Explore the links between agriculture, migration and food security:
Methodological proposal for a survey of diversified and multi-localized agricultural households

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General Introduction

• Whatever the geographical context, the analysis of the SAN of households implies to question its ways of accessing food and the nature of its diet (quantity, diversity, quality)

• The specificity of agricultural households in rural areas (≠ bcp of urban dwellers not agri.) Is that they are producers of food that they can (or cannot) consume
  • Their food availability is linked to the agricultural production system (conditioned by the environment and resource endowments)
  • It in turn interferes with their food supply strategies (arbitration between self-consumption / sale, barter or purchase) and the nature of the diet

• The “classic” approaches to analyze SAN have designed a framework based on the interactions between the agricultural production system and the food system
  • A "farm HH" unit would result of the overlapping of a nuclear (or extended) family and a farm

• However, omission of certain realities relating to “complexified ruralities”
  → No exclusivity of the agricultural sector in rural societies where family farming with low endowments and low level of productivity predominates
  → Diversification of the activities of HH members (multi-or pluri-activity) locally and in migration (which are often formerly installed)
Proposal for a new framework to analyze Food Security adapted to diversified and multi-localized households

• Objective: understanding how the flows of money and food generated by diversified and multi-localized economic activities affect the access to food and the perception of food security

• Multidisciplinarity (agricultural economics, geography, sociology), to study the complexity of the socio-economic and spatial strategies of HH to access food

• Method developed and tested in an agricultural region of northwestern Nicaragua (SALIMA project: survey of 350 households, 26 qualitative interviews, 7 focus groups)
Deconstruction of "classic" units of analysis in the food security approach

• A **Household** refers to a **unit of residence** (=house) in which a group of individuals, generally (but not necessarily) related by kinship, usually lives together
  • A HH can be made up of one or more nuclear families defined as a group of individuals formed by parents and their children, whether or not the group is complete or not
    • In the event of the migration of one of the members for example, the nuclear family is incomplete
  • Usually, a duration or “living together” is defined and corresponds to at least 4 days per week for more than 6 months per year
    • 6 months = duration generally found in the literature to define long-term migrants

• A **Farm** refers to an **economic unit** dedicated to the production of crops and livestock subject to a single, individual or collective, management. A Farm includes equipment, animals and land (used in whole or in part), regardless of its tenure, or the legal status of the plots
  • Farming HH necessarily have a farm where they carry out productive activities that generate food, money and other goods
  • Some farming HH members may also have other non-farm economic activities, locally or not (migration) and other sources of income (rents, various types of aid including food aid)
Food

DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION FLOW (= self-consumed production)

FLOWS based on MARKET RELATIONS
sales of agricultural products, wages in kind or money, rents, etc.

Food, Money, durable goods

Food

MONETARY FLOWS based on NON-MARKET RELATIONS
Remittances

Circulation unit
Individuals and stakeholders who circulate food

NON-MONETARY FLOWS based on NON-MARKET RELATIONS
Donations (unilateral / reciprocal)

Consumption unit
Individuals who eat together under the same roof (in the same house)

Migrants

Production unit
Individuals who produce resources (money and food)

Public policies

(Gastellu, Polanyi)
Survey method

• Challenges
  • Defining the contours of the three “units" from the consumption unit (= kitchen of a farming HH)
  • Identifying the individuals who contribute:
    • To the flows of resources produced (money, food, goods)
    • To the flows of resources in circulation (donations, remittances, food aid, etc.)

• Multi-level data gathering (individual, HH, farm, house, plot), which combines several methods (interviews, questionnaires, focus groups)
  • Need to characterize the context, the functioning of the faming and activity system, the functioning of the “family food system” and the intra and supra-HH relationships underlying the functioning of these systems
DEMOGRAPHY AND HABITAT

Individuals participating in subsistence logics (household and non-household)

Demographic characteristics:
1) the inhabitants of the house
2) other relatives who participate in the incoming flows of food and money (productive migrants)
3) individuals sharing meals (individuals who are not necessarily related, nor do they reside in the same residence, but who share their meals with members of the household)

House
• Location of the house
• Endowment of the house in durable goods

OFF-FARM ACTIVITIES and FOOD SECURITY Indicators

Individuals participating in subsistence logics (household and non-household)

Economic activities off the farm and in migration

Household
• Household relationships with its social environment
• Expenses
• Food storage
• Purchasing food
• Food consumption → HDDS
• The food insecurity perception scale → HFIAS
• Adaptation strategies to food insecurity

FARMING ACTIVITIES

Individuals
• Activities of family labor working on the farm

Farm
• The location of the farm
• The employment of paid external permanent or temporary / by task
• Work exchanges
• The operation of a garden and backyard animals
• Technical and economic performance of breeding/animal systems
• Sales of farm products
• Other activities using natural resources
• Operating equipment and infrastructure
• Costs associated with farming

Plot
• Technical and economic performance of cropping systems
Contributions and limits

• Flows approach which allows the understanding of diversification and multi-localization of complex activity systems, but also non-market flows (including those linked to remittances and transfers from donations, public programs and food aid)

• Analyzing farming systems could allow exploring the practices of agroecology (and a gradient of transition)

• Outside intrinsic limits of any survey aiming at estimating income (agricultural or not)
  • Different time scales: SAN indicators (HFIAS 4 weeks), purchases / expenses (week, month, year, exceptional), agricultural production (annual cycles or not), activities outside EA sometimes (occasional or variable frequency)
  • Data gathering
    • Length of questionnaires (and $$)
    • Need to combine several methods (including qualitative interviews upstream)