Abstract

Ever since the 1960s there has been an accelerated growth in Argentine pampean agricultural production hand in hand with technological developments which, in turn, imposed remarkable changes to the social structure of the sector. This paper aims at analyzing the impact of such technological development on the small- and medium-sized family agricultural producers from the 1960s to the present day since these producers play one of the most important and significant roles in the Pampas. Production technologies contributed to the silent but meaningful transformation of producers’ expectations, conditions and labor possibilities, as well as of their relations and family lifestyles. A historical review of the fundamental social and productive changes the agrarian sector underwent during the last decades shows that although technology initially triggered development and growth, it eventually became a differentiating element among producers leading to the eradication of small production units. Lastly, the paper puts forward some hypotheses around the transformation of family agriculture that the authors intend to take up on further field studies.

Keywords

Family agriculture, technological factor, pampean agriculture.