

**TITLE:** Biological welfare and nutritional inequality in rural Mediterranean Spain: the irrigated area of Valencia, 1859–1939

**AUTHORS:** María-Isabel Ayuda (Universidad Carlos III)  
Javier Puche (Universidad Carlos III)

**Abstract:** This article analyses the biological welfare and inequality of the male population of the irrigated area of Valencia between 1859 and 1939. It studies the effects that the agrarian development process had on physical welfare and the relationship between height and access to land ownership. Height data for conscripts in five municipalities constitute the source for the study. The results reveal that there was a growing trend in the evolution of heights in the irrigated area of Valencia at the beginning of agrarian capitalism. Nutritional inequalities can be observed between farmers and farm workers: land owners were taller than landless labourers. However, this biological inequality diminished over the period under study.

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