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Labour Communities of Mali Immigrants in Andalusia

Oumar Diallo¹, Teresa Rojo¹

¹Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

ABSTRACT

Over recent years Southern rural towns of Spain have experienced a wide arrival of migrants from rural areas of Mali who become employed in fruit farming jobs and form cohesive labour communities helping new comers to integrate. Considering the lack of rural workforce, public local authorities facilitate the regularizations of immigrants from Mali and provide provisional documents necessary to become soon hired in local labour market. This study aims at examining the system of values and attitudes of the immigrants from Mali in regards of their status of migrant population and their links and remittances to their country development as well as their role in the local host community in Spain. It draws on field research involving both qualitative and quantitative methods. Findings are presented around three axes: first, the motivation and migration pattern as well as the links and roles assumed in regards of their kinship in Mali and the country; second, the values and attitudes regarding the content of their jobs and their status and labour relations in the local labour market; and third, their use of leisure time and social relations with local populations and other immigrant groups.

KEYWORDS Labour community; immigration; Mali; Andalusia; fruit farming; remittances and savings; rural development

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