

# INNOVATOR



# BY

**Participatory  
approaches with  
migrant farmworkers**

# IN

**Dr. C. Susana Caxaj**

**October 13, 2025**

# ACTIO

**Western U.**





# **INTRODUC TION**

**80,000 temporary foreign workers  
employed in agriculture in 2023**

**Roughly 1 in 5 workers in  
agriculture**

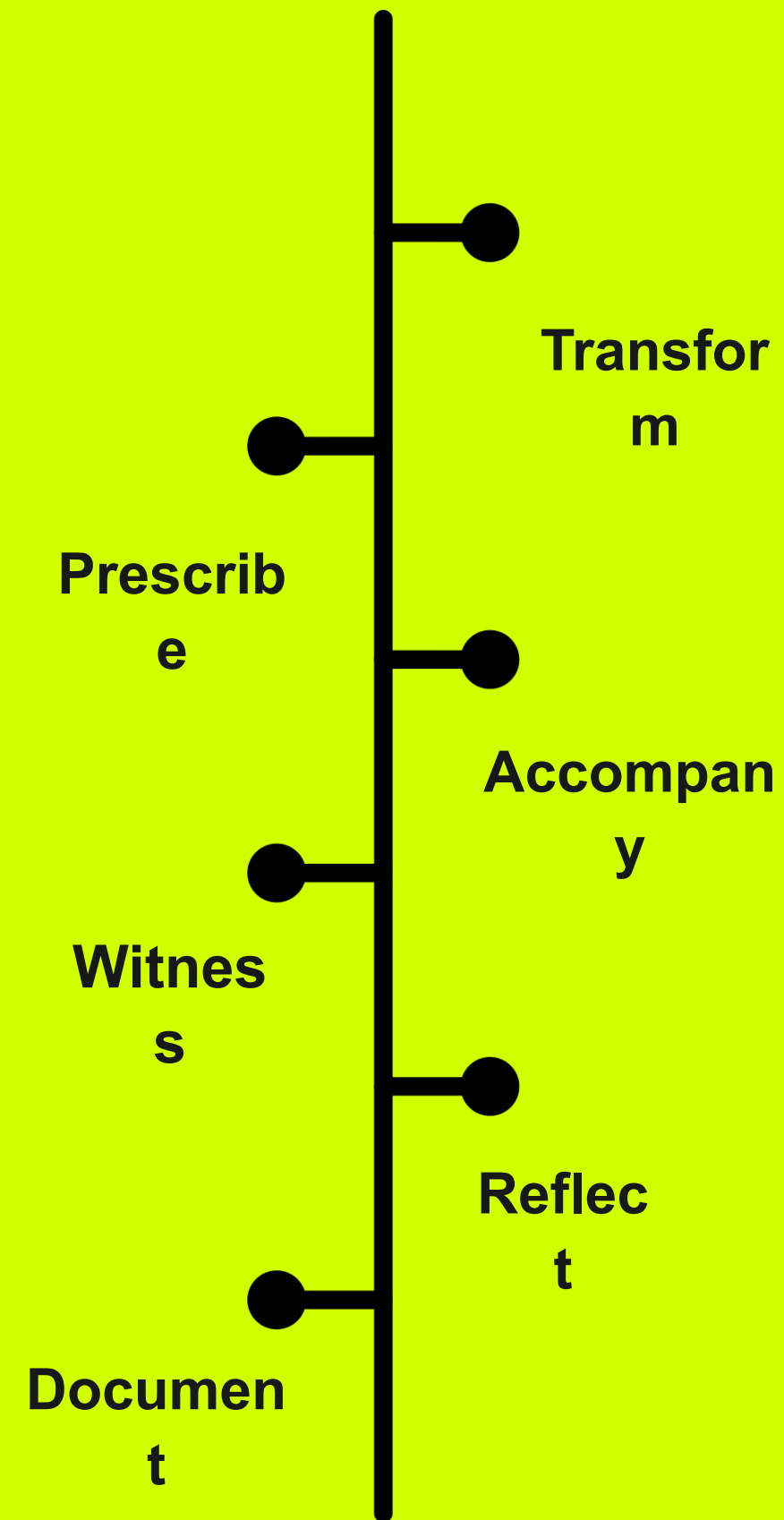
**Top source countries: Mexico,  
Guatemala, India, Philippines**





# **CONTEXT**

- Global inequities & poverty
- Racism, xenophobia
- Legal status precarity
- Workplace conditions
- Housing challenges
- Access to services/protections
- Gender dynamics

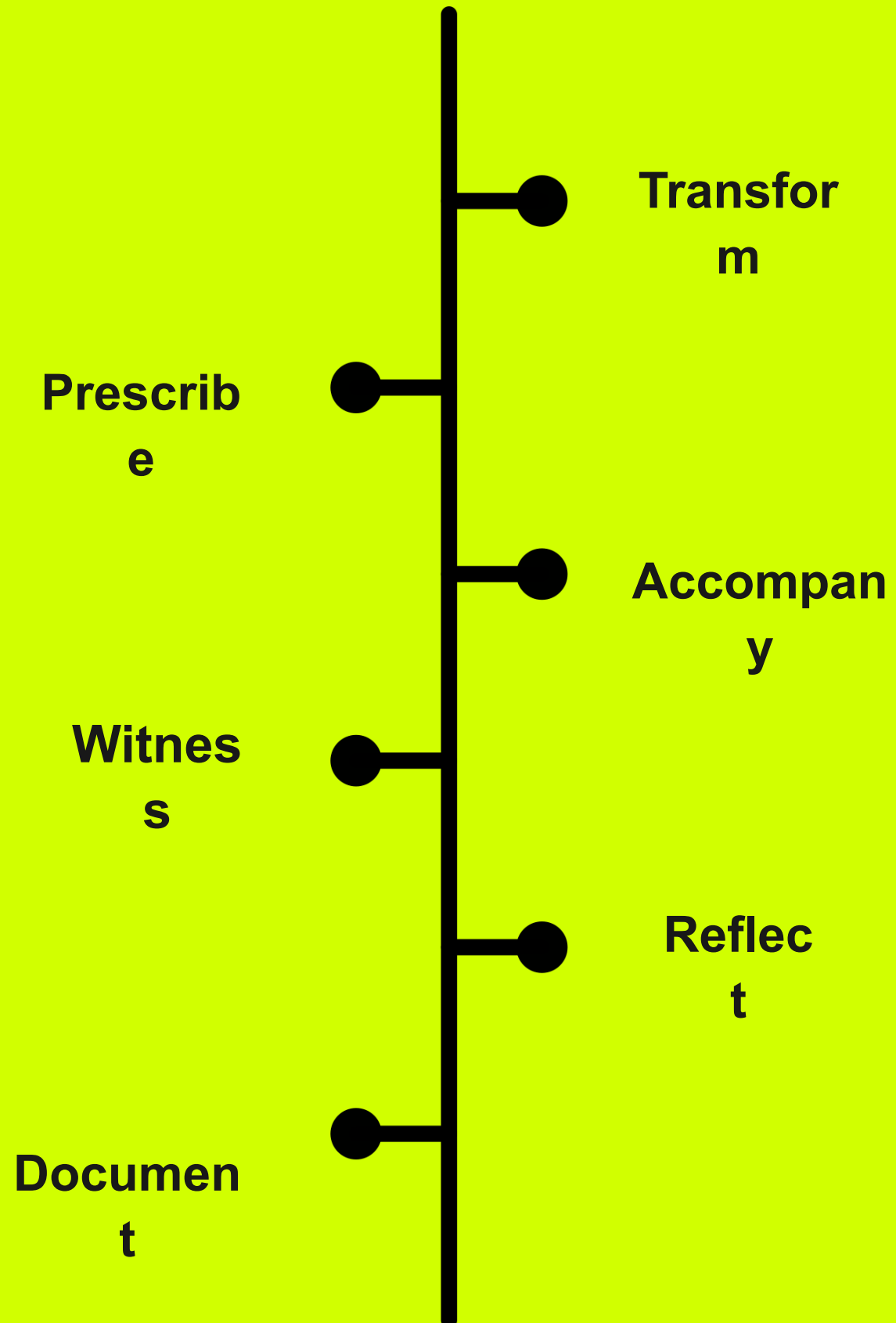


# ROLE OF RESEARCH H?

Consistent structural inequities raise critical questions:

1. Who will be accounted for?
2. Who will benefit from this knowledge?
3. What kind of knowledge will spur change?

# partnership



These questions  
speak to the quality  
of project  
partnerships

# **TREE STRATEG IES**

**01 Intervention-based  
research**

**02 Participatory  
methodologies**

**Coalition-building**





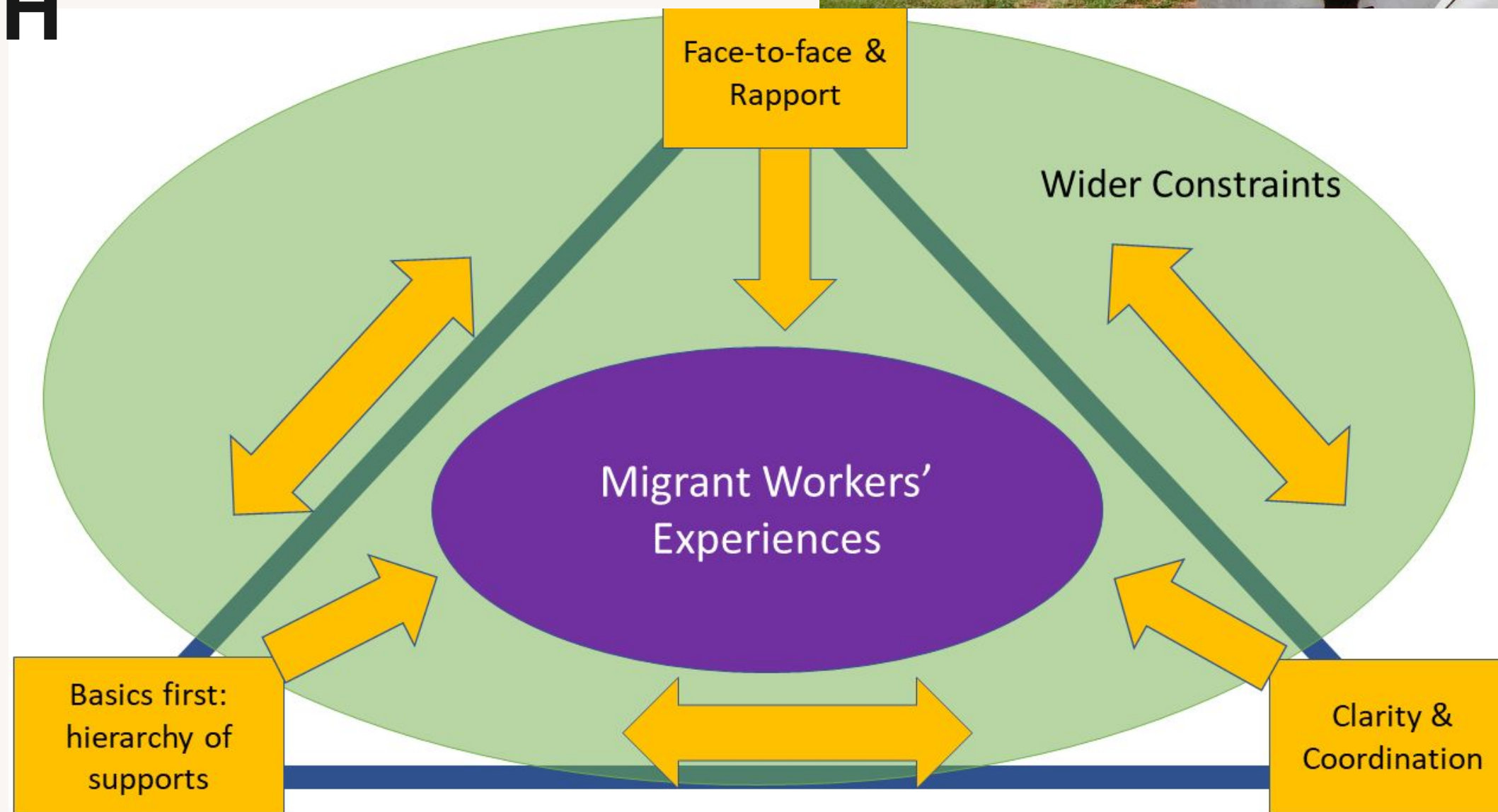
# INTERVENTI ON-BASED RESEARCH



Cohen & Caxaj, 2023



# INTERVENTI ON-BASED RESEARCH



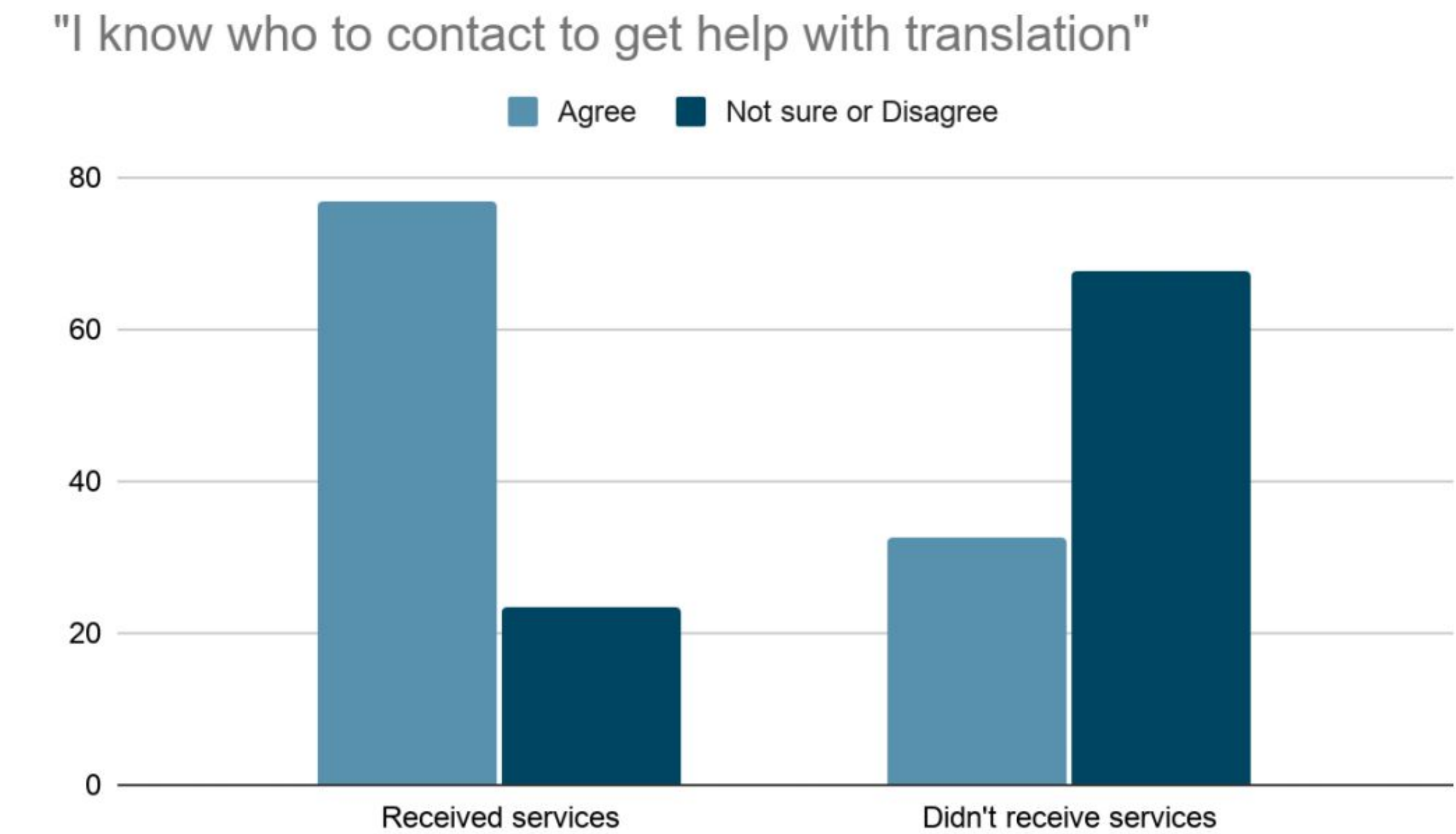
Cohen & Caxaj, 2023



# INTERVENTI ON-BASED RESEARCH

Caxaj, Cohen & Colindres, 2022

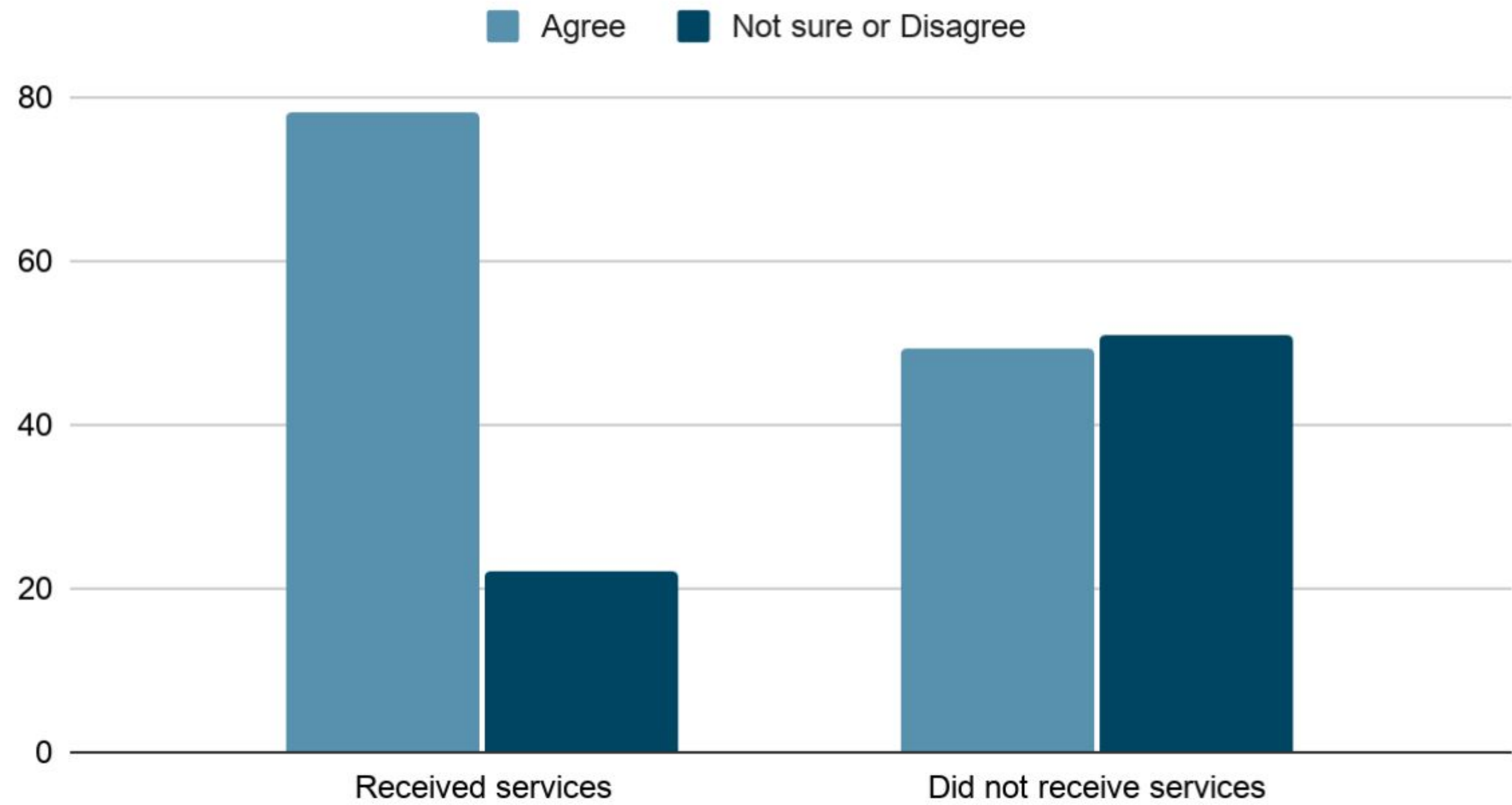
76.7% of migrant agricultural workers who received support model services reported that they knew who to contact for translation services (other than their boss or supervisor) compared to only 32.5% of those that had not received support model services.



# INTERVENTI ON-BASED RESEARCH

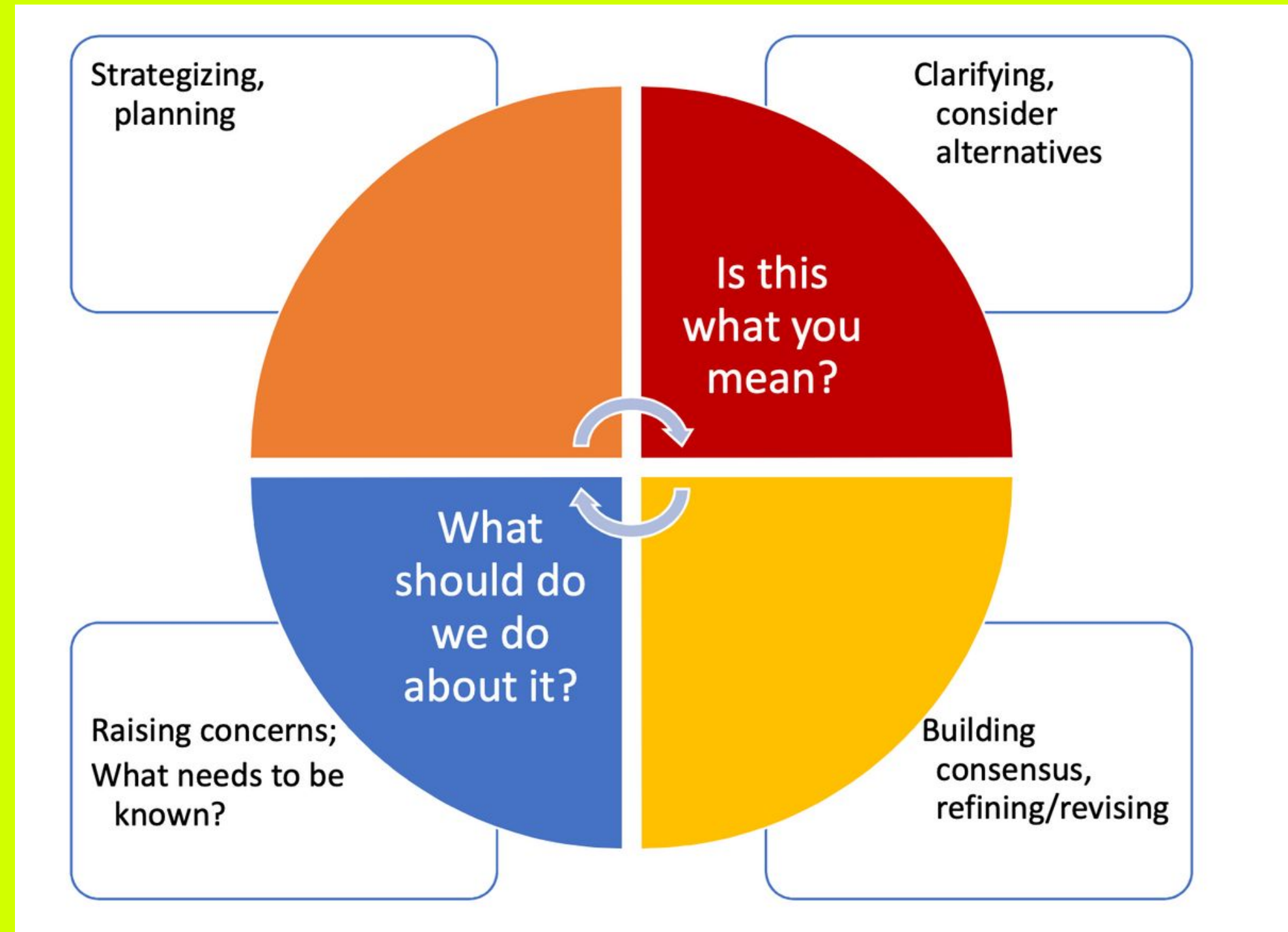
78% of those who received support model services knew who to contact to get help with transportation (other than their boss or supervisor) compared with 49.2% who had not received services.

"I know who to contact to get help with transportation"





# **PARTICIPAT ORY METHODOLOGIES**



# **PARTICIPAT ORY METHODOLOGIES**





# PARTICIPAT ORY METHODOLOGIES

Over 100 workers in Southern Ontario told us that they want:



They also told us that they need help so that they can:



Know about &  
access benefits

Feel less  
isolated & far  
from family

Live in more  
dignified  
housing

Be more free  
and more  
protected

their  
Legal  
ort

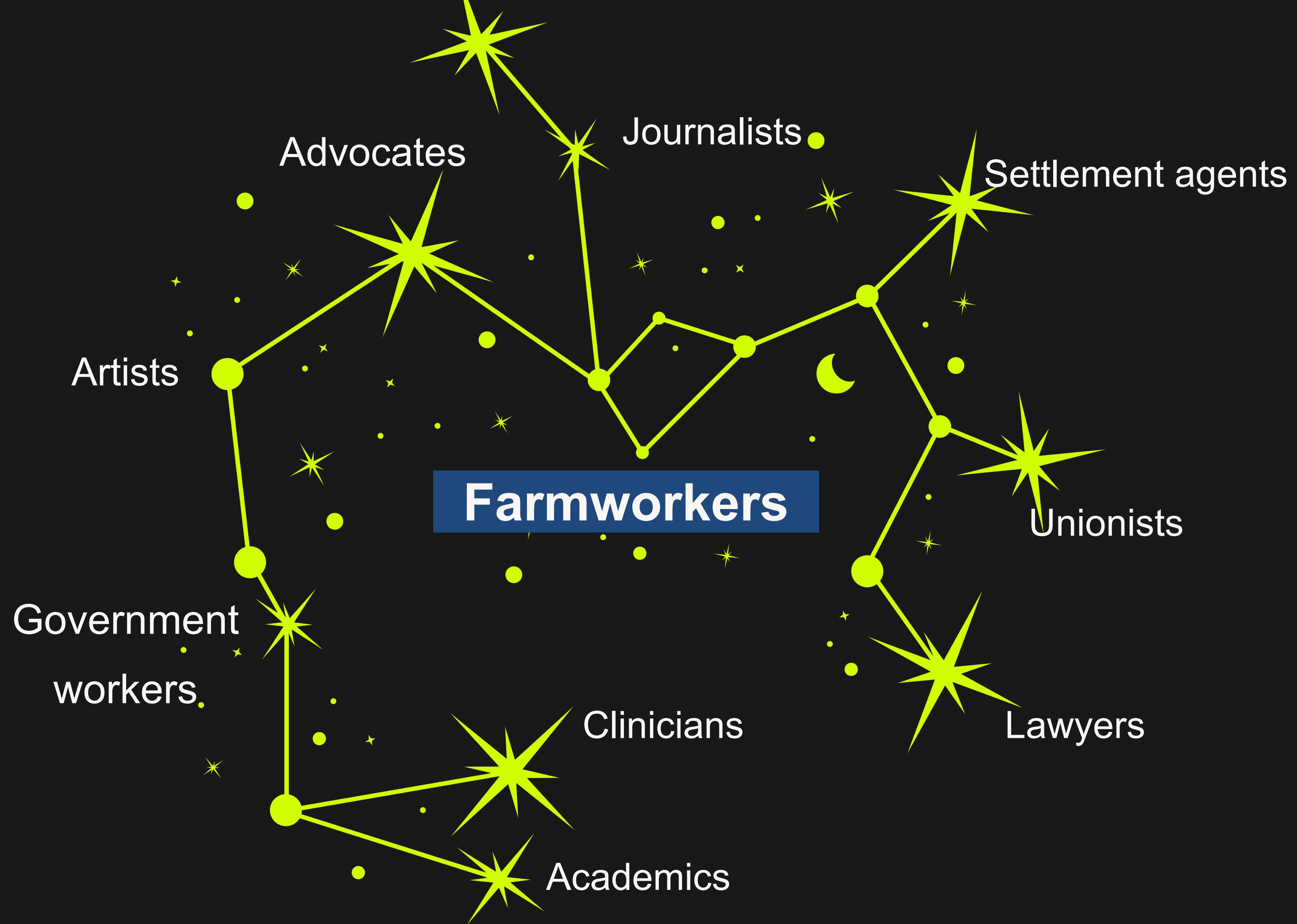
Recognition for  
their  
Contributions

Now we want to hear from you.  
What would make a difference to you?

 [www.presma.ca](http://www.presma.ca)  
 1-416-839-8467



# COALITION-BUILDING





# COALITION-BUILDING

(MWHEWG)  
Migrant Worker Health  
Expert Working Group



**Migrant Worker Health Expert Working Group**  
67 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5  
Phone: 1-519-635-9850  
Email: [www.migrantworker.ca/contact/](http://www.migrantworker.ca/contact/)  
Website: [www.migrantworker.ca](http://www.migrantworker.ca)

August 23, 2023

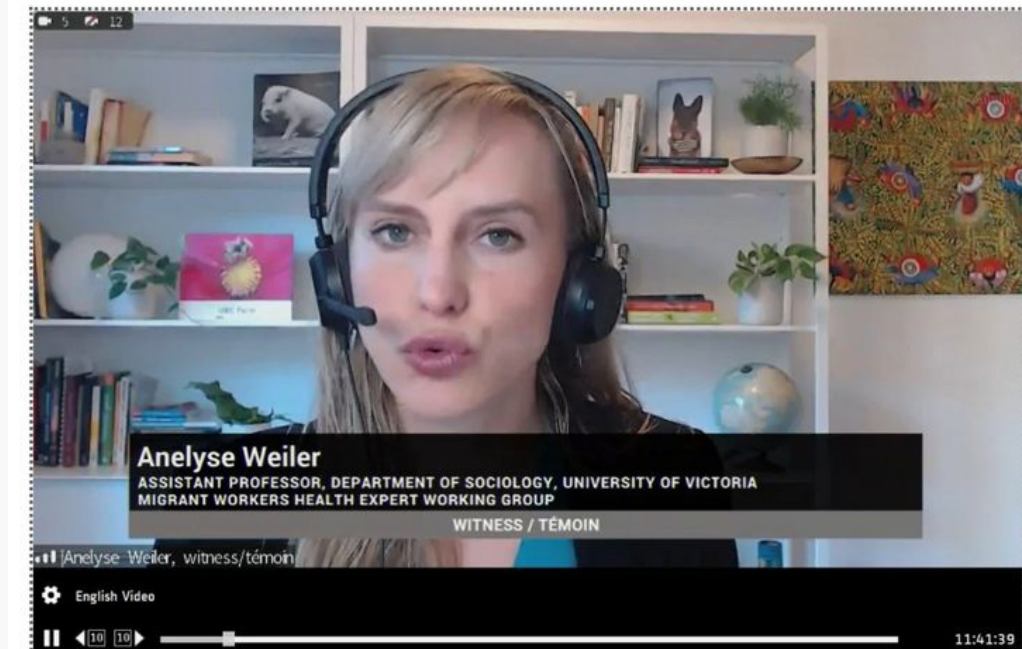
The Honourable Marc Miller

BUSINESS

## Migrant workers with COVID-19 must not be allowed to work, health experts say — as infected worker count surpasses 1,000

Sweeping reforms are required to prevent further COVID-19 outbreak among migrant farm labourers, experts have warned the provincial government.

July 7, 2020 | 3 min read



Presentation to Senate Standing Committee on behalf of **Migrant Worker Health Expert Working Group** (November 2022).



# ering Migrant Youth thr ng Migrant Youth through Parti

Rita Bertozzi

Methodology and research technol

oy: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łóć

**Abstract:** Young immigrants have t  
nd opportunities, and to socio-econ  
st is a participatory research projec  
ducted with immigrant university st  
s read differently the child work and  
can be analyzed and addressed. It s  
well as the possible implications for

Italian  
exemplars

## De-Bordering Narratives on Tourism and Migration. A Participatory Action-Research on Two Innovative Italian Practices.

**Author:** Pierluigi Musarò, Melissa Moralli

**Abstract:** In a world where freedom of movement becomes the main factor of social stratification, tourism and migration can be analysed as two sides of the same coin. These interrelated phenomena are often linked to opposite and conflicting images, stereotypes and emotions. Polarized narratives, stigmatizing migrants and asylum seekers as invaders or victims, and tourists as bearers of economic benefits. This perception denies a holistic vision of the impacts on territories and communities. Examining the link between narratives, representations and actions, this article sheds light on how alternative representations of migration and tourism can be co-constructed by social actors. Analysing the narrative turn in social sciences, this paper presents participatory action-research on two innovative practices, inviting a reflection on the rhetoric and policies related to tourism and migration. More specifically, it explores how the Festival of Responsible Tourism IT.A.CÀ\_migrants and travelers and the Experiential Course on Tourism Development and Intercultural Hospitality – adopt, de-construct, re-construct and enact alternative narratives concerning migration and tourism, while also promoting social coexistence between citizens and newcomers.

**Keywords:** intercultural education, Migration, transformative narratives, tourism



### Interventions économiques

53 | 2015  
La conciliation travail-famille : un paradoxe  
contemporain

## A Participatory Governance Model Towards the Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities. An Action Resear Experience in Italy

*Un modèle de gouvernance participative pour l'inclusion des minorités  
ethniques. Une expérience de type « recherche-action » en Italie*

Francesco Marcaletti and Veronica Riniolo



## Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Co

SSN: 1085-2352 (Print) 1540-7330 (Online) Journal homepage: [www.tandfonline.com/](http://www.tandfonline.com/)

## icipatory action research from an rcultural and critical perspective

na Arcidiacono, Alfredo Natale, Agostino Carbone & For  
ntese



International Journal of  
Environmental Research  
and Public Health



Article

### Tailoring Safety Training Material to Migrant Farmworkers: An Ergonomic User-Centred Approach

Federica Caffaro <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Giorgia Bagagiolo <sup>2</sup>, Margherita Micheletti Cremasco <sup>3</sup>,  
Lucia Vigoroso <sup>2</sup> and Eugenio Cavallo <sup>2</sup>

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- <sup>2</sup> Institute for Agricultural and Earthmoving Machines (IMAMOTER), National Research Council of Italy (CNR), 10135 Torino, Italy; g.bagagiolo@ima.to.cnr.it (G.B.); l.vigoroso@ima.to.cnr.it (L.V.); eugenio.cavallo@cnr.it (E.C.)
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, University of Torino, 10123 Torino, Italy; margherita.micheletti@unito.it
- \* Correspondence: f.caffaro@ima.to.cnr.it; Tel.: +39-011-39-77-720

Received: 6 February 2020; Accepted: 18 March 2020; Published: 22 March 2020



**Abstract:** Lectures are the most commonly used training method but may not be effective in communicating safety information among migrant workers because of language and cultural barriers. The comprehension of safety information is particularly urgent in highly hazardous sectors such as agriculture, which has a high migrant workforce rate. In this study, an ergonomic user-centred approach was adopted to develop and evaluate safety training material targeting migrants employed on Italian farms. Focus groups with both trainers and migrants were carried out to collect information on critical issues in traditional training material, the most and least comprehended topics and suggestions for training improvement. Based on the focus group analysis, the training material was developed considering several visual factors and more engaging interaction between trainers and migrant trainees. The usability of the developed material was then evaluated in a group of 20 migrant farmworkers through a questionnaire assessing the knowledge of safety information before (T0) and after (T1) the training (effectiveness), perceived effort in learning (efficiency) and user satisfaction after training. The results showed improved knowledge, low perceived effort and high satisfaction,



# **FINAL THOUGHTS**

## **Inquiry in action & participatory approaches**

- ✦ Proces-oriented, underpin purpose of inquiry
- ✦ Situate knowledge in relationship
- ✦ Build networks/coalitions toward impact/action

1. **Identify the subject and verb**  
 The subject is "The company" and the verb is "is planning".

2. **Identify the object**  
 The object is "a new product line".

3. **Identify the modifier**  
 The modifier is "in the near future".

4. **Identify the complement**  
 The complement is "to expand its market reach".

5. **Identify the adverb**  
 The adverb is "very soon".

6. **Identify the adjective**  
 The adjective is "new".

7. **Identify the preposition**  
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8. **Identify the conjunction**  
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# PROU



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