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ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL-URBAN NEXUS

**PRECARIAT AND RURAL LABOUR: EVIDENCE FROM URUGUAYAN
INTENSIVE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**

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In this paper we study how agrarian change is reshaping Uruguayan rural territories. In doing so, we analyse the precariat involved in agrarian labour from an intersectional perspective. We discuss the precarization processes associated with the installation and expansion of agricultural value chains in viticulture, citriculture (oriented to the external market) and other vegetable production oriented towards the internal market. We show that wage agricultural work is carried out mainly by marginalized urban populations, as part of processes of agrarian change that have eroded the identities of rural workers and agricultural territories. To understand and contextualize the evidence generated from interviews, we first describe the main processes of agrarian change that occurred in those territories between 2000 and 2025 based on the information available in the General Agricultural Censuses. By doing so, we can get a broader understanding of the new characteristics of the farms that demand

such labour. Furthermore, using the databases of the 1996, 2011 and 2025 Population Censuses, we focused on the comprehension and assessment of the living conditions of the population that lives in the territory delimited, as well as specifically the living conditions of the working men and women employed in agricultural enterprises. Then, we advance in an in depth analysis of the experiences of women and men that work in those spaces, linking discussions that usually are not treated together: feminization, precarization, intensification of production, labour outsourcing, agribusiness and family production. We aim to develop a picture of the complex processes that characterize agrarian change in multiple dimensions.

Palavras-chave: precariat; rural labour; agrarian change; territory; global value chains.