Farm processing and short chains: solutions to territorialize livestock farming in mountain areas?

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• A rural area...
• ... With assets...
  – PDOs (Fourme d’Ambert, Bleu d’Auvergne)
  – Livestock farming mostly based on grazing
• And weaknesses
• Livestock farming is necessary to maintain a dynamic:
  – Economic activity
  – Landscape
⇒ On-farm Processing + Short chains are particularly interesting

A study carried out in Livradois-Forez
Objective

• Who are the farmers getting engaged in such dynamic?

• What are the impacts regarding:
  - The farm system functioning?
  - The farm system links to territory?

• Main hypothesis:
  - Farm processing and short chains leads to Territorialization of farming systems
Methodology

• Semi-directive interviews with producers involved in alternative food production

• Themes underlined
  - Trajectory of
    • the farmer
    • the farm system
  - How the system works
    • How the productive resources are used
  - Valorization and commercialization of the products
  - Discussion networks

• Sample: Based on Bovine systems (suckling and dairy)
  ➔ Identification of 22 farms
  ➔ Interview of 16 of the 22 producers: quasi exhaustive
RESULTS
Sample: untypical systems

• The average size of farms is relatively important:
  – Average: 108 ha // 44 ha all farms included in L-F

• Non-traditional Farmers profiles are over-represented:
  – Environment protection (10/16)
  – Non-agricultural origins (9/16)
  – Professional experience before setting into farming (13/16)
Origins of on-farm processing and short chains

• Dynamic was initiated 5 to 10 years ago, for most of the farmers

• Distinction of 3 trajectories:
  – On-farm Processing and use of short chains is part of the producers’ project (installation/life)
  – It has been chosen in continuity with an earlier conversion to organic farming
  – It is linked to the installation of a wife of one of the partners (+1)
A Differential link to natural resources

- Grass-land:
  - a central resource
  - Which place in the system of production varies with the type of trajectory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of trajectory</th>
<th>Type of Use of resources</th>
<th>Argument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>All-Grass</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Farming</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>Agronomic efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 1</td>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Self – Sufficiency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
commercialization

• A diversity of:
  - Short chains
  - Products

• Short chains are hardly used alone

⇒ Articulation between short chains and long chains

Short chains

Acknowledgement of work and way of production

Long chains

Adjustment and income secured
an other way to consider his/her profession

• Building new skills
• Reconsidering his/her job finality
• Opening his/her discussion networks
  – Consumers
  – Other professions
• But keeping a significant links to “traditional” professional networks
• And not seeking for a collective action
  ➞ Mostly an individual dynamic
Conclusion

• A diversity of cases which leads to different impacts on farm functioning
• On-farm Processing and Short chains ➔ Reinforcement of relationships to territory.
• Sense of territorialization can differ with:
  – the farm and the farmer trajectory
  – The type of product
    • Cheese production ➔ history / “terroir”
    • Meat production ➔ process of production
Perspectives

• Important effect of livestock orientation and type of product:
  – Sense given to alternative system
  – Professional identity
  ➔ What would be the results for other products chains? With other species?

• Territory characteristics are a factor to take into account
  – It bears a history and a culture
  – Urban/rural relationships can differ
  ➔ Interest in looking into other similar (mountain) areas to extract elements / keys of comparison

NAPOLEONE, M., et al., ”Between Local and global : changing in interactions concerning dairy factories : LFS-territory”
Thank you for attention
Theoretical frame

- Reference to two main literature streams:
  - “Ancreage territorial” / Embeddedness
  - Alternative food systems: Definition and analysis

Approach of territorialization:
- From the farm system scope
- Looking into:
  - Use of productive resources (livestock, natural resources, workforce)
  - Way to value and commercialize farm products
  - Type of discussion networks
    - Professional Identity
Bibliography

