

Proposal master thesis

Topic:

“Potential and barriers to the pollination insurance market”

Background:

Risk management related to pollination is crucial for ensuring stable yields at the farm level. The objective is to determine the extent to which current insurance products meet the needs of farmers facing the risk of pollinator decline, and to explore opportunities for the development of new, adapted products. The student may focus on specific sectors such as almonds, fruits and vegetables, and/or oilseeds, which are crops that are highly dependent on pollinators.

Proposed tasks and methods:

- Review existing literature on agricultural risk management strategies in the context of environmental changes – particularly pollinator decline
- Compile information on existing insurance products that address risks associated to pollination worldwide (type of insurance mechanisms, coverage, adoption rates among farmers, affordability and accessibility)
- Develop a conceptual framework illustrating how different insurance mechanisms might influence farmer decision-making such as crop type, pest and pollinator management practices considering behavioral factors

Literature:

Gallai, N., Salles, J. M., Settele, J., & Vaissière, B. E. (2009). Economic valuation of the vulnerability of world agriculture confronted with pollinator decline. *Ecological economics*, 68(3), 810-821.

Giné, X., & Yang, D. (2009). Insurance, credit, and technology adoption: Field experimental evidence from Malawi. *Journal of development Economics*, 89(1), 1-11.

OECD (2009), *Managing Risk in Agriculture: A Holistic Approach*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Sherrick, B. J., Barry, P. J., Ellinger, P. N., & Schnitkey, G. D. (2004). Factors influencing farmers' crop insurance decisions. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 103-114.

Smith, V. H., & Glauber, J. W. (2012). Agricultural insurance in developed countries: where have we been and where are we going?. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 34(3), 363-390.

Contact:

The master thesis will be supervised by the chair group of “Production Economics”.

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