From \emph{Cut-flower exports, female labor, and community participation in Highland Ecuador}

According to the 2010 CIA World Fact Book, cut-flowers are Ecuador’s 4th most prosperous export commodity (behind oil, bananas, and shrimp). The Korovkin article is an excellent complement to Lanjouw’s article as it specifically focuses on the involvement of women in wage-labor within rural communities. It allows for further examination of the “communal consequences” of both the migration of rural men and the involvement of rural women in wage labor.

1) Why are women the preferred workforce in Ecuador’s cut-flower industry?

2) Recent estimates reveal a decline in female employment in this industry, such that women comprise around 60% of laborers in today’s cut-flower industry in Ecuador. Of late, why are women becoming less desirable employees?

3) Why in recent decades did the flower industry take off in Ecuador?

4) Why would rural Ecuadorians choose to work in the flower industry?

5) Describe the “productivity system” & the effects of turnover, occupational health, and trade unions as they affect this export industry.

6) How does “personal time,” “family time,” & “community time” vary between women involved in the cut-flower industry versus those who are not?

7) Consider the final question asked on page 37, noting in particular the successful invention or reinvention of “The Andean Indigenous Community” in Otavalo after the introduction of wage labor.