LECTIO MAGISTRALIS
Authors – Abstracts

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Safety Health Welfare in Agriculture & Agro-Food Systems

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He was born in Kaminia, Piraeus. He studied at the School of Medicine & Surgery of the University of Pavia, Italy.

He was Chairman of the Inspection Committee of Public Places of Health Interest of the Province of Kythira. He worked in the Oncology hospitals of Kifissia "Ag. Anargyroi "& Tzanio Piraeus.

He was the scientific manager of educational programs and worked as occupational physician in several companies as well as in the establishment & operation of an Olympic site construction clinic.

He edited the publication of the basic textbook of Occupational Medicine, by Bernardino Ramazzini, *Diseases of workers*, for the first time in Greek.

He is particularly involved in the training of young occupational physicians, coordinating as director of studies, their annual theoretical training program at the School of Public Health as well as the Postgraduate Program "Occupational and Environmental Health"

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Leptospirosis, One Health Policy Example

Keywords: leptospirosis; epidemiology; One Health Policy;

Abstract

Background: Leptospirosis is one of the most important zoonotic bacterial infections worldwide. Infection occurs through contact with infected animals, or soil or water that has been contaminated by the urine of infected animals. Risk factors include occupational and recreational exposures, contact with floodwaters, and travel to areas with a high risk of leptospirosis, particularly. With climate change, flood-related outbreaks are becoming more common.
Objective: This article provides an overview of epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human leptospirosis and aims to improve awareness of leptospirosis, as an emerging global public health problem. Eco-epidemiological and cultural characteristics is an essential prerequisite for evolving an effective and acceptable control measure. Evidence from epidemiological data, EU and Greece, clearly shows the impact.
Discussion: Majority of Leptospirosis is sub clinical or mild illness and overlap with many other causes of acute febrile illnesses. One Health Policy, a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach address the risks from human-animal-ecosystem interactions has been shown to be an excellent and ideal framework, especially in very touristic area such Mediterranean basin.

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Long-term and extensive experience of research, education and collaboration with industry and society in working life, health and social sustainability with a focus on the agricultural and rural working life, nationally and internationally. Today the focus is on injury

prevention, psychosocial working conditions and mental health among farmers. Experience of several international assignments including associate editor, scientific advisory boards, evaluation expert, leading positions of various scientific journals, organizations, universities etc.

Further information with examples of publications: https://www.slu.se/cv/peter-lundqvist/

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International Perspectives on Farmers´ Psychosocial Working Conditions and Mental Health

An international systematic review was made by request of the Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise (https://sawee.se/) to provide an overview of research relevant to farmers' psychosocial work environment and mental health. It contains knowledge about the farmer's challenges and consequences in the form of stress and risk of mental illness, opportunities to deal with these challenges yourself or through various forms of support. Important aspects also include the profession's health factors and its development opportunities that contribute to a good working environment.

The results showed that the work environment risks identified in farmers' psychosocial work environment are; workload, economy, climate change and weather conditions, crime, globalization, laws and regulations, masculine norms and loneliness, isolation and lack of support. Mental ill health is generally higher among farmers, especially among older farmers, than in other occupational groups. Farmers have a higher incidence of depression and suicide attempts than other professional groups, and farmers' mental illness has increased in recent years.

Health factors in the psychosocial work environment of farmers are not as well studied as risk factors. The health factors identified are; the link between the farmer and the cultivated land, environmental and social responsibility, the ability to do work, to be outside, to work physically, to eat well, good working and living environment, to work with animals, reasonable workload, own motivation, social support and sense of belonging, an income that did not come from working on the farm and the ability to work after retirement age.

The farmers' ability to withstand and recover from the stress they face in their professional role (resilience) varied between individuals. Support from family, nature and animals and setting limits to their work commitment, relaxing, or doing other things (than work) also contributed to strengthening their resilience. Resilience is something that can be learned which can be helpful for farmers. Farmers use different personal strategies to manage the stress they are exposed to (coping), and different coping strategies can also contribute to building farmers' resilience. It can be planning, positive reappraisal (change in attitude to stressful events, humor, and leisure) and getting help and support from others. Furthermore, acceptance can be used as a coping strategy. More negative strategies can be avoidance, as well as blaming oneself or others. It can also involve suppressing emotions, avoiding problems, or consuming alcohol.

According to several studies, the fact that farmers seem to be less likely to seek out and use resources and services for mental illness is due to a lack of regional resources and professional-specific knowledge about the target group. Farmers had the greatest confidence in, and were therefore most receptive to, information about mental health from doctors, but also from their spouses/family members and friends. The agricultural movement can contribute to social support, education, and mentoring programs for farmers with stress and depression symptoms. In the review of the literature, it has also been established that there is a need for more knowledge regarding; female farmers' working conditions and mental health, the consequences of changes in the countryside through deteriorating community services and increased crime. Studies and evaluations of various forms of support and interventions to support farmers' mental health are needed on a larger scale. An EU report on the future working environment in agriculture also points to the importance of increased knowledge about the stress factors expected to be linked to climate change, economic and financial stress, increased demands from authorities and consumers, negative criticism of agriculture including militant activists.

Download full report: https://media.sawee.se/2023/03/Farmers_psychosocial_work-environment_and_mental_health_digital.pdf

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Simone Severini

Simone Severini is an agricultural and applied economist in academia since 1995. He published more than 100 papers obtaining 2010 citations (1336 since 2018, 419 only in 2022) and an H index of 23 (20 since 2018) (Google Scholar, June 2023). Professional qualification and an engaging attitude toward teamwork have been key to these results. He is now coordinating a national project on Risk management in agriculture and has been chairing a unit of an EU-funded project on the sustainability and resilience of EU farming systems. He is President of the Italian Association of Applied and Agricultural Economics and Delegate of the Rector of his University for international relations.

Research areas are mostly focused on the analysis of agricultural policy with an emphasis on ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of Pillar 1 CAP measures. Based on a strong knowledge of microeconomic theory, he masters research techniques in the fields of mathematical programming, econometric methods and stochastic

simulations. Currently, research areas are risk analysis and management at farm level, resilience and sustainability of farming systems, as well as risks and vulnerabilities of the food supply chains. The focus of research and evaluation of policies is on-farm production choices, income level, variability and distribution, as well as the economics of irrigation, from both an ex-ante and an ex-post perspective. These activities have been developed on micro-economic data (FADN and EU-SILC).

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Risks and Vulnerabilities of the EU Food Supply and Risk Management Tools at the Farm Level

Risk analysis and management in agriculture

The farm sector is subject to several and increasingly relevant risks. Hence, managing them increases its resilience. The speech shows how to analyze and manage risk. It describes the different types and sources of risk, how it is possible to describe these risks and why risk affects farm decision making and farm economic results. Finally, it provides an overview of risk management strategies to then focusing on the tools supported by the Common Agricultural Policies.

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