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Call for Papers

FAO and Households in Conflict Network (HiCN)

12th Annual HiCN Workshop

"Violent Conflict, Resilience and Agriculture: From Emergency to Development"

24-25 October 2016

Rome

Academic Organizers: Tilman Brück (IGZ/ISDC), Patricia Justino (IDS), Philip Verwimp (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Marco d'Errico (FAO)

Motivation

Violent conflict has significant effects on the welfare, resilience and behaviour of individuals, households and communities. These impacts deserve close study at the micro-level, both as a new field of academic inquiry and as an aid to development and poverty reduction policy. Policy practitioners have increasingly realized the importance of understanding, compensating for, and overcoming the constraints caused by violent conflict.

Subsistence agriculture is one of the key livelihood strategies of extremely poor people affected by violent conflict, including those forced to flee. In rural areas, conflict often puts an end to formal economic activities (e.g., export-oriented agriculture), destroys productive assets (e.g., livestock), and restricts access to formal markets and traders. In response, resilient households resort to various informal, small-scale, labour-intensive activities including subsistence agriculture. This can prove particularly valuable for refugees in protracted humanitarian emergencies, given the restrictions on their movement and their inability to access to much land. For example, planting very small vegetables gardens is one of the most labour intensive and least land intensive forms of agriculture, which can even be undertaken even inside a refugee camp.

However, relatively little is known about how households struggling to survive protracted violence and displacement get by economically, what shapes their (agricultural) livelihoods and what determines their food security. This is true both of socio-economic determinants and of the natural science of smallholder agriculture in conflict and fragile settings. Standard agricultural surveys in conflict-affected countries only sporadically feature questions related to the causes and consequences of violence, leaving treatments ad-hoc and incomparable across different settings. This makes it hard to build a systematic and comparable understanding of how violence has affected different people, communities and population groups, and constitutes a key gap in agricultural policies in conflict-affected settings. Furthermore, relatively little is know about how strengthened



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agriculture and food security may in turn contribute to improved security and accelerated peace building.

Organisational Details

FAO and the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) are organising a joint workshop to bring together scholars interested in these topics to present their cutting edge original research and to discuss these findings with leading experts from FAO and other interested stakeholders and with each other.

The workshop will take place immediately prior to the 7th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VII) in Rome, Italy, which is co-hosted by FAO. The conference will also feature a session on "Measuring the social and economic impact of conflicts and political instability on agriculture". See <http://icas2016.istat.it> for further details.

We invite submission of original research papers, with a preference for empirical papers addressing questions of conflict and agriculture at the micro level. Papers making an explicit reference to the connection between agriculture and/or food security and conflict are particularly welcome. Submissions should be in English. We are looking for completed but unpublished papers. Submissions by early stage researchers and from researchers based in the Global South are encouraged. High quality submissions on the economics of conflict outside of the workshop theme will also be considered.

Please send your completed paper and a short CV (maximum two pages) in PDF format by email to resilience@fao.org by **1 August 2016**. We expect acceptances to be communicated by early September 2016. The conference language will be English. Submitted papers may be considered for publication in a journal special issue or edited volume; further details will be shared at a later date.

For further information, please visit www.hicn.org.