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UCT/UKZN researchers co-lead ILO update on farm labour conditions

University of Cape Town researcher Margareet Visser and Stuart Ferrer of the University of KwaZulu-Natal led a research team involving four South African universities to compile a new report for the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"Farm Workers' Living and Working Conditions in South Africa: key trends, emergent issues, and underlying and structural problems" was released today by the ILO. It is attached to this email.

The research was conducted by four South African universities under the guidance of Ms. Visser of the Labour and Enterprise Policy Research Group (LEP), Institute of Development and Labour Law, University of Cape Town and Mr Ferrer, Director of the Agricultural Policy Research Unit, School of Agricultural, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

According to the ILO, the research was initiated by the then Chairman of the Port Folio Committee of Rural Development and Land Affairs, Mr Stone Sizane. The ILO said: "The uniqueness of this research is that the work was coordinated and funded by the International Labour Organisation but overseen and monitored by an oversight committee consisting of government officials together with community, worker and employer organisations."

The ILO said: "The purpose of this research is to make available an up to date status of the working and living conditions of farm workers and to suggest areas and ways and means of managing the future landscape of agriculture in South Africa. The research has been undertaken over the past two years and started with a desk review of existing laws and literature and then culminated with field research in eight provinces."

For information on the research process please contact:

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