Seasonal migrants in the agriculture of northern Italy. The case of Cuneo.

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Presentation plan

1. The province of Cuneo
   • The agricultural context
   • The region of Saluzzo (fruit production)
   • The region of Langhe-Roero (wine production)

2. Agricultural labour in the province of Cuneo
   • General characteristics
   • Migrant workers
     • Origins
     • Working conditions
     • Housing conditions
     • Focus on Moroccan and Romanian workers
The province of Cuneo (Piedmont)
Cuneo’s agricultural context 1

- The province of Cuneo holds the third place in Italy for gross sealable agricultural production with a contribution to GDP and employment well above the national average.

- The agricultural production reflects the geoclimatical nature of the area: internal planes are ideal for pulse, fruits and cereals, mountains and high hills for hazelnuts and wine grapes.

- A high quality production: 5 IGPs (protected geographic indication) - Cuneo red Apples, Cuneo strawberries, Cuneo small fruits, Cuneo chestnuts and Cuneo hazelnuts and several DOCG wines (including Barolo and Barbaresco).
Cuneo’s agricultural context 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
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<th>2000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farms (n)</td>
<td>24.847</td>
<td>Cultivated land (ha)</td>
<td>313.071</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farms (n)</td>
<td>35.842</td>
<td>Cultivated land (ha)</td>
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Strong reduction of the number of farms (-30,7%) but a moderate decrease of the cultivable land (-8,8%) and cultivated land (-5,3%) meaning that the number of farms decreases but their size increases (the smallest farms tend to disappear)

At a regional level the Province of Cuneo has by far the most important number of farms and the largest agricultural land (in 2010 24.847 farms on 67.148 and 313.071 hectares of cultivated land on 1.010.780)

Source: ISTAT, 6th general agricultural census http://censimentoagricoltura.istat.it
The agricultural plain of Saluzzo
The agricultural area of Saluzzo

- A wide agricultural plain at the foot of the Alps including 7 municipalities (Saluzzo, Savigliano, Revello, Lagnasco, Verzuolo, Scarnafigi, Manta)
- The third most important area of fruit production in Italy
- Concentration of the production/low diversification of production
- Production mainly sold to big cooperatives of producers and retailers
- A long season: from the end of June to mid-November
Apple fields in the region of Saluzzo
The agricultural area of Langhe-Roero

- A hilly region including several small municipalities around the town of Alba
- 7000 farms in vine cultivation and wine making
- Short harvest season (a few weeks)
- A very high quality production
- Importance of tourism linked to wine and food production
- Since 2014 this region has been included in the “Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont” as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Hills of the region Langhe-Roero
Characteristics of agricultural labour

- 90% of agricultural work is realised by family labour (including the farm owner)
- 60% of non-family labour is hired for short periods or for harvesting
- More than 50% of non-family workers are foreigners
- 60% of foreigner workers come from non-European countries

Data referring to all Piedmont.
Source: ISTAT, 6th general agricultural census, http://censimentoagricoltura.istat.it
Migrant labour 1 - Hires of foreigner communitarian workers in the Provinces of Piedmont

Source: INEA from INPS data, 2014, not published yet

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Migrant labour 2 - Hires of foreigner non-communitarian workers in the Provinces of Piedmont

Source: INEA from INPS data, 2014, not published yet

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<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>542</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,056</strong></td>
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</table>
Migrant labour - work conditions

- An ethnic-based segmented labour market: temporary programs – *flussi* -(Albanians and Macedonians), permanent migrants (Romanians, Moroccans, Chinese), internal migrants (Africans)
- “Grey work”: workers have a regular contract but few days/hours of work are effectively declared
- Average wage of 5 Euros/hour (instead of 6,52)
- Different levels of labour intermediation
  - Direct relationships with employers in the area of Saluzzo
  - Spread of agricultural cooperatives in the region of Langhe-Roero
Migrant labour - housing conditions

- Workers hired through the system of *flussi* are hosted by their employers, as prescribed by the regulation.
- Housing is generally provided for workers hired by the cooperatives (5 Euros/day).
- A peculiarity of the region of Saluzzo: presence of different camps organised by humanitarian or employers’ organisations hosting sub-Saharan African migrants.
  - Camps concentrate the workforce in confined places, easy to monitor and control, reducing contacts with the local population.
  - Camps allow the maintaining of a suitable reserve of available labour in the area during the season, then facilitate the evacuation of this workforce at the end of the season when it is no longer necessary.
“Campo solidale” organised by Caritas hosting African migrant seasonal workers, Saluzzo, 2015
« Campo Coldiretti » hosting African migrant seasonal workers, Saluzzo, 2015
Moroccans and Romanian agricultural workers – a preliminary investigation

- Moroccans and Romanians are the two most important communities – after Albanians – of foreigner residents both in the area of Saluzzo and Langhe-Roero
- Romanians form the major portion of communitarian foreigner workers in the Province of Cuneo
- Moroccans are the fourth non-communitarian community to be employed in agriculture in the Province of Cuneo after Albanians, Macedonians and Chinese
Moroccans and Romanian agricultural workers – a preliminary investigation

Romanians are widely employed in the vine cultivation in the Langhe-Roero region, while Moroccan mostly work in the region of Saluzzo.

They both work as well as permanent labour force and seasonal/temporary labour force.

Many Romanians seem come to the Langhe-Roero area during the season of grape-harvest (a complementary income).
Sebastian’s story (interview, Canale, 30/11/15)

- He comes to Italy in 2007 to follow his girlfriend and lives permanently in Italy since then and from 2008 in Canale, a small municipality near Alba
- After some precarious jobs in different enterprises, in 2010 he finds an employment in agriculture in one of the two biggest wine production firms of the area, thanks to his father-in-law relationship,
- He has fixed-term contracts of one year and good working conditions
- He chose this work among others possibilities
- The farm employs mainly Romanian workers (and at least 4 of Cristian family)
- He is actually building a house in Romania and dreams of returning to his country
Next steps….

- Examine the different migratory paths (temporal/permanent trajectories and work in the agricultural sector)
- Understand the role played by Romanians and Moroccans inside a segmented labour market
- Examine working and housing conditions
- Study the labour system of cooperatives in the Langhe-Roero area
Thank you for your attention!

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