Abstract

The aim of this article is to demonstrate the significant presence of migrant agricultural workers, some characteristics that explain it and the pauperization they experience. The main cause of migration is unemployment; employers control the methods of recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of rural migrant laborers, who work longer, earn less, and whose situation is mostly miserable. The case of Villa Juárez, Sinaloa, confirms the importance of seasonal field employees as genuine producers of wealth, and their paradoxical condition of acute poverty. The internal and external migration pattern we found contradicts prevailing stereotypes, in the context of production and labor restructuring in Mexican agriculture and the introduction of wage labor that is paid below value, and conveniently segmented and rationed according to a capitalist strategy guided by the spirit of maximum gain.

Keywords

Migrant farmworkers; Northwest Mexico; Sinaloa; Guerrero; Oaxaca.