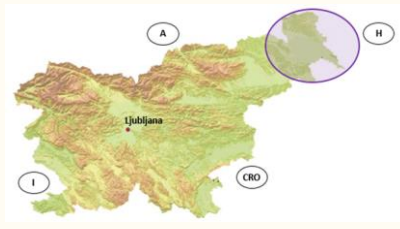


Whether psychological support or fairer prices? Fieldwork on family farms in Slovenia



Farmers worldwide are exposed to **similar megatrends and hazards** in agriculture. But what role does the respective context play in terms of **lived experience of distress** and illnesses? And **what should be done** about it?

Non-medical approach through voluntary work (participant observation) on family farms (July 2021 - April 2022) in **Slovenia**.



Theory? Social suffering and ordinary ethics to better explore how farmers themselves are being treated in terms of what they value, i.e. things they believe affect their lived experience of well-being ...

Main Message:

To understand farmers' distress better than health statistics convey (poor quality, unreliable, inadequate, lacking), think about

- **contextualization** of farmers' distress as related to their **local moral world**,
- reflection on the **ethical** and **emotional** dimensions of agriculture,
- **social and political responses** to farmers' avoidance of distress.



Fieldwork was conducted by Dr. **Duška Knežević Hočvar (ZRC SAZU)** as part of the basic research project Agricultural Change through the Farmers' Eyes and Bodies (funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS) from the state budget under code: J6-2577, duration: November 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023).

Ethnographically observed farmers' distress **in their words**:

*There is **too much social** [welfare] in the country!*

A farmer is constantly in distress. One time he is screwed by the state, the other time by God.

Sounds familiar? 😊

And **what should be done?**

***Fairer prices** and the **elimination of subsidies** are necessary for our well-being!*

Again, sounds familiar? 😊

What about **psychological support** for farmers?

*Well, I cannot deny that it would not be necessary. But I am afraid that such assistance **would only mean putting out the fire. You have to start with the extension service**, which is completely stuck somewhere, and then to **continue with the redemption prices** that bring many farmers to their knees. (Simon, 49, tourist farm)*

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