



issa

INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ISSA ON PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE

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# OSH in agriculture development

40<sup>th</sup>

International  
Colloquium  
of the International  
Section of the  
**ISSA**  
on Prevention  
in Agriculture

**OSH** in  
agriculture  
development



22 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

ROME

**VISION ZERO**  
Safety.Health.Wellbeing.



# INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ISSA ON PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE

International Section of the Issa on Prevention in Agriculture is a specialized, technical body in the area of prevention of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), set up by decision of the ISSA Bureau. It is one of the fourteen sections of the Special Commission on Prevention. It was founded in 1968 and currently operates under Standing Orders adopted on 30th April 2013 in Erding, Germany. The section comprises ordinary and corresponding members. Majority of members have their representatives in the Advisory Board.

Its objectives are to promote prevention, in particular the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry through international cooperation. The Section is non-profit oriented.

The role of the Section on Prevention in Agriculture is to undertake a wide range of preventive actions aiming at occupational safety improvement, to prevent accidents at work and to protect health of farmers and persons employed in agriculture and forestry and their families.

The Section is composed of two executive bodies: the Bureau and the General Assembly, which is composed of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and a Secretary General. The Bureau is assisted by the International Advisory Board composed of experts from various countries. It deliberates about the Section's future activities and defines the tasks and objectives of the international accident prevention in agriculture on a long-term basis.



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# 40TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

**The 40th International Colloquium of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture took place in Rome, Italy on 22-23 September 2022. The subject of the Colloquium was: OSH in agriculture development.**

The war in Ukraine is affecting global food security across the continent and the wider world. Instability in the region which is called the 'breadbasket of Europe' is therefore likely to affect food supply in the importing countries. Many of them are currently food-insufficient. Therefore, in order to restore a balance in global food supply, it is extremely important to concentrate efforts of all partakers on agriculture development also in the remaining areas. The OSH package is devised to support this task. As farmer is exposed to a number of hazards during his/her daily duties or routine activities, compliance with the regulations and rules of occupational safety and health are crucial. The aim of the Colloquium was to make participants aware of the threats and opportunities, familiarise them with socio-economic aspects of prevention in agriculture as well as strengthen social inclusion in agriculture development. As envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding between ISSA and IFAD on extending social protection to rural areas this included the latest measures aimed at improving safety, health at work and well-being of a farmer and his/her family.

The event was mainly addressed to employers and employees from agriculture sector, occupational safety experts, researchers, work medicals and experts from the area of public health. The conference organizers especially welcomed farmers, OSH experts, national institutions, social partners, testing and certification bodies.

The Colloquium was organised in a hybrid format. There was no conference fee for either personal or virtual participation, however on-site attendance was strictly limited.

More information about the Colloquium: <https://www.gov.pl/web/krus/40-miedzynarodowe-kolokwium-miedzynarodowej-sekcji-issa-ds-prewencji-w-rolnictwie-22-23-wrzesnia-2022-r>



# PANEL 1

## VISION ZERO AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT



**Ockert Dupper**

Ockert is the Global Programme Manager of the Vision Zero Fund (VZF) at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. VZF is an initiative of the G7 and aims to reduce work-related deaths, injuries and diseases in global supply chains. Before joining the ILO, he was Director of Monitoring and Vice-President of Programs at the Fair Labor Association (FLA) in Washington, D.C. (2012-2014), and Professor of Law at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (1996-2012), where he specialised in labour law and social security law. He holds degrees from the University of Stellenbosch, University of Cape Town, and Harvard Law School.

### **Vision Zero Fund: Making agricultural supply chains safer through collective action – successes and future challenges**

Since 2016, the work of the International Labour Organization's Vision Zero Fund has successfully mobilized a wide range of stakeholders to improve safety and health in agricultural global supply chains.

Through the implementation of evidence-led interventions at country level, the Fund has helped to link ginger farmers in Myanmar to global supply chains, strengthened due diligence in Vietnam, and is designing measures to protect agricultural workers against climate change induced heat stress in Mexico.

In Myanmar, Vision Zero Fund has been providing training to ginger farmers on Occupational Safety and Health, helping them organize into cooperatives and providing technical support to enable these groups to mainstream OSH into their business operations through internal control systems for certifications and quality assurance. The lessons from the work in ginger are being replicated in a coffee cooperative.

In Vietnam, the project supports its partners from the government, employers' and worker organisations, the private sector, NGOs and multi-stakeholder initiatives to deliver training on occupational safety and health to workplaces in the coffee sector. This strengthens the suppliers of coffee at farm and factory level to fulfil the requirements of the national OSH Law, certification schemes, company code-of-conducts and due diligence obligations.

In Mexico, the project is in the process of designing, implementing and evaluating appropriate climate change adaptation measures to protect workers in the chili pepper and tomato sectors against climate change induced heat stress. Heat is an occupational safety and health hazard, and evidence shows that the agriculture sector will be particularly affected by projected temperature increases.



### **Pedro Delgado Cobos**

PhD in Chemistry. In 1973 he joined the Spanish National Institute of Safety and Hygiene at Work (INSHT) and specialised in risk prevention during the use of plant protection products. From 2008 to 2014 he was Director of the Working Conditions in Agriculture Department and until his retirement in April 2016 INSHT Technical Advisor. He has participated in several projects funded by the European Commission, related to pesticide exposure. From 2008 to 2011, he has participated as a Government representative in the EU working group for the protection of workers in agriculture and forestry. He was Chairman of the Working Group "Agricultural Sector" of the Spanish National Commission on Safety and Health at Work, and INSHT representative of the Commission on Evaluation of Plant Protection Products. He is currently a collaborator of the Department of

Occupational Risk Prevention and Environmental Protection of the University of Córdoba. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture and a member of the Editorial Board of the KRUS journal "Insurance in Agriculture – Materials and Studies".



### **Fernando Chacón Giménez**

Graduate in Chemical Sciences (University of Cordoba) 1999. Master Degree in Higher Technician in Occupational Risks Prevention (Specialised in Safety, Industrial Hygiene and Ergonomics). Prevention Management Systems Auditor. Since 2000 founder partner and Technical Director of the companies COSIGEIN S.L. and DTA INNOVATION S.L, whose main activity is consulting and engineering in industrial safety. Since 2016 he combined this position with the functions of Secretary of the Social Council of the University of Cordoba and professor in occupational health and safety. Since the beginning of his professional activity he participated as a researcher in different R+D+i projects related to industrial safety in the agro-industrial and defence sectors, including: STABILOME-TRO+HUMS, MANP

## **Vision Zero in relation to the European guide on the protection of workers in agriculture**

The European guide on protection of the health and safety of workers in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry was developed under the technical supervision of a tripartite working group (governmental, employers and workers members) with participants from 9 European countries, which was established in 2007 by mandate of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work. The group was designated responsible for supervising the preparation of the guide and worked from 2008 to 2011.

The guide was published in 2016 by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission and is a 200-page document, comprising of 21 chapters and 11 appendices. It addresses owners, managers and workers in the agriculture, horticulture, livestock farming and forestry sectors. Its main purpose is to assist the user in understanding the basic concepts of occupational health and safety, carrying out their own risk assessments, improving his infrastructure and workplace conditions, and putting into place procedures that increase the level of safety and health in the establishment.



The launch of the Vision Zero strategy took place during the 2017 World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Singapore. Vision Zero is an innovative approach to prevention that integrates the three dimensions of safety, health and well-being at all levels of work. Provides practical tools and solutions, such as the Vision Zero Seven Golden Rules.

#### RESULTS

The European guide includes a section on additional welfare provisions in the chapter dealing with the workforce, however the well-being of workers is included in the sections dealing with occupational health, which is understandable considering that the Vision Zero campaign had not yet started when the guide was developed.



#### Dietmar Elsler

Dr Dietmar Elsler is Project Manager at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao (EU-OSHA), Spain. He is a coordinator of the EU-OSHA supporting compliance activity, which aims to analyse the influence of different factors on OSH management in organisations covering projects on prevention in the agri-food and construction sector. Dr Elsler is also responsible for projects on economic aspects of occupational safety, such as the cost of accidents and ill-health to the society, cost-benefit analysis of health and safety interventions or how to create economic incentives for better working conditions. He coordinates the good practice exchange programme for EU-OSHA campaign partners, social partners and professional organisations. Dr Elsler has worked in the area of health and safety since 1996. Before joining the European Agency in 2006 he was project manager at BAuA – Federal OSH Institute of Germany.

### Improving compliance with regulation and achieving better practice on occupational safety and health in the European agri-food sector

Several recent studies commissioned by EU-OSHA have concluded that improving arrangements and practices for managing OSH across a whole range of workplace sizes and sectors, is stimulated, supported and sustained by a range of institutional actors and processes. These include state regulatory institutions for OSH and external prevention services, while the influence of powerful principal business actors in supply chains is increasingly seen in the conduct of work everywhere. The objective of the in-depth project is to inspire mutual international learning about effective market leverage instruments for occupational safety and health (OSH) in supply chains in the agri-food industry.



# PANEL 2

## ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF PREVENTION



**Sashikala Chandrasekar**

Chair of Scientific Committee on Rural Health – Agriculture, Pesticides & Organic Dusts, International Commission on Occupational Health, Rome, Italy. Medical & Occupational Health Consultant, Bangalore, India. Former President of Association of Occupational Health Karnataka, India. Medical graduate from University of Madras, India with postgraduate Diploma in Otolaryngology, Industrial Health & Public Health and Certificate in Occupational Health from University of California SF, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich & University of Brescia, Italy. More than 35 years of work experience in public sector and private sector industries. Associated with NGOs for Public Health and Rural Health activities. Advisor on social marketing of rural health projects for post graduate students. She presented papers in many national and International Conferences and

has publications to her credit. Recipient of oration awards and many professional awards for the contribution in the field of Occupational Health. She participated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals programs in UN HQ, New York.

### Pesticides Issues in Developing Countries and Means of Mitigation

Pesticides are actively spread in the environment as they are used extensively to control pests to increase the yield of crops. Pesticides continue to be a cost-effective efficient tool for pest management. Due to pesticide toxicity, farm workers and the general population who are environmentally exposed are affected and it leads to occupational, social and public health issues. Pesticide issue is a grave concern, as the health & safety precautions are overlooked by farm workers. Many deaths due to pesticide poisoning are suicides made easy by wide availability of pesticides.

Farmers are unaware of pesticide toxicity and its grave consequences. Awareness programs on best practices of pesticides usage, behaviour changes by nudging on personal protective equipment usage and proper handling of pesticides are important. Spraying of pesticides by drones and poly-oxime treated protective fabric suit are being tested.

A comprehensive umbrella legislation is necessary with implementation of regulatory frameworks, surveillance, monitoring, and enforcement. Irrational use of pesticides, indiscriminate mixture of different pesticides and illegal trade of unregistered, banned, and obsolete pesticides should be stopped. Agro ecological systems of agriculture are needed. A stringent pesticides management law to address pesticide issues will protect the health of farm workers and the public.



### **Magdalena Wachnicka-Witzke**

Experienced banking, communication and public administration manager with a solid economic background. A Polish national, holding Executive Master's of Business Administration and Master's Degree in Economics. Graduated from Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), Warsaw University and Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). Currently at the position of Director of the Communication and International Cooperation at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund in Poland. She is also Secretary General of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture and Vice Chairperson of the ISSA Special Commission on Prevention.

## **Does prevention pay off?**

Preventive measures have multifaceted significance. We often hear about the social role of prevention, but it also has an economic aspect that provides us with additional arguments to invest in prevention.

Worldwide, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 2.78 million workers die each year as a result of occupational injuries and illnesses. Of those, approximately 2.4 million are linked to work-related diseases. The total cost of illnesses, injuries, and deaths is 3.94 percent of the global GDP, amounting to \$2.99 trillion.

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) was established in 1990 by the law on social insurance for farmers. It carries out specific tasks defined by the law. The Fund covers social insurance for farmers, disburses benefits from pension and accident insurance, as well as sickness and maternity benefits. It conducts preventive activities, medical rehabilitation, and operates a two-tier system of medical assessment. Thus, a separate social security system for farmers has been in operation for over 30 years. The fact that KRUS has been in operation for quite a long time now makes it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of the undertaken actions.

Let's have a look at the effectiveness of preventive measures. Over the span of 30 years the number of accidents on farms has decreased by 80%. This spectacular result was related to the distinctiveness of the social security system and the diversity of actions taken. Why? The farmer-specific social security system is focused on the work performed by the farmer, ensuring a holistic approach to carrying the agricultural work safely, with concern for the health and well-being of the farmers and their families.

A significant increase in the budget for preventive actions in 2018 positively impacted the reduction of accident rates, still the funds allocated by the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund for preventive actions per insured individual do not exceed 1 EUR per year. Moreover, a noteworthy decline in the number of accidents, coupled with an unchanged structure of health damage, results in the total annual sum of one-off compensations not escalating, despite a substantial increase in the amount paid for every 1% of health damage.

Thus, lower accident rates not only benefit the economy but also reduce the burden on government social protection schemes, going beyond one-off compensations. These are just selected aspects of the economic efficiency of prevention in agriculture. Accident prevention in agriculture has a ripple effect that economically benefits various stakeholders.



### **Tomasz Zdziebkowski**

Co-founder of Farmwealth Ltd. in 1995. Joined the board of Spearhead International Ltd. as a Group Chief Operating Officer in 2001. In 2016 he was appointed as a Chief Executive Officer of Spearhead International Ltd. In the years 1991–1998 Mr. Tomasz Zdziebkowski was a Managing Partner of BDO Binder in Warsaw. He has earned a master's degree from Poznan University of Life Sciences and was a lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture - Plant Protection. Main area of professional interest is practical implementation and development of biological farming.

## **Safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture by Top Farms – Mr. Tomasz Zdziebkowski, Top Farms, Poland**

Agriculture is facing great challenges. On the one hand, we are dealing with an increasing need to feed a growing global population, and on the other hand, with devastating soil degradation due to intensive conventional agriculture and progressive climate change.

Nowadays we decide about the world in which our children and grandchildren will live. Are we going to eat healthy and nutritious products or dietary supplements?

Species erosion in crop rotation is a huge challenge in agriculture. In Poland, Europe and in the world, the share of cereals in the sowing structure reaches even 80%, which results in a drastic reduction in biodiversity. Simplifications in crop rotation reduce the content of humus in the soil, and hence the reduction of the buffer capacity of the soil, which is very important during periodic phenomena such as drought, heat or torrential rains.

However, agriculture has an enormous potential to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions thanks to the sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, i.e. the fixation of organic carbon in the soil. Regenerative farming is a natural way to stop or even reverse climate change, while increasing soil fertility and producing valuable food.

By supporting biological agriculture, we help our planet to regenerate (carbon sequestration, prevent soil sterilization and water contamination) and sustainably secure the future of agricultural production and a healthy environment for future generations.



### **Patrizia Anzidei**

Biologist – II level Master in safety and protection. Working in INAIL (Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work) – CONTARP (Advisory Department for Risks Assessment and Prevention), Central Office. Her main responsibilities include dealing with: Industrial Hygiene (biological risk assessment), Occupational Diseases and Injuries at work, Health and Safety Management Systems, Cooperation with Italian Ministry of Labour to improve Italian Legislation and Regulations in occupational health and safety, Training activities. She takes part in international projects developed in cooperation with European and international organizations, mainly focusing on occupational health and safety issues and job reintegration projects for disabled workers. Mrs. Patrizia Anzidei is also responsible for recognition of economic incentives for the improvements of health and safety at work.



### **Angelica Schneider Graziosi**

Working in INAIL (Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work) – CONTARP (Advisory Department for Risks Assessment and Prevention). She is responsible for the areas related to: Technical aspects of INAIL subsidies for the improvement of safety and health at work, Classification of production workings/activities in the INAIL premium rate system, Communication initiatives in the field of health and safety at work, Participation at international projects developed in cooperation with European organizations, mainly focusing on occupational health and safety issues.

## **Cultivating safety: Inail's technical and economic support for agricultural small enterprises**

Agriculture is one of the working sectors with the highest rates of occupational diseases, among which musculoskeletal disorders are particularly relevant, and of accidents, which often lead to serious injuries or death of the worker. The management of occupational risks is not an easy task, due to the heterogeneity of the agricultural work, the frequent employment of seasonal workers not adequately trained, the obsolescence of parts of agricultural machinery and tractors, the small size of many companies and the consequent lack of economic resources for preventive measures.

Analytical studies about causes of occurrence in numerous cases of fatal injury claimed to Inail relating to agricultural sector, confirm the high recurrence of some circumstances (use of tractors) and provide reasons for reflection on others (strokes like ictus or heart attack, commuting using bicycle, etc.).

In Italy, INAIL on one side supports worker protection through assistance for victims of occupational diseases and accidents and initiative for rehabilitation and reintegration, on the other side supports enterprises by means of information, training, and financial help for the implementation of projects aimed at improving health and safety at workplace.

In particular, regarding the latter item, micro and small agricultural farms can benefit of funding from INAIL for the purchase of tractors and machines that meet given improvement criteria, considering either the environmental impact of mechanization and health and safety conditions.

These represent a typical example of funded solutions. For instance, fatal injuries involving tractors should have a significant reduction with the availability and correct use of ordinary protective devices like protective structure (ROPS chassis or cab – roll over protection structure) capable of guaranteeing a safety volume for the operator and systems that retain the operator within the aforementioned safety volume in case of overturning (seat belt).



### **Alun Jones**

Alun has worked for over 25 years at the European and international level in occupational safety and health, food safety, public health, agriculture and rural development. From 1997 to 2005, he was responsible for leading EU-OSHA's EU policy cooperation and its awareness and communications activities. In 2020, he was the main author of the EU-OSHA report on OSH in Agriculture and Forestry which sets out a series of recommendations to EU policy-makers. As partner in the EU Horizon Europe project SAFEHABITUS on farm safety and working conditions, he was leading the EU OSH policy work package. He occupied senior positions in the UN and EU communications department, representing the UN Drugs and Crime Office in the UN Communications group and implementing global awareness initiatives related to health, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and wildlife crime. For over 3 years at EFSA he dealt with risk communications issues on food safety, animal welfare, pesticides and GMOs. He presently leads the research and cooperation department of CIHEAM Zaragoza, an intergovernmental Mediterranean organization focusing on international cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and rural issues and participates in the EU OSH activities relevant to food and agriculture.

## **The future of agriculture and forestry: worker safety and health – A comparative view of EU priorities (EU-OSHA report) within the international development context.**

As one of the lead authors of the 2021 EU-OSHA report on EU farm safety priorities and as a leading manager in a key international agricultural development organisation, my presentation will present the EU's OSH priorities in agriculture and attempt to compare and contrast the OSH situation and priorities in developing countries, particularly the Southern Mediterranean and Africa. I will also take a look at the EU's CAP social conditionality and evaluate how this may impact on developing countries in the future in a similar way to the growing EU environmental obligations on developing countries. I will also include aspects of the EU's approach to international trade and how decent work is being incorporated in line with the EU OSH Strategy.





# PANEL 3

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITALISATION IN AGRICULTURE



**Paivi Wallin**

Paivi Wallin is a Director of Farm Relief and Work Ability Support Services at Farmers' Social Insurance Institution Mela, Finland. She is responsible for preventive outreach services targeted to Mela's customers, including prevention of accidents and occupational diseases in agriculture, as well as prevention measures to support farmers' mental health and wellbeing. One of the key measures is the Farmers' holiday and stand-in scheme. Mrs. Wallin's department has also carried out a successful project "Support the Farmer" aimed at providing assistance in stressful situations and reducing work ability risks among farmers. The project has also introduced new tools for prevention, such as work ability coordinator services for farmers and the early intervention network to support them at early stage. Mrs. Päivi Wallin lives in Helsinki, and she also manages a small family farm with her husband in Uusikaupunki, Southwestern Finland.

### Promoting OHS among farmers through a new digital service, framework agreements with occupational health service providers and the early intervention network

Occupational health services provide important support for farmers' work ability. OHS is voluntary for self-employed entrepreneurs and therefore covers only 30% of all farmers in Finland. Mela has taken various measures to encourage farmers to join OHS:

#### 1) New digital service

Mela introduced a new digital OHS application in 2020. It is a browser-based, modern, interactive tool for reporting work conditions at the farm visit in real time. Both farmers and the OHS service providers have access to the application.

The application shifts the focus from ex-post reporting to preparation. It also streamlines the farm visitation process and supports multi-professional co-operation between health specialists and farm safety experts.

Service provider can use the application to collect pre-information from the farmer, to save the data during the farm visit and to generate the report and action plan. The farmer can communicate with the service provider, view the farm visit report and record his measures in the recommendations of OHS.

#### 2) OHS framework agreements

Mela has promoted OHS by introducing framework agreements between farmers and service providers. Framework agreements are drawn up with service providers who are committed to offer high-quality services in accordance with good occupational health practice, reasonable prices and activities which meet the needs of farmers. The goal is to make the process of joining to the OHS easy for the farmer and to improve the quality of services, regional equality, accessibility and effectiveness.

#### 3) Early intervention network

OHS service providers are important actors in farmers' early intervention network established by Mela. The concept of early intervention involves educating co-operation partners to make observations about early symptoms of burn-out, to bring up their observations with the farmer and to assist the farmer to get help. Mela's Support the Farmer Project advisors work in close co-operation with OHS.



### **Andrea Engemann**

Health scientist at the Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG) in the Competence Center Work and Health since 2016. From 2018 to 2021, manager of the nationwide prevention campaign “Culture of Prevention Kommitmentsch”, in the context of which the SVLFG Self-Check, as an analysis tool, was created.

## **SVLFG self-check “safety and health in the enterprise” Web-App**

Our SVLFG self-check “safety and health at work” is available to you as a further offer as part of the development of your own prevention culture. Available to all insured companies in the green sector as of fall/winter 2020 as a free Web-App. The self-check can be carried out conveniently using your own smartphone or tablet. With the self-check, small and medium-sized companies in particular can find out how important occupational safety and health are in their corporate culture and to what extent they are already integrated into everyday working life. The processing time including evaluation takes about 30 minutes. The self-check consists of nine short checklists (4 to max. 7 questions each) and takes into account different company sizes. Among other things, questions are asked about legal standards and requirements, but also about measures and management responsibility. The answers are intended to provide a general overview of how safe the company is and how much it cares about the health of its employees.



### **Christelle Guillet**

Diploma in Occupational and Environmental Hygiene at the CNAM in Angers – Institute of Industrial Hygiene and the Environment (Master 2 degree), Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Chemistry at the University of Nantes. She is occupational risk prevention advisor within MSA, her responsibilities in wine area included: Co-piloting and developing a national website, Analyse human activities in real work situations, proposing methodologies adapted to the problems, Supporting and monitoring winery development or design projects, Setting up partnerships with ergonomics firms. Work related to Viticulture: coordinating regional project on welcome guide to produce a welcome guide, Supporting companies in their risk assessments, improving working conditions through the implementation of financial aid (AFSA). In Transverse she organised national trade fairs such as SIVAL. From 2015 to 2022 she developed training courses

on the prevention of psycho-social risks for managers of agricultural enterprises, members of the CSE and safety coordinators. She carries out workstation studies in the context of occupational disease claims, analysis of serious or fatal accidents at work. Intervening in schools: ESA, MFR de Chalonnnes, Lycée and CFPPA de Montreuil Bellay.

## **Developing primary prevention in the design and layout of workplaces, the example of the monprojetdechai.fr website**

The MSA has included in the priorities of its 2021-2025 occupational health and safety programme the support of projects and transitions and, in particular, the development of primary prevention concerning the design and layout of workplaces, equipment and work organisations.

To help winegrowers design wineries that combine safety, better working conditions, productivity, quality, etc., MSA has developed a website: <https://monprojetdechai.fr/>

This site allows any winegrower who wishes to fit out, transform, extend or build a winery to follow a project management method in order to ensure the success of the project in all its components: human, technical and organisational. It proposes to follow a questioning process centred on human interventions in order to define the design and implementation choices best suited to the users and to facilitate the conditions for carrying out the activity in order to improve performance. The 5 major wine-making activities are the subject of a questioning process centred on the work activities: reception of the grapes, pressing, wine-making, wine maturing and storage, packaging. This tool allows the winegrower to keep control of his project from start to finish and the MSA advisors to accompany him at the key stages of the project.



### **Prof. John Rosecrance**

Ph.D. in Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences at the University of Iowa, M.S. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, B.S. at the California State University Fresno and C.P.E. (Certified Professional Ergonomist). Director of the Occupational Ergonomics & Safety Training, Program: NIOSH Education and Research Center. Author or co-author of numerous articles published in refereed journals or in press and books and chapters in books. Participation in many projects.

## **Stooped Labor: An Assessment of Low Back Postures During Vegetable Production**

### **BACKGROUND**

Feeding the world involves significant manual labor, with the majority of work performed by migrant workers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, migrant workers were essential to successful agricultural production. Vegetable production involves work tasks that often expose farm workers to extreme and awkward trunk positions (e.g., stooped postures). Row crops, grown close to the ground, are especially task intensive and involve stooped postures that have been associated with an increased risk of low back injury. The purpose of this study was to assess low back postures of farm workers during vegetable production using wearable technologies, and to assess the usefulness of wearable microsensors in field conditions.

### **METHODS**

Farm workers were recruited from farms in Italy and the United States. Participants wore an accelerometer-based trunk motion logging system while harvesting a variety of produce. The magnitude, frequency, and time spent in four categories of trunk postures were assessed. **RESULTS:** Low back postures of 66 farm workers were assessed during strawberry, eggplant, cilantro, spinach, squash, and corn harvesting. Manual weeding was also assessed. The majority of harvesting tasks involved a high percentage of time spent in trunk postures greater than 60 degrees of trunk flexion (stooped posture). The frequency and duration of time in a stooped posture varied by product harvested and by pay incentives. Smaller produce and produce grown closer to the ground generally involved a greater amount of time in a stooped posture. Pay incentives based on production were associated with significantly longer times in stooped postures for workers.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Quantifying stooped postures among farm workers can be used to assess, develop and manage improved work designs that reduce the risk of low back stress during agricultural tasks. The results of the study demonstrated that an accelerometer-based trunk motion logging system is useful in quantifying stooped postures among farm workers.



# PANEL 4

## RETURN TO WORK (INCLUDING POST-COVID-19 APPROACH)



**Dr Laura De Filippo**

Degree in Chemistry. Working in INAIL (Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work) – DIREZIONE REGIONALE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA – CONTARP (Advisory Department for Risks Assessment and Prevention). Since May 2013 she has served as Contarp FVG coordinator, dealing with economic incentives for prevention and improvement of health&safety at work, Occupational Diseases and Injuries at work (evaluation of exposure to ergonomic risk factors, chemical and carcinogenic risk, asbestos risk, ecc.), Work reintegration job-related projects for disabled workers, Classification of production workings/activities in the Inail premium rate system, Health and Safety Management Systems, Training activities. Participation at international projects developed in cooperation with European and international organizations, mainly focusing on occupational health and safety issues.

### Work reintegration projects of job-related disabled workers in agriculture: technical issues

In 2014 new specific tasks regarding work reintegration of people with job related disabilities were assigned to Inail. Article 1 (c.166) of Law no. 190 of 23 December 2014 represents a great opportunity for employed and self-employed victims of accidents at work or occupational diseases workers. The matter is ruled by Inail's "Regulation for the reintegration and work integration of people with work disabilities" (2016) that allows to finance up to a maximum of 150,000 euros for each worker, aimed at supporting work reintegration projects developed in the following three areas:

- overcoming and eliminating workplace architectural barriers
- adjustment and adaptation of workstations and equipment
- education and training.

Each project is specifically customized for every worker based on his limitations and real needs, with the aim of:

- reintegrating the worker into the working environment by fully enhancing his residual skills and abilities,
- letting the worker continue to perform the same previous job, if possible, or providing new equipment and new professional skills in order to satisfactorily carry out a new job.

A multidisciplinary team (medical doctors, social workers, administrative and technical professionals) is created to help in developing every project and support employers and workers.

The technical staff (engineers, chemists, biologists, geologists, etc.) belongs to two units providing specific knowledge, respectively, for projects involving architectural barriers removal and the adaptation of the workstation and training. This paper describes how Inail supports these projects in favor of work reintegration with a particular focus on agriculture workers. Some real-world cases carried out with the relevant contribution of Inail technicians of Consulenza Tecnica Accertamento Rischi e Prevenzione (Advisory Department for Risks Assessment and Prevention) that reached a positive reintegration of workers with disabilities, are described, tracing the decision-making process and the technical solutions proposed to reintegrate the worker.



### **Dr Robert Liana**

Chief specialist in Rehabilitation Office – KRUS Headquarters. He is responsible for: supervision of and cooperation with therapeutic rehabilitation institutions of KRUS, conducting medical support in the area of health care, organization of trainings for health care workers, conducting inspections in therapeutic rehabilitation facilities.

Member of the Board of Advisors of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture. Participant in many conferences, symposia of national and international scope. Practitioner in the field of physiotherapy and rehabilitation, lecturer at the School of Rehabilitation (physical medicine and balneotherapy, traumatology of the musculoskeletal system).

## **Recovery from Covid-19 – a new profile for KRUS inpatient rehabilitation**

An increasing number of people who have undergone COVID-19 complain of post-infection complications. Disturbing symptoms and changes in the body resulting from the SARS-CoV-2 infection include: respiratory disorders, shortness of breath, general weakness of the body resulting in a prolonged feeling of fatigue and the so-called post-Covid syndrome, which includes: a notorious feeling of fatigue, abnormal heart rhythms, difficulties in undertaking the slightest physical activity are often combined with symptoms of balance and motor coordination disorders. Patients, including farmers who have undergone the infection, complain of muscle and joint pain or headaches.

Problems with concentration, memory or logical thinking are also frequently reported. These symptoms make it difficult to return to normal functioning and, for farmers, to return to farm work.

Professional therapeutic rehabilitation, whose importance in eliminating complications is also emphasised by the World Health Organisation, helps patients to recover and overcome the effects of the disease.

Rehabilitation for recovering COVID-19 patients aims to address these effects of the disease and help patients return to full health.

The Agriculture Social Insurance Fund has launched in 2021 a new inpatient rehabilitation profile for post-COVID-19 patients.

Rehabilitation is currently taking place at two KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centres: from May 2021 at the Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Jedlec and from June 2021 at the Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Szklarska Poręba.

By July 2022, a total of 199 farmers has benefited from therapeutic rehabilitation after COVID -19.



### **Dr Robert Tabaszewski**

Robert Tabaszewski holds the doctor's degree in juridical sciences with several years' academic experience, including as an academic teacher. He effectively coordinates research projects. Dr Robert Tabaszewski effectively coordinates research projects and specialises in health care law, human and patient rights, constitutional and international law. Member of European Society of International Law, Review of Comparative Law, Polish Association for Constitutional Law, Polish Association of European Studies, International Law Association – Polish Group. He provides expert opinions and legal analyses, representing clients before courts and state authorities Proficient in international law, Human rights and Democracy, Constitutional law. Legal specializations: Public law: European and International, Protection of health and patient's rights, Electoral law, innovation and new technologies.

## **The right of agricultural workers to refuse or to stop unsafe or unhealthy work in the post-COVID era: standards, challenges and opportunities**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the restriction of many human rights, including the right to just conditions of work. The paper aims to reconstruct the current legal and social standards of agricultural workers in the field of the right to refuse or to stop unsafe or unhealthy work in a post-COVID era. Specific aspects of this right are: reasonable working time in agriculture, reduced working hours or additional holidays in dangerous or unhealthy occupations, night work in agriculture, weekly rest period in agriculture and others.

### **RESULTS**

The vast majority of UN, FAO, CoE and domestic regulations and judgements, including labor codes and agricultural laws of European countries, contain the right of the agricultural worker to refrain from performing hazardous work. It is the task of the member states of the UN, FAO and Council of Europe to regulate exactly this right in their legislation and to ensure that this right is fully realized in agriculture. The right to refuse or to stop unsafe or unhealthy work shall meet the standards not only of Art. 2 and 3 of the Social Charter. Through safe and healthy work, agricultural workers provide themselves with the material resources necessary for their existence, increase knowledge, overcome limitations, and build relationships with co-workers.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

It has been shown that the right of the agricultural worker to refuse or to stop unsafe or unhealthy work is an integral part of the human right to work. However, farmers' rights changed significantly during the pandemic and the climate crisis. The implementation of this right is in the interest of the member states, which are, after all, bound by other standards of international labor law, resulting from the ILO and WHO conventions, EU law, and, above all, from Article 7 of the ICESC.



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# PANEL 5

## SAFE FARM WITHOUT WELLBEING?



### **Magalie Cayon**

Head of Prevention at MSA. Supervision of a team of 15 people qualified as ergonomists, agronomists, project managers and secretaries. Work in cooperation with occupational physicians. Coordination and contribution to the steering of an occupational health and safety network at national level (prevention advisors, occupational physicians, occupational health nurses). National pilot for the prevention of occupational diseases in the butchery meat cutting industry.

Member of the Board of Advisors of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture.

### **Well-being at work: an occupational health issue**

Breeders and slaughterhouses are regularly the subject of violent attacks by anti-species associations (notably the L214 videos) on the way animals are treated. These ultra-violent images stun and move the general public and discredit an entire profession of meat production in France. The source of these calls is a strong societal demand in favour of the BEA (Animal well-being) and the preservation of nature, which is reflected in a decrease in consumption of red meat.

The repercussions of this societal pressure are worrying, both for the psychological and physical health of farmers and slaughterhouse employees (ill-being, occupational illnesses, suicides), and for the economic sustainability of farms and slaughterhouses. This trend is of great concern to MSA.

Today, we are seeing a significant increase in standards and rules at EU and French levels in response to society's demand for BEA. This increase in normative requirements raises questions about the physical and mental burden on livestock and slaughterhouse professionals.

Within MSA, we defend the idea that the health of agricultural professionals is based on the meaning of their work, what they commit themselves to in production and the value of what they produce with regard to their mission: to feed people and take care of the land, nature, farm animals and the world.

Our challenge is to put Work (work activity in the ergonomic sense) back at the centre of the BEA's societal subject by relying on the following wager: it is in the quality of the relationship with the animal, with nature, with others, with the territory, ..., that the heart of competence, of professional identity, is built. It is through this that the farmers and agricultural employees' health is built. The MSA's Central Fund has set up several actions to support professionals in taking account of society's demands.



### **Marta Suchocka-Zielińska**

Chief specialist in Rehabilitation Office – KRUS Headquarters. She is responsible for: supervision and cooperation with therapeutic rehabilitation institutions of KRUS and cooperation with KRUS regional branches.

Member of the Board of Advisors of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture. Participant in many conferences, symposia of national and inter

## **Building the well-being of caregivers of people with disabilities – KRUS regeneration stays**

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund has been providing therapeutic rehabilitation for 30 years. Rehabilitation takes place at 6 KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers across Poland: in Horyniec-Zdrój, Iwonicz-Zdrój, Jedlec, Kolobrzeg, Szklarska Poreba and Swinoujście. By 2021, 371,245 people had benefited from rehabilitation.

Therapeutic rehabilitation in the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) is aimed at people at risk of total inability to work on a farm, as well as those who have lost this ability but are likely to regain it as a result of treatment and rehabilitation. The fund directs to therapeutic rehabilitation for diseases of the musculoskeletal system and circulatory system. In addition, a special therapeutic program called "Back School" has been conducted at the KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center in Jedlec since 2016. In 2021, a new rehabilitation profile targeting post-COVID-19 patients was introduced.

Since 1993, the Social Insurance Fund has also been referring farmers' children for therapeutic rehabilitation; this rehabilitation is currently taking place at 5 CRR KRUS during the summer vacation. This form of rehabilitation has so far benefited 33, 170 children of farmers insured with KRUS.

In June 2022, provisions in the Law on Social Insurance for Farmers were amended, which will allow the Fund to refer two new groups of patients for inpatient rehabilitation and regeneration holidays. For therapeutic rehabilitation, the Fund will be able to refer people entitled to an agricultural pension, while for regeneration periods it will be able to refer people who are caregivers of disabled people insured with KRUS.

In view of the aging population, provisions have also been introduced into the law regarding the referral of persons entitled to an agricultural pension for rehabilitation in order to improve their health. This rehabilitation will be carried out in the form of 21-day stationary periods in 6 CRR KRUS. Those referred to it will be provided with accommodation, meals and an average of 3 treatments per day.

The regeneration stays will allow caregivers of people with disabilities to obtain improvements in their psychophysical condition and quality of life. Regenerative stays will be conducted on a 7-day residential basis. Approximately 9,000 people are eligible for this form of turnouts at the Fund, and the Fund plans to refer 600 people to them in the first year starting in January 2023, depending on interest. Those referred to the regeneration stays will be provided with accommodation, meals and an average of four treatments per day. It will be possible to be referred to the turnout 12 months after the end of the previous stay.



### **Raphaëlle Desrousseaux**

Comparative Public Policies Master. International Public Policies and Management Master. Case studies : top-tier higher education in France and the UK and outreach. Work experience in social security (self employed and liberal professions regime). Work at the CCMSA : manager for the committees and project management department. Main responsibilities include : co-managing the « agricultural distress prevention program », project evaluation and methodology, strategy.



### **Mathilde Gervaisot**

Public Health And Social Welfare Management Master. Urban Sociology and Mobility Master. South American cases studies: Experimental methodology and randomisation designs in social policies programs. Working in CCMSA: Health And Social Protection PMO. Main responsibilities include: Co-Managing the « Prévention du mal être agricole » program, Providing PM methodology support to all levels of department programs, Leading the end-to-end process for project evaluations.

## **Preventing the malaise of agricultural professionals in France**

On 23 November 2021, the interministerial plan (Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Solidarity and Health and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration) entitled “Prevention of malaise and support for farmers in difficulty” was launched. This interministerial plan is now supported by all the players in the rural world. It concerns farmers and production employees, and MSA plays a major role in it.

In parallel with this interministerial plan, MSA has set up a “Prevention of agricultural malaise” programme. This latter is aimed at all those insured by MSA: young people, students, retired people, working people, employees, farmers, etc.

MSA’s Central Fund and the 35 MSA departmental funds are mobilising throughout France to implement this plan and this program in order to reduce situations of distress and excess suicides in the farming community. The plan is managed at national level and within each MSA.

Several national actions are already underway in 4 areas of action:

Prevention à ESOPT (Et Si On Parlait Travail?) action: Collective action of debate between farmers whose objective is to better understand the links between their work and their health,

Detection:

► Development of sentinels: Network of professionals, elected representatives and volunteers trained to detect situations of ill-being among the farming population

► Agri’écoute: Free agricultural telephone platform with clinical psychologists

Orientation :

► Multidisciplinary cell for the prevention of malaise in each MSA fund,

Support :

► Individual accompaniment by a social worker and actions such as the “respite” device (financial coverage by MSA of replacement employees + holiday days) to prevent burnout

SOME FIGURES

1655 situations of concern reported in 2020 (70% men and 30% women)

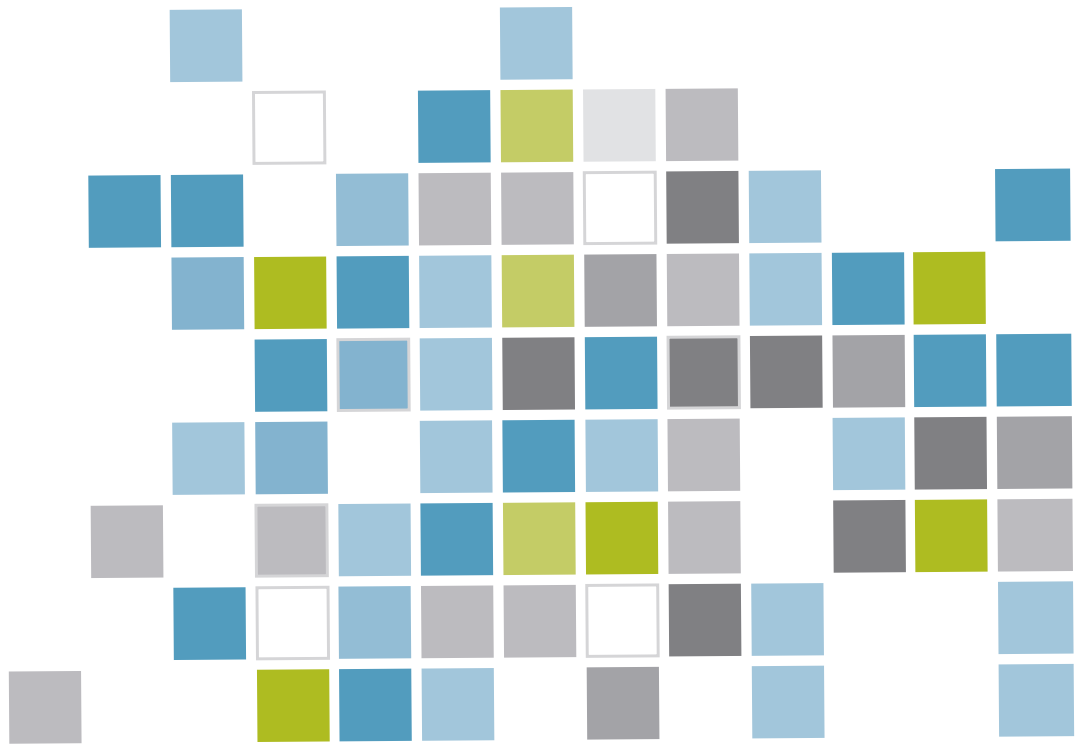
3530 members who benefited from respite care (712 beneficiaries) in 2019

3500 calls received by Agri’écoute in 2021 (10% result in psychological follow-up)



# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE?

## JOIN OUR AGRICULTURE FAMILY!



The International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture comprises ordinary and corresponding members.

The following entities may become **ordinary members** of the Section:

- affiliate and associate members of the International Social Security Association, as defined in Articles 5 and 6 of the ISSA Constitution;
- an institution, is part of a federation of institutions, government department, agency or other entity that is an affiliate or associate member of the ISSA;
- all organizations whose objectives are consistent with those described in Article 2 (of the Section's Standing Orders) and which are not qualified to become a member of the ISSA.

The following may become **corresponding members** of the Section:

- individuals as well as other interest groups, who are experts in occupational safety and health protection in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry.

more information: [www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture](http://www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture)

# INFORMATION

The International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture brings together institutions and individuals who are engaged in the promotion of occupational safety and health in agriculture. It gives its members opportunities to exchange information and experience and seeks to provide practical solutions to specific issues.

[www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture](http://www.issa.int/prevention-agriculture)

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