

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

Authors: Ståhl, J., Ulvenblad, P-O., Barth, H., Cederholm Björklund J. & Ulvenblad, P.
Title: Barriers and challenges in Swedish agriculture development – A study about self-leadership and lean innovation
Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc) The purpose of this empirical paper is to illustrate two leadership development programs in Swedish agriculture. Further, it is to compare the two programs related to outcomes in terms of barriers and challenges in the development process and suggest possible ways to continue the leadership development for business model innovation in the agricultural sector.
Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable) The data collection includes 54 interviews and a survey sent to 109 entrepreneurs in Sweden. The interviews were collected with (i) entrepreneurs who participated in the Project 'Ledarpraktikan' ('Leader practice') (LP) 2013 and (ii) entrepreneurs who participated in the project 'Lean Agriculture' (LA) 2012. The survey was sent in the spring 2017 to 109 entrepreneurs (37 from 'LP', 35 from 'LA' and 37 not having participated in any of the programs called control group 'CG'). The overall response rate in the survey is 68% (51% from 'LP', 80% from 'LA' and 73% from 'CG'). Content analysis and descriptive analysis have been used in the study.
Findings From the qualitative studies, we can see that entrepreneurs having participated in 'LP' perceive that they have acquired deeper knowledge and understanding regarding self-leadership than entrepreneurs participating in 'LA'. The latter entrepreneurs also have described their need for more knowledge in self-leadership. The entrepreneurs participating

<p>in 'LA' have, through analysis of the day-to-day work, acquired a more developed systematic working environment.</p> <p>The comparison between the three groups in the survey show that there are several similarities between the groups, for example they don't see institutional rules to be barriers in their firm development process. We have found differences in barriers for business development in terms of (i) growth willingness, (ii) lack of employees, (iii) lack of support and (iv) lack of spare time.</p>
<p>Practical implications</p> <p>There is a need for further leadership development knowledge in Swedish agriculture, both for entrepreneurs in the development of their business models and for agricultural advisors regarding their new role as coaches instead of traditional advisers.</p>
<p>Policy Implications (if applicable)</p> <p>It is important that organizations supporting financial solutions for the agricultural businesses also support leadership development programmes in the industry.</p>
<p>What is the originality/value of paper</p> <p>The originality with the paper is that there has been two large analyses regarding two leadership development programs in Swedish agriculture, which is unique in this industry.</p>
<p>Please state if your paper is a:</p> <p>Refereed research paper</p>
<p>Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship, farming and the natural environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Digital Rural Entrepreneurship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International dimensions of rural entrepreneurship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opportunities and challenges for rural development</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural Innovation, EU funding and the role of Universities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural Social Entrepreneurship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural Place Marketing</p>

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Yes No

To apply to participate in the Early-Career research development seminar, PhD applicants must submit a short project description (max 4 pages) with name, project title, affiliation, outline of methodology(ies) and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Post-doctoral researchers should submit a short description of their current research interest (max 1 page).