

Name:

Hours of work per hectare.

Definition:

It is a quantitative indicator of the amount of working hours that the farm employs. To homogenize the value is expressed as hours of work per hectare. To obtain this value it is necessary to count the hours of work spent while accomplishing each of the operations carried out in the plots.

If we divide the total amount of hours obtained in the farm between 1,800 we obtain the HWU (human work units) used on the farm

Calculation method:

The value of this indicator will be calculated as a sum of the operational times of the management of the plots, considering all the operations, from the soil preparation to the crop harvest:

$$\text{Indicator} = \frac{\sum_i (T_i \times O_i) A_i}{A_t}$$

Where:

T_i : Time consumed in each of the farming operations (h/ha)

O_i : Farming operations carried out on the plot

S_i : Area assigned to the crop / plot (ha)

S_T : Total area considered (ha)

Interpretation:

With this indicator we can evaluate how the labor factor is used in the farm. The more efficient it is, the less work is required for its management. This should not be considered as a negative aspect, because the work is carried out by farmers themselves in most farms and therefore this allows a farmer to devote time to other aspects of their life both professional (courses about recycling, training, etc.) and familiar.

Information source:

Farming operations carried out on the plot and productivity per hour: *data* obtained through a survey to farmers

Labor needs of activities and tasks: IDAE¹ (2006a and 2006b), Valero et al. (2002) and Ortega Sada (1993).

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1 The Spanish *Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving* (Instituto para la Diversificación y Ahorro de la Energía, IDAE)