points mentioned during this workshop, the major challenges for the future for countries with a high concentration of

family-type farming are 1) to create employment and livelihood; 2) enhancing resilience to shocks, particularly those due to climate change. And finally, 3) to create an agriculture with great consideration of the environment and untied from the global market.

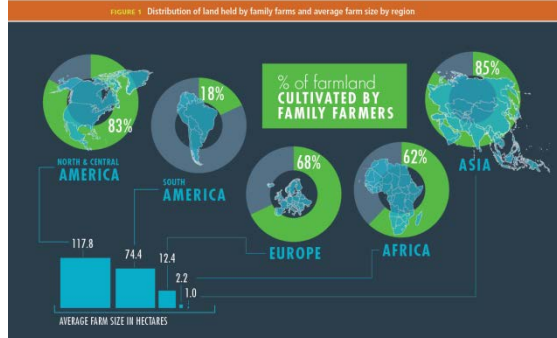


Figure 3 Distribution of land held by family and average farm size by region
Sources: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth, infographic, 2014, www.fao.org/research/infographics/infographics-details/en/c/230925; FAO, 2000 World Census of Agriculture: Analysis and International Comparison of the Results (1996-2005) (Rome, 2013), www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess_test_folder/World_Census_Agriculture/Publications/WCA_2000/Census13.pdf.

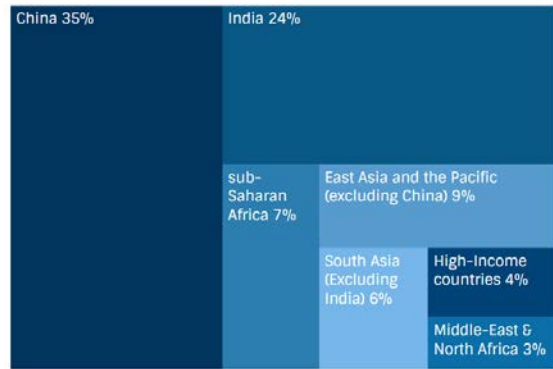


Figure 4 Distribution 570 million farms from 160 countries.
Source: Lowder, S. K., Skoet, J., & Raney, T. (2016). The number, size, and distribution of farms, smallholder farms, and family farms worldwide. World Development, 87, 16-29.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.10.041>

Haja M. Rajaonarison, AGST Research Fellow