Analysis of citrus gathering activity by Tunisian Seasonal workers

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1. Introduction

The With 200 thousand hectares and almost 50,000 feet, citrus picking is a major agricultural activity in Tunisia. This activity is focused on the Cape Peninsula (95%). The picking season lasts about five months between November and March. Much of the harvest is exported (1.3% of national food export). The workforce is composed mainly of seasonal workers do not benefit from social security, highly concerned with job insecurity. It is in this context that we received the request of the Regional Union of Agriculture and Fisheries, agricultural workers' union in Tunisia, which is the development of a global vision incorporating the articulation between health and safety of seasonal workers in the sector.

2. Methodology:

Our approach was based on two key phases:

- Understand and realize the citrus picking activity by interviewing the various stakeholders (public structures, unions, owners, workers ..)
- Observe the actual work of the operators - gatherer and analyze the different constraints and procedures put in place to cope. Our analysis tools are paper statements / pencil, catch photographic views, video recordings and medical measurement tools to highlight the degree of difficulty of the work performed.

3. Finding and conclusion:

The picking activity takes place over a period of five months and generally in small size orchards (1.5 hectare). The minimum required daily rate is 20 boxes of 20 kg. It is a manual activity with postural constraints and forced gestures. The picking activity is characterized by high quality requirements (not to drop the fruit on the ground, carefully put the fruit in the box). Observations showed the operators developed various approaches that attempt to meet the requirements quantity, quality and to preserve their health.

This analyze concluded that citrus gathering activity is a strenuous activity, generating TMS. Against these constraints, seasonal pickers develop various procedures to achieve the goals of quantity, but also quality and to preserve their health. Thus the central question in this analysis is carried on not only the torque Health / Safety but also the quality dimension / quantity assigned to. This approach can inform players on the approach sector to adopt to increase the performance of the sector but also p preservative operator health.

References