

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

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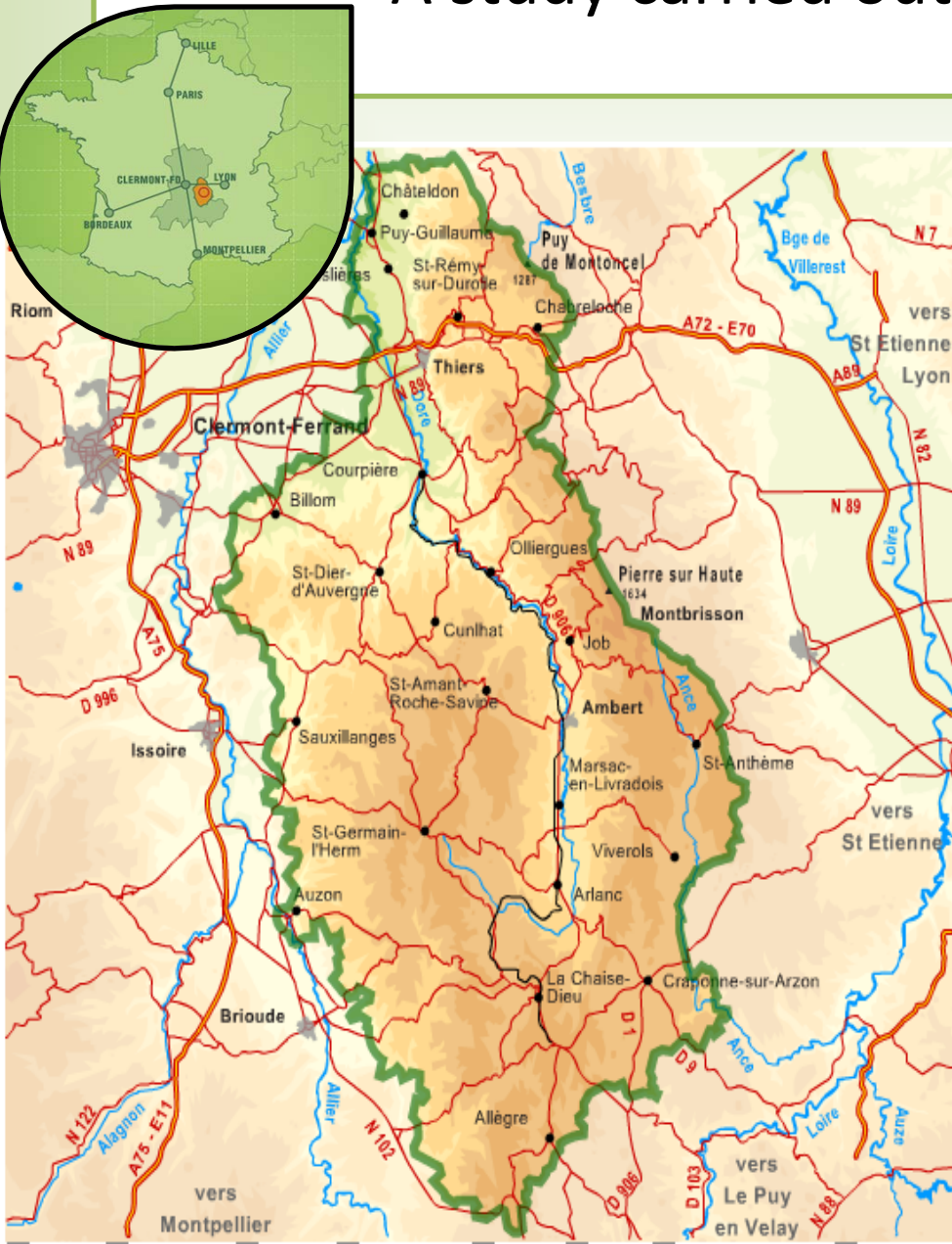
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27 August 2013



A study carried out in Livradois-Forez



- 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

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

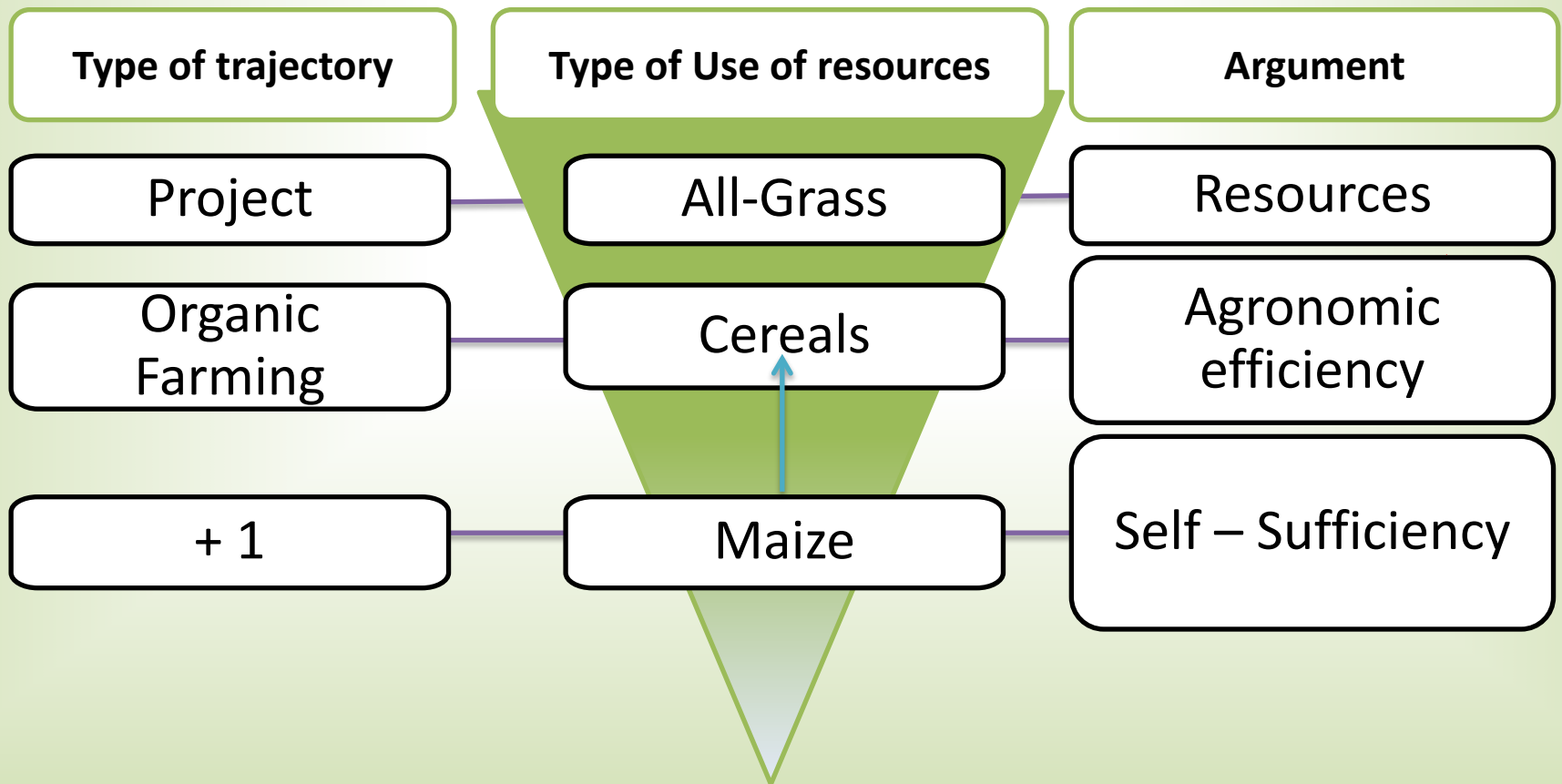
- The average size of farms is relatively important :
 - Average : 108 ha // 44 ha all farms included in L-F
- Non-traditional Farmers profiles are over-represented :
 - Environment protection (10/16)
 - Non-agricultural origins (9/16)
 - Professional experience before setting into farming (13/16)

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



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 :
 - “Ancrage 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

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