

Social Research Call

Title:

Factors shaping farmer Renewal and farming Models



Acronym: FARM

Project leader: Petra Benyei

Host organisation: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Main purpose of the project: We aim to investigate the gender differentiated and interlinked influence of a) personal (age, education, family background, values/land attachment), b) environmental (local infrastructure, natural resources availability, climate change vulnerability), and c) policy (access to grants) factors on farm manager incorporation, settlement and choice of farming models in underpopulated rural Spain.

Design/methodology/approach: We will use a citizen social science approach where non-academic stakeholders participate in design, data collection and analysis. Secondary data from the Agrarian Census (INE 2020) and the Ministry of Agriculture (2014-2024) will be used. We will also generate new quantitative and qualitative data through a survey and in-depth interviews.

Potential results: We will provide new data and novel methodological and analytical approaches that might be used and replicated by future research. We will also provide ready-to-use knowledge that will inform public policy and improve the effectivity of policy measures promoting farmer generational renewal, settlement, and sustainable farming systems.

Social relevance of the research: Current rural depopulation/masculinization and the environmental degradation trends derived from unsustainable farming systems are pressing societal challenges. We aim to help design policies that can reverse these trends, while also empowering rural youth (especially women) as they participate actively in cutting-edge research with a policy impact.

Originality/value of the project: This project is of high novelty as we will use technology-mediated surveys (chatbots) to collect primary data, art-based methods (an itinerant data-based art installation) in the analysis and dissemination of our results, and a cutting-edge transdisciplinary citizen social science approach that engages new stakeholders with diverse knowledge systems.