



Technical meeting - AREPO Scientific Committee



Presentation of SYAL framework Localized Agri-Food Systems Toward sustainable food systems

François CASABIANCA
INRA

Dpt Science for Action and Development (SAD)



January 24th 2017 - Brussels

Localized Agri-Food Systems : some definitions

- « *production and service organizations – agricultural and agro-food production units, marketing services and gastronomic enterprises, etc. – linked by their characteristics and operational ways to a specific territory* » (inspired from Muchnik and Sautier, 1998)
- Analysis of social networks enhancing links between local resources, including agriculture, the food and the territory.
- More than just a location, a place-based activity, a group of interrelated territorial specific assets.

European Research Group LAFS

- In Europe, 8 countries and 36 institutions joined the ERG SYAL
- At the very beginning, the GIS SYAL created by INRA and CIRAD, and several universities in France
- Together with the Latin America SYAL network, 7 congresses :
 - Montpellier, 2002; SYAL: Products, business and local dynamics
 - Toluca, 2004; Rural and territorial agro-industry
 - Baeza, 2006; Food and territories
 - Mar del Plata, 2008; Food, family Agriculture and Territories
 - Parma, 2010; Spatial dynamics in AF Systems: implications for sustainability and consumer welfare
 - Florianopolis, 2013; Facing opportunities and challenges in the new global context
 - Stockholm, 2016; Challenges for the new rurality in a changing world

ERG LAFS and AREPO

- 2009 – GA of AREPO in Corsica
Organization of a special session with Siner-GI project
- 2011 – GA of AREPO in Firenze
- 2015 March – AREPO and AREFLH event in Brussels
- 2015 September – EXPO Milan / One-day seminar
Innovating and Organising Research, Education and Training for Sustainable GIs
- Elaboration of a Position Paper
LOCALISED AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND QUALITY PRODUCTS IN THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION BY 2020 AND BEYOND
- **Convention** between AREPO and ERG LAFS
to be signed in GA of AREPO on January 25th of 2017
including a **scientific committee** we are prefiguring.

With the Patronage of



MILANO 2015
FEEDING THE PLANET
ENERGY FOR LIFE

Meanings, Research Objects of SYAL

- 3 meanings :
 - a **concrete object**, i.e. a group of visible agro-food activities territorially established
 - a **conceptual approach**, a way of analysing *in situ* the development of identity based agro-food local resources and their systemic interactions
 - an **institutional tool**, which can be used by administrative bodies and policy-makers in their planning programs.
- 3 main knowledge challenges :
 - **Understanding the nature and dynamics of the links** (natural and material, socio-technical and cultural, and socio-economic and institutional) **between the main elements in a LAFS.**
 - **Specification of territorial resources** is fundamental to trigger the innovation process contributing to rooting production activities.
 - **Activating territorial resources and projects building up:** the territory acts as a factor that connects, like a stakeholder with the qualities and the intelligence to organise collective strategies.

Processes of territorial anchorage of agro-food activities

- Identification of the **driving forces** of the LAFS evolution in time.
Historical processes of localization/delocalization/relocalization
- Analysis of the effects of institution activity upon rural development
Dynamics of **territorial governance**
- Understanding and feeding the **learning processes** among local actors
Individual and collective strategies for enhancing identity-based products
- Research on LAFS requires **interdisciplinary approaches** / put together
natural, bio-technical and social sciences

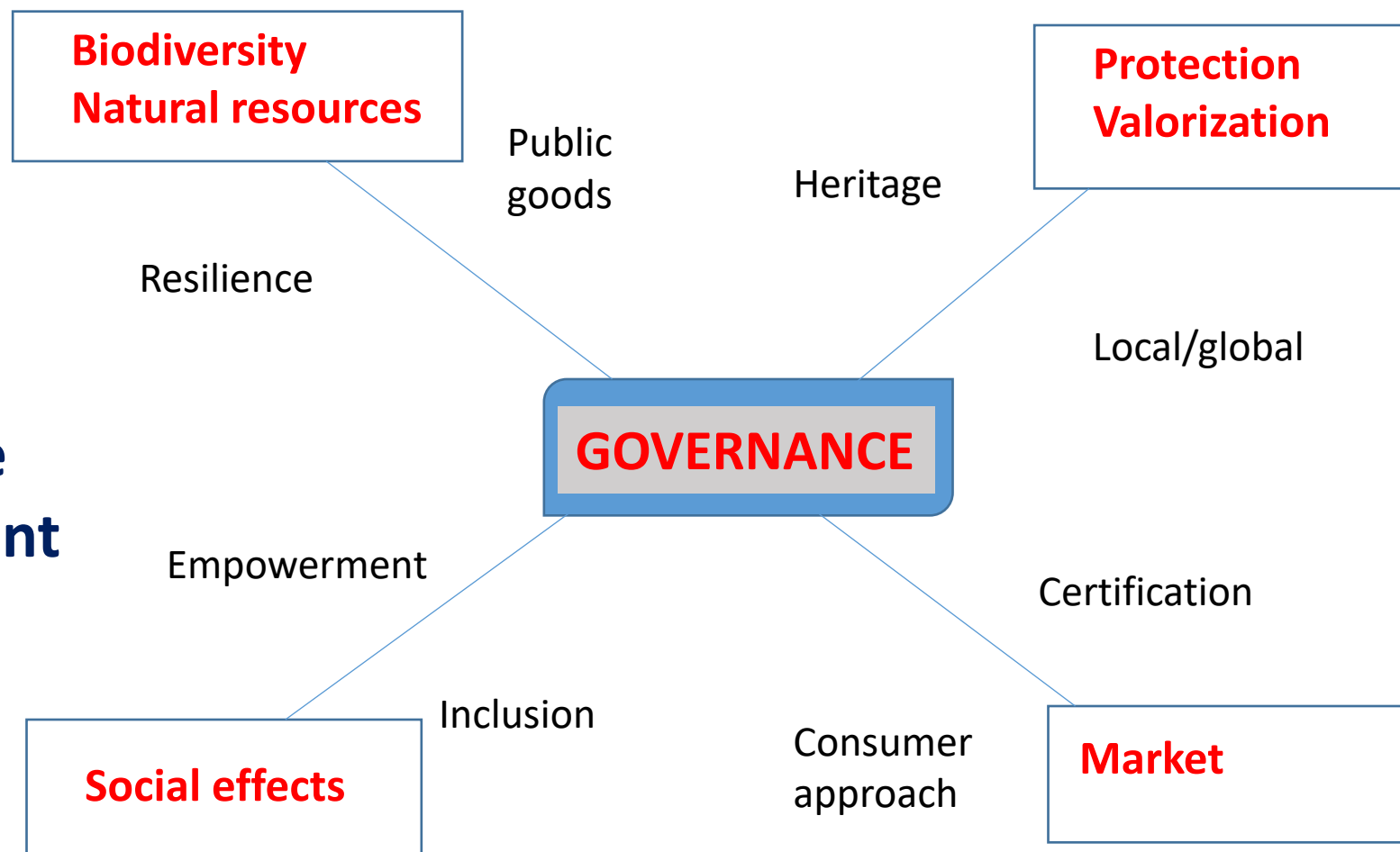
Place-based processes of production

- Not only a product / a system
- Not only a property right / local knowledge and resource
- Not only for consumer elite / crucial for local identity, the whole society
- Not only a certification / local development

- **Reconnecting agriculture and food at local level** : assume to be part of the solution for the global food security.
- Contribution to **the Sustainable food systems**

Conclusion : a proposal framework

Trade-offs for sustainable development



January 24th 2017 – AREPO Brussels