

Issues in Integrating Labour's Dual Roles of Input to Production and Social Resource

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So far, in agricultural statistics labour has been mainly treated as an input to production that is divorced from the households and individuals that supply it. This underestimates labour's significance to agricultural and rural policy. One way to improve the situation is to consider the conceptual and practical issues in providing a better picture in statistics of the diversity of the social units from which the labour comes. The paper considers *inter alia* the difficulty of measuring labour input to agriculture when (in self-employed households) there is no clear dividing line between the various forms of economic activity in which the households engage and between gainful activity, household activities and leisure. Also there is the phenomenon of labour input to agricultural production for own-consumption (posing questions of its quantity and evaluation). The estimation of casual labour is a problem. Increasingly statistics have to take into account people working on large-scale agricultural units (some co-operatives, some companies) in transition countries, where rewards come partly in the form of a wage and partly as profit.

Biography

Berkeley Hill is Professor of Policy Analysis at London University, United Kingdom. His specialty has been economic statistics on agriculture, in particular economic accounting and the ways in which incomes are measured. He has also been active in the evaluation of rural and agricultural policy. He has been a consultant to Eurostat, the European Commission, OECD, and the United Kingdom government. (e-mail: b.hill@imperial.ac.uk)

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