

**‘Geographies of
(Im)mobility, emotions and
human rights of Latin-
American seasonal
agricultural workers in
Quebec, and their families’.**

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MIRRA

- ❖ Context
- ❖ Figures and facts
 - ❖ National (Mexico)
 - ❖ Chiapas
- ❖ Methodology
- ❖ Some findings



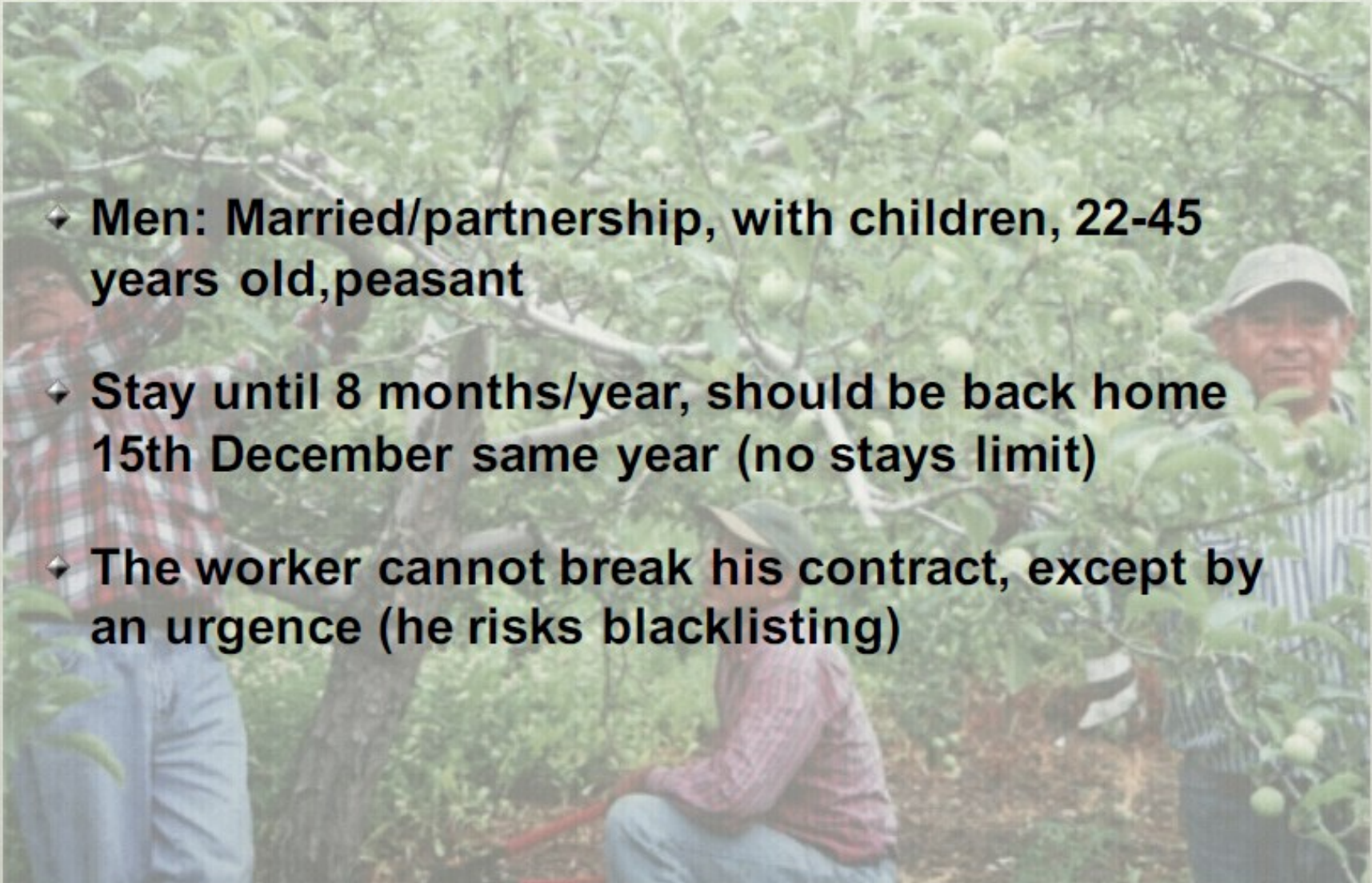
Methodology

- ❖ participant observation,
ethnographic critical approach
- ❖ Semi-structured interviews (30)
10 with family members
- ❖ Focus Group (2)



Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (CSAWP) Requirements for workers

- ◆ **Men: Married/partnership, with children, 22-45 years old, peasant**
- ◆ **Stay until 8 months/year, should be back home 15th December same year (no stays limit)**
- ◆ **The worker cannot break his contract, except by an urgency (he risks blacklisting)**

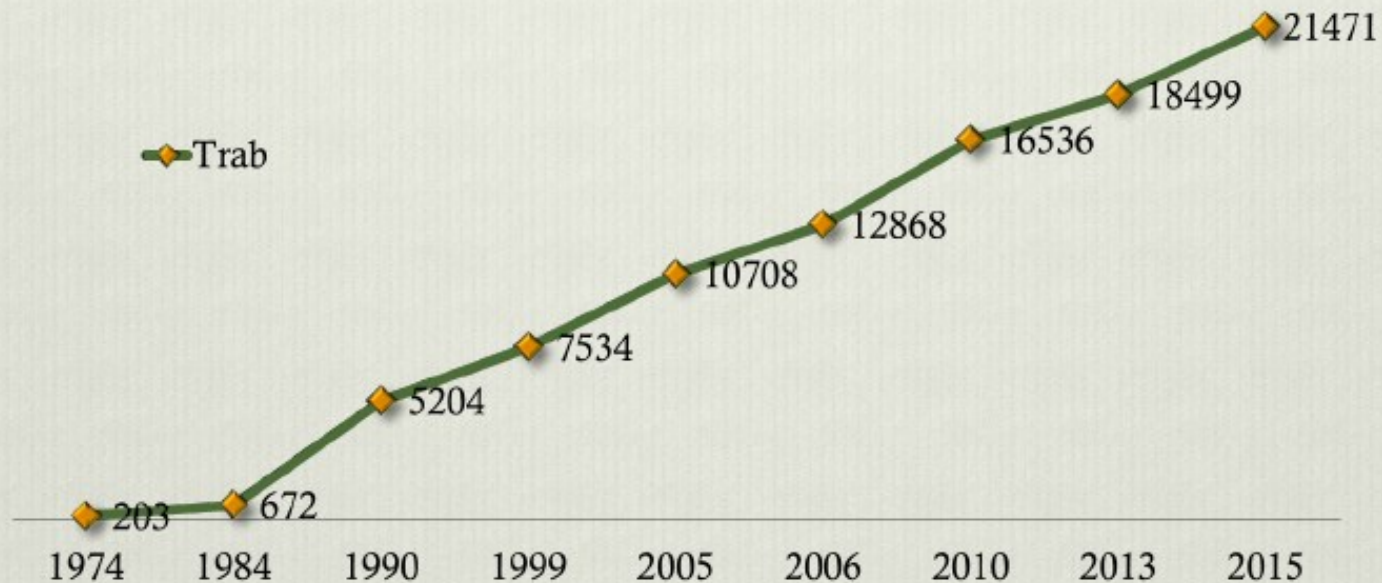


Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (CSAWP)

- ◆ **Pay 50% of his airplane ticket**
- ◆ **Dwell wherever the employer decides**
- ◆ **The worker cannot change of employer, except if he authorizes it (transfers between farmers)**
- ◆ **He cannot apply for Permanent Residence. Family stays in the country of origin.**

**Diario oficial, gouvernement du Mexique (2004)*

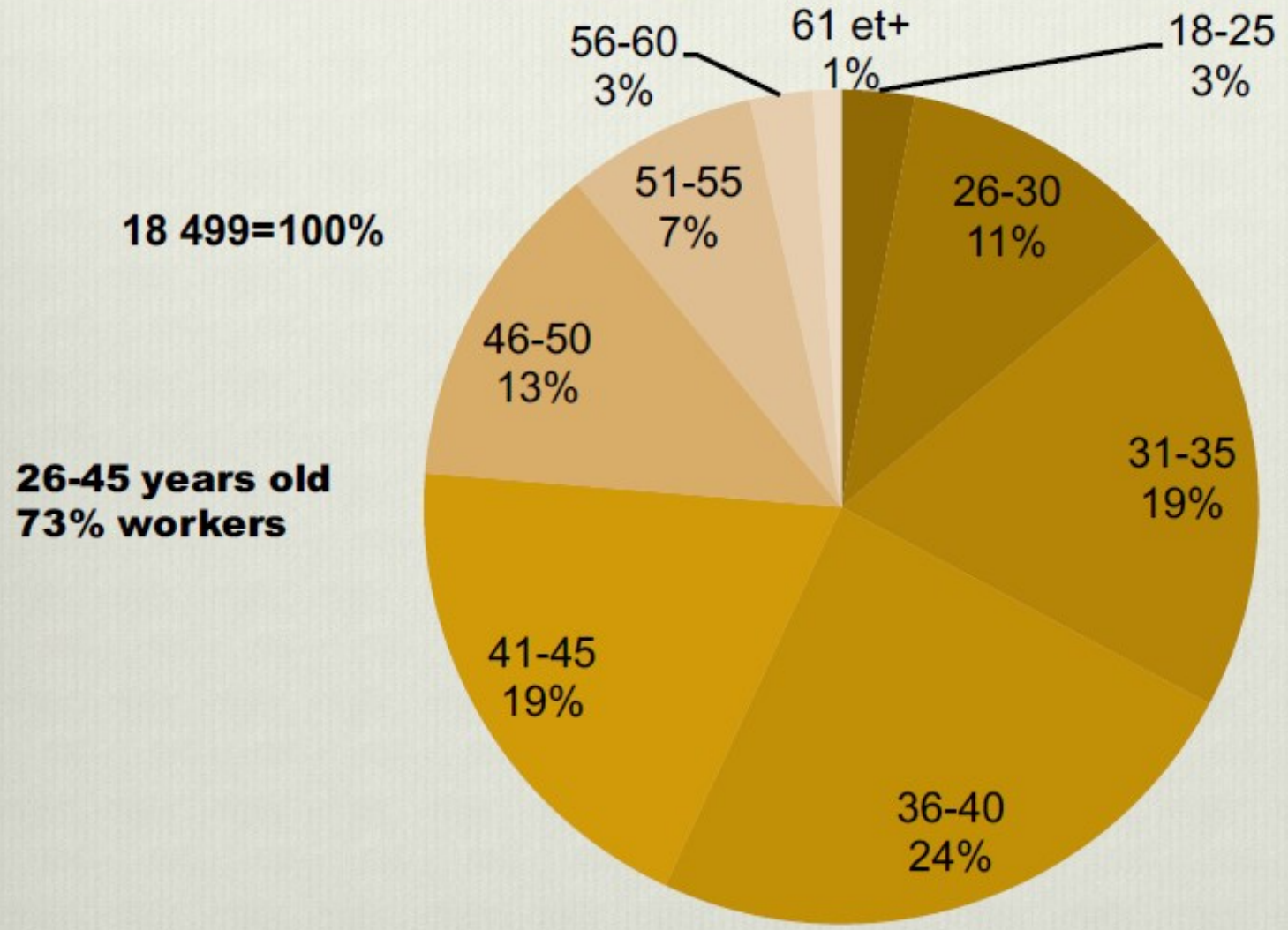
Mexican Agricultural Workers 1974-2014



note: only 3-4% are women

Élaboration personnel avec données de la STPS, Mexique

AGE segments



Élaboration personnel avec données de la STPS, Mexique (2013)

Time spent in the program (season 2013)



**69,3% have more than 6 years of participation in the CSAWP
They have an average of 8.5 years of experience**



QUEBEC

1990: 743*

workers

2014: 9 204 **

around 3 650 mx

* STPS

** FERME

*Hébert(2011) **F.E.R.M.E. (2014)

WORKING STAY - CHIAPAS, 2014

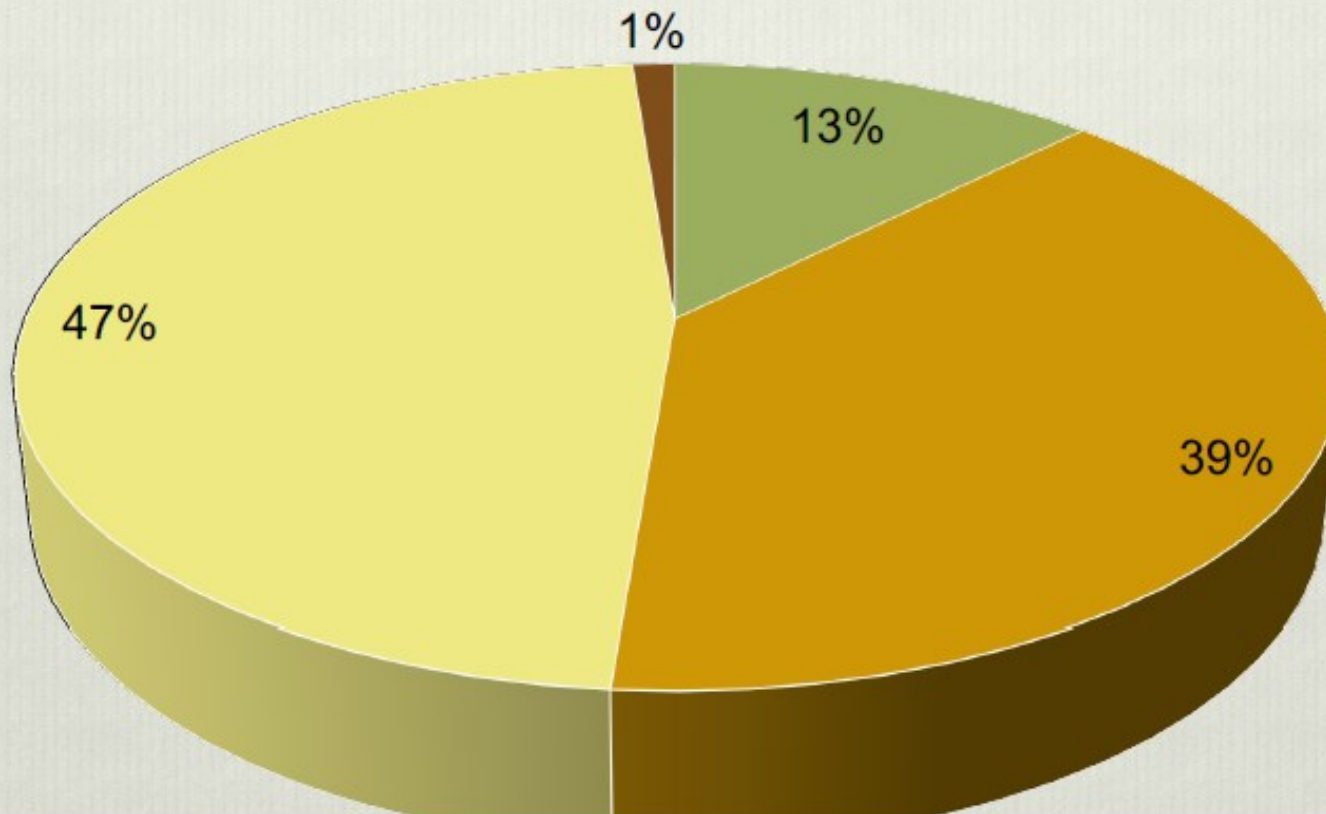
workers/months



Source: Ministère du travail, Chiapas, 2014

Working stay - Percentage

■ 1-3 months ■ 4-6 months ■ 6-8 months ■ Other



86% stay out home between 4 and 8 months/year,
55% 6-8 months

Effects/Impacts

- ❖ Fear – Non respect of their human rights
- ❖ Silenced (Non right to complain)
- ❖ Paradox of (In)visibility
- ❖ Submission

Acceptance of ANY work conditions (*“it is hard, it is not just, it is sad... we are not recognized or appreciated, but what can we do? We have no jobs in our communities...We need to work, to provide for our families, we want our children being educated, with better possibilities...”*)

Effects/Impacts

- ❖ Alcoholism
- ❖ *Drug adiction*
- ❖ *Gaming adiction*
- ❖ *Depression*
- ❖ *Suicidal thoughts*

Effects/Impacts

Intermittent and prolonged paternal absence

- ❖ **Disintegration of family nucleus**
- ❖ **Separation of couples**
- ❖ **Women abandoning their homes and children**
- ❖ Stigmatisation (women and children)
- ❖ Uncertain situation for their children - Behavioral problems
- ❖ Preservation of patriarchal structures (other men being on charge of women left behind)



Effects/Impacts

Intermittent and prolonged paternal absence

- ❖ **Recognition of women/mothers' roll in everyday's activities**
- ❖ **Modification of father/children relationships**
- ❖ **Still unknown effects on the social tissu**

