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An analytical framework of the coexistence and confrontation of agricultural models: introduction to the French case

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*An analytical framework of the coexistence
and confrontation of agricultural models.
Introduction to the French case*

Pierre GASSELIN

Workshop on Study of Family-run Farming
“Theoretical Framework for Comparative Analysis on Family
Farming”

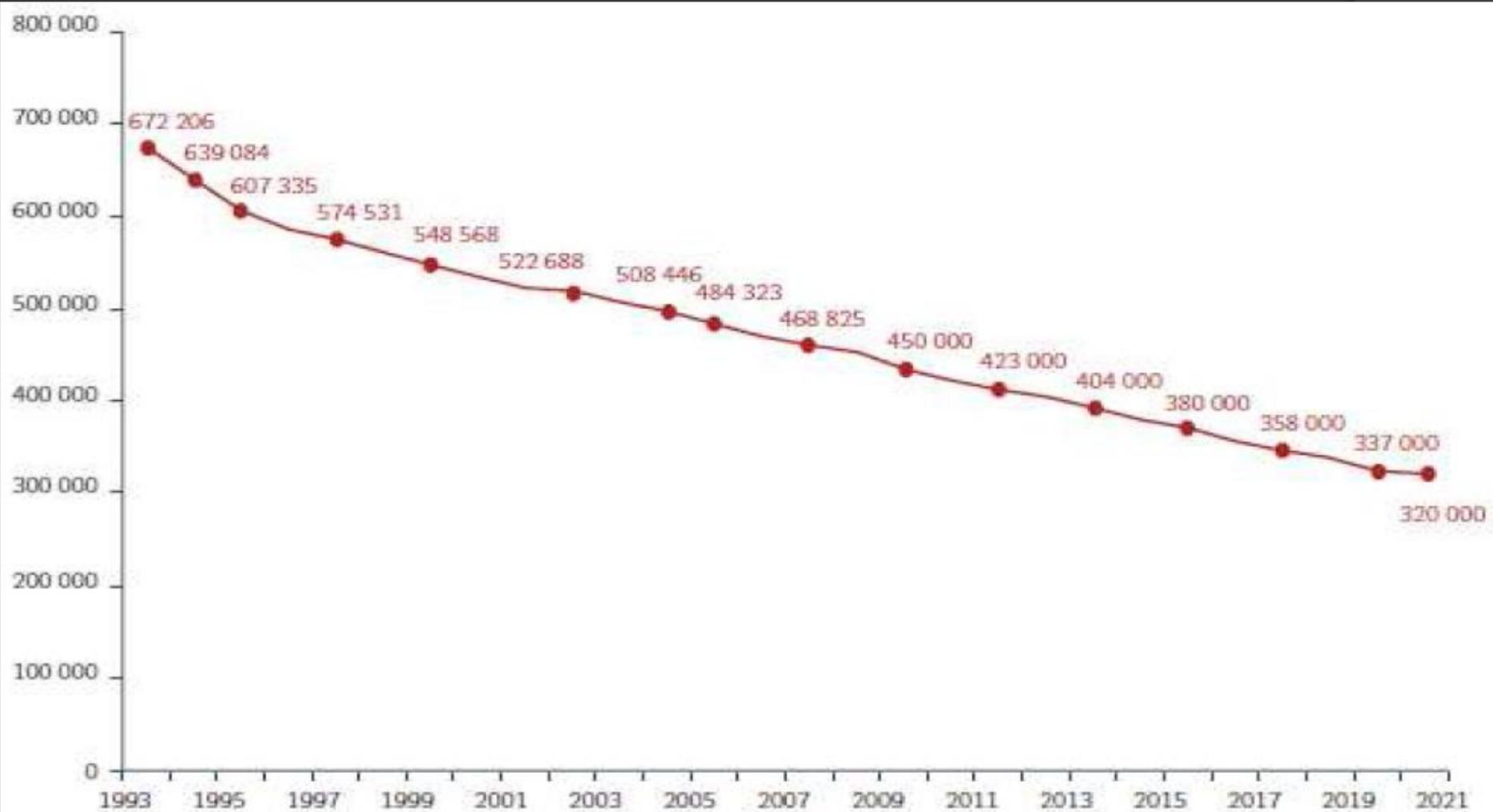
Kyoto University (Japan), March 17th 2016

Outlines

1. Reminders about the French family farming
2. Some analytical frameworks of forms of agriculture
3. Proposition for an analytical framework by the agricultural models
4. Why thinking coexistence and confrontation of agricultural models?



Continuing decline in farm numbers

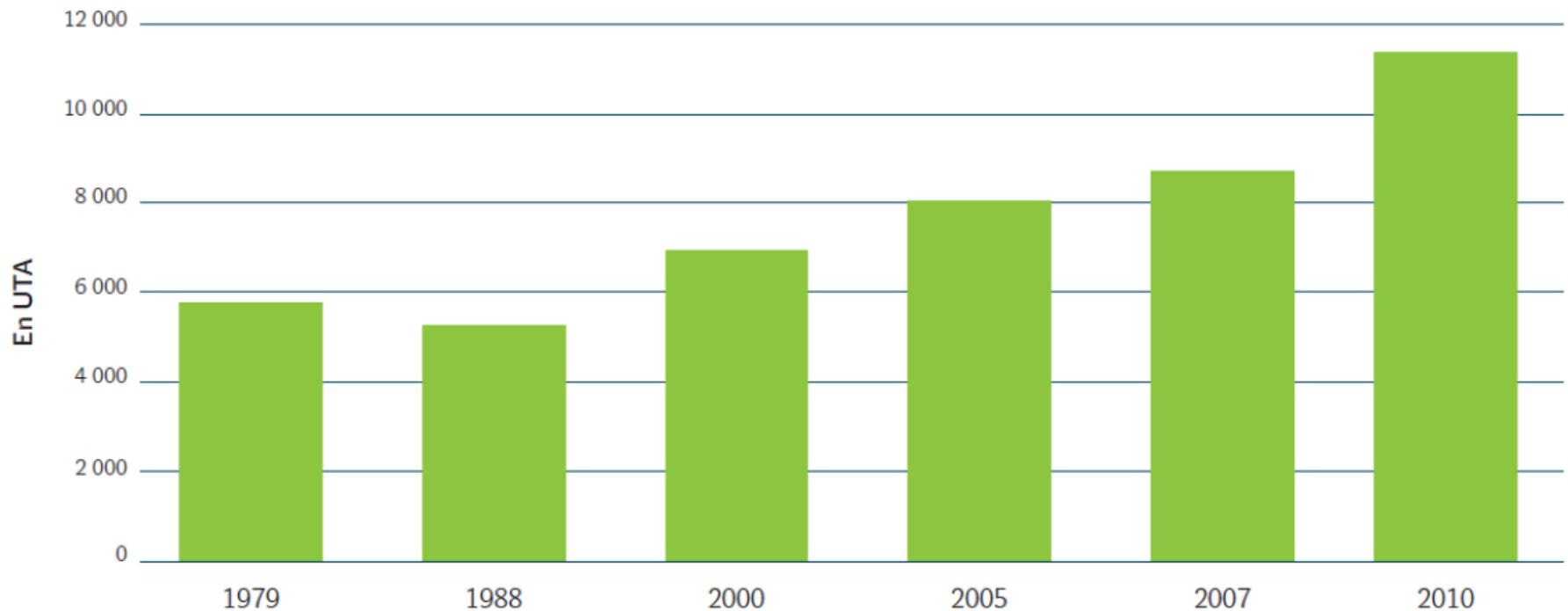


Source : Lefebvre, CNASEA, données MSA, 2009

Increasing use of hired and external labor, and aging of farmer

- 17% of the farm labor is provided by non-family permanent employees in 2010, compared to 14% in 2000
- Seasonal wage labor: 10.5% of agricultural labor unit in 2010 (compared to 5.6% in 1988)
- The proportion of farmer over 60 was 20% in 2010, compared to 15% in 1988
- Utilized agricultural area per farm has increased from 14 hectares in 1955 to 56 hectares in 2010

Recourse to agricultural service companies and to cooperatives of farm machinery



Sources : Agreste, recensements agricoles et enquêtes Structure

Overall distribution across farm types (2000 census data)

	Number (%)	“Annual Work Unit” distribution total	“Standard Gross Margin” in total
Family farms	540,933 (81.6%)	60.1%	56.5%
Patronal farms	113,996 (17.2%)	32.3%	37.7%
Corporate farms	8,112 (1.2%)	7.6%	5.8%

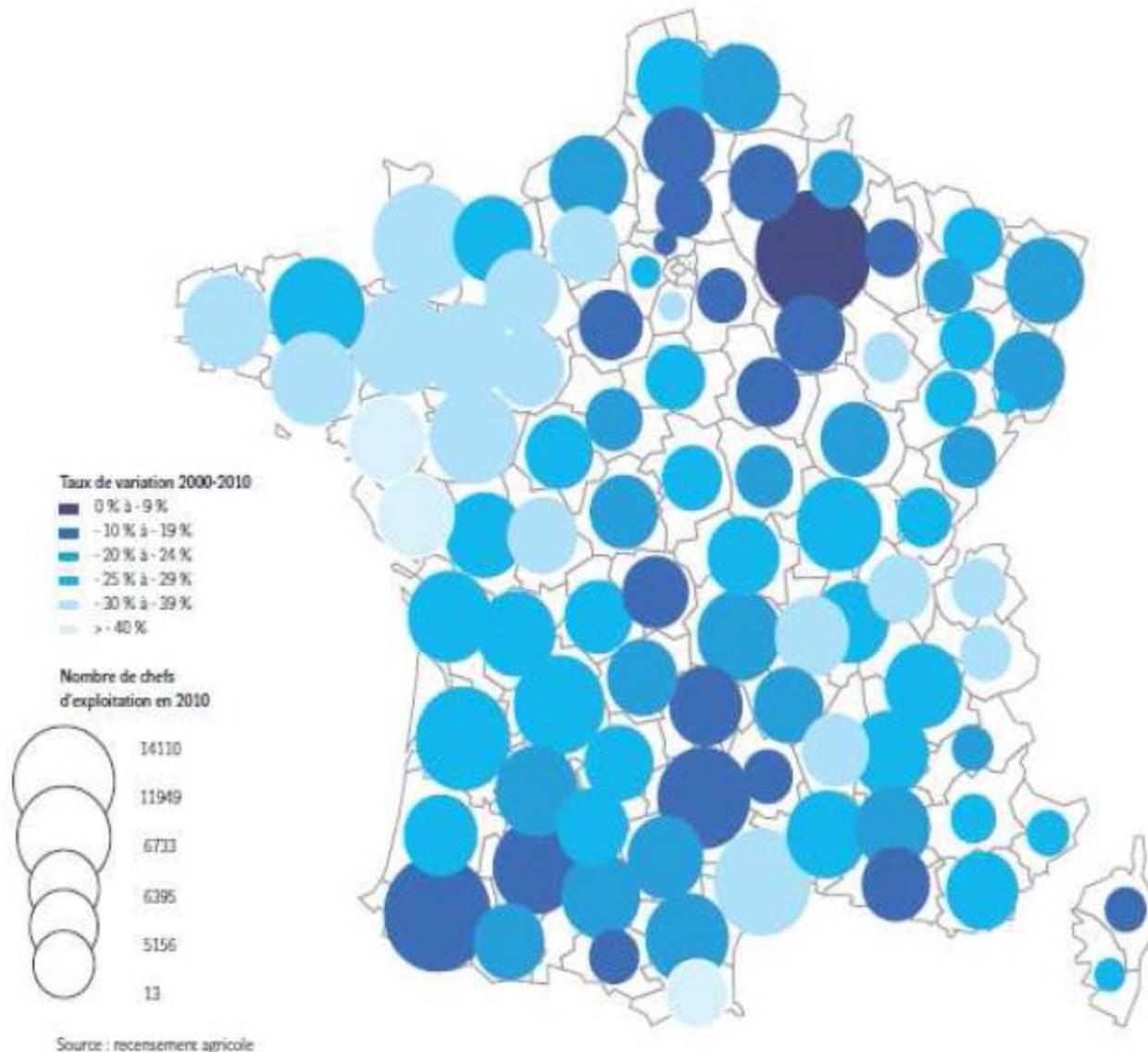
Family farms : no permanent wage workers

Patronal farms : more than one AWU of permanent wage labor (familial and non-familial) or a very high proportion of seasonal wage labour.

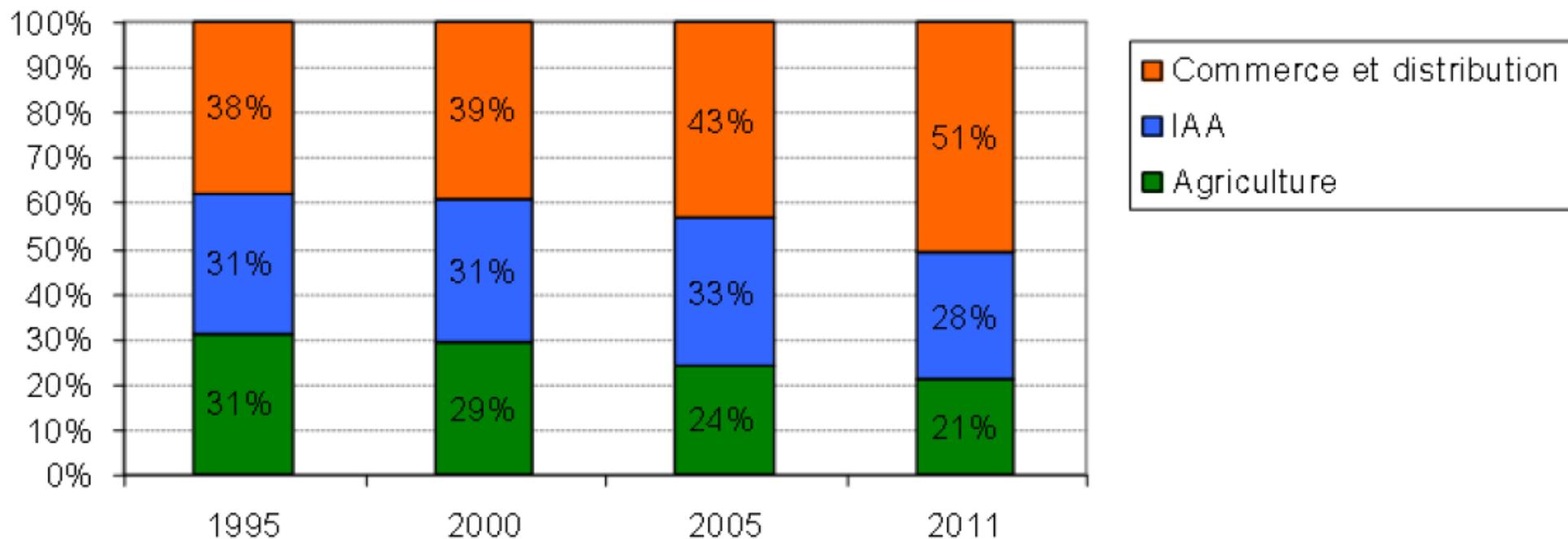
Corporate farms : no family labour and a clear disconnection between the owners of the capital and the labour

Increasing concentration of farm labor and regional specialization

Number of farm managers in 2010 and variation rate from 2000 to 2010



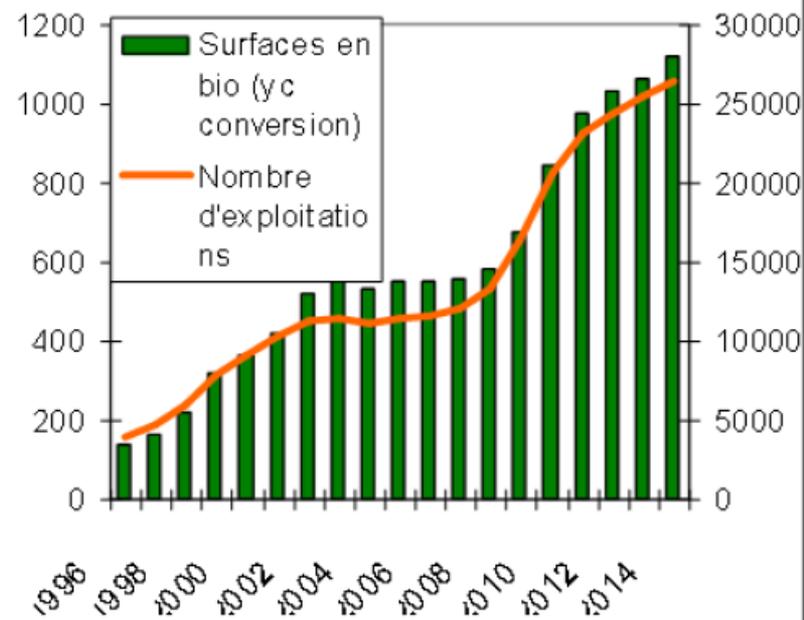
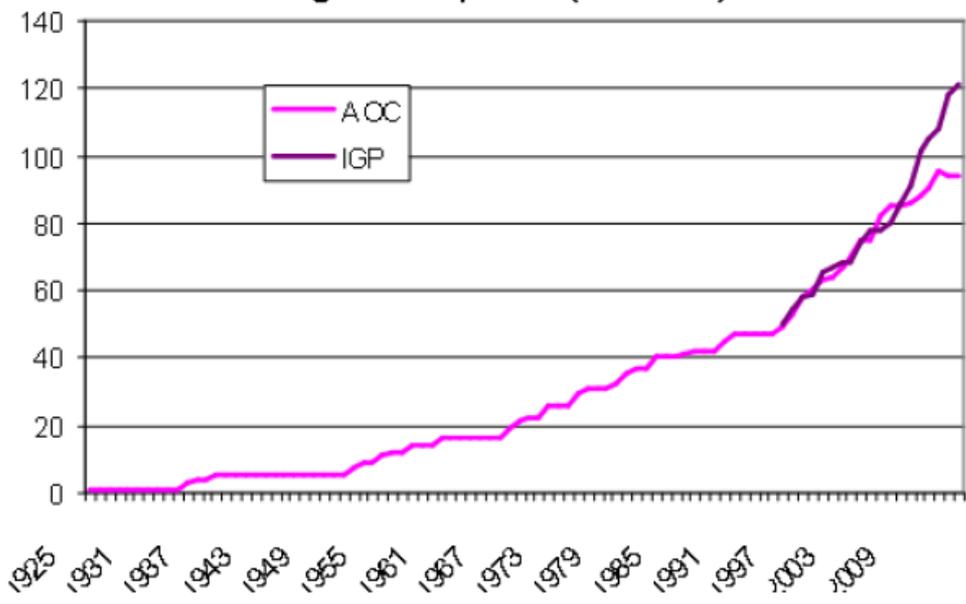
Distribution of added value in the food value chain



□ Four marginalization of farmers: demographic, identity, political and in the food value chain

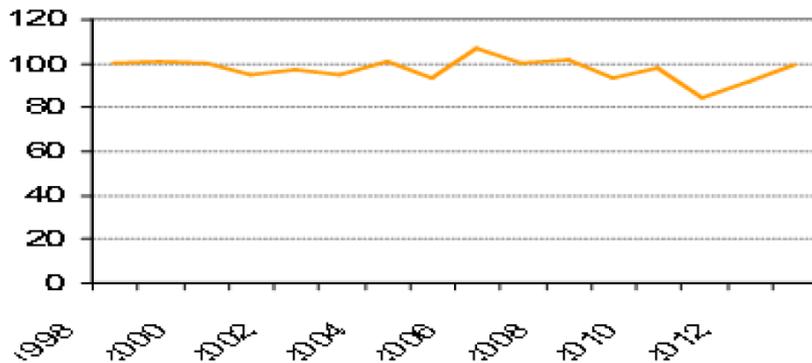
Opportunities for differentiation and value creation, rising "political" and citizens' demands

Les signes de qualité (AOP/IGP)

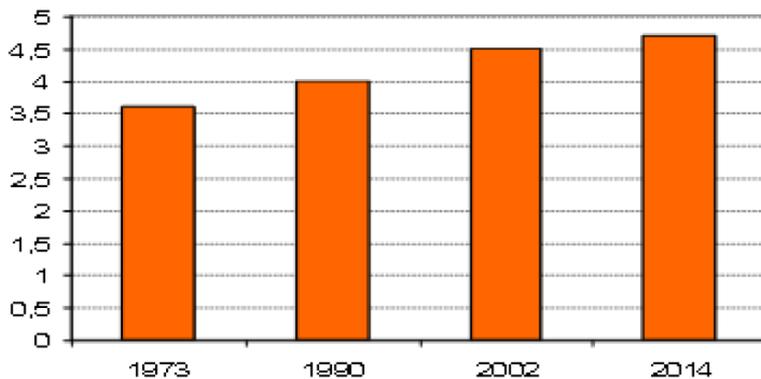


French agriculture still consuming energy and chemical inputs, even if the government promotes an agroecology policy

Nitrates dans les eaux de surface



Consommation totale d'énergie (Agriculture, Mtep)



AGRICULTURES
PRODUISONS
AUTREMENT

PROJET
AGRO-ÉCOLOGIQUE
POUR LA FRANCE



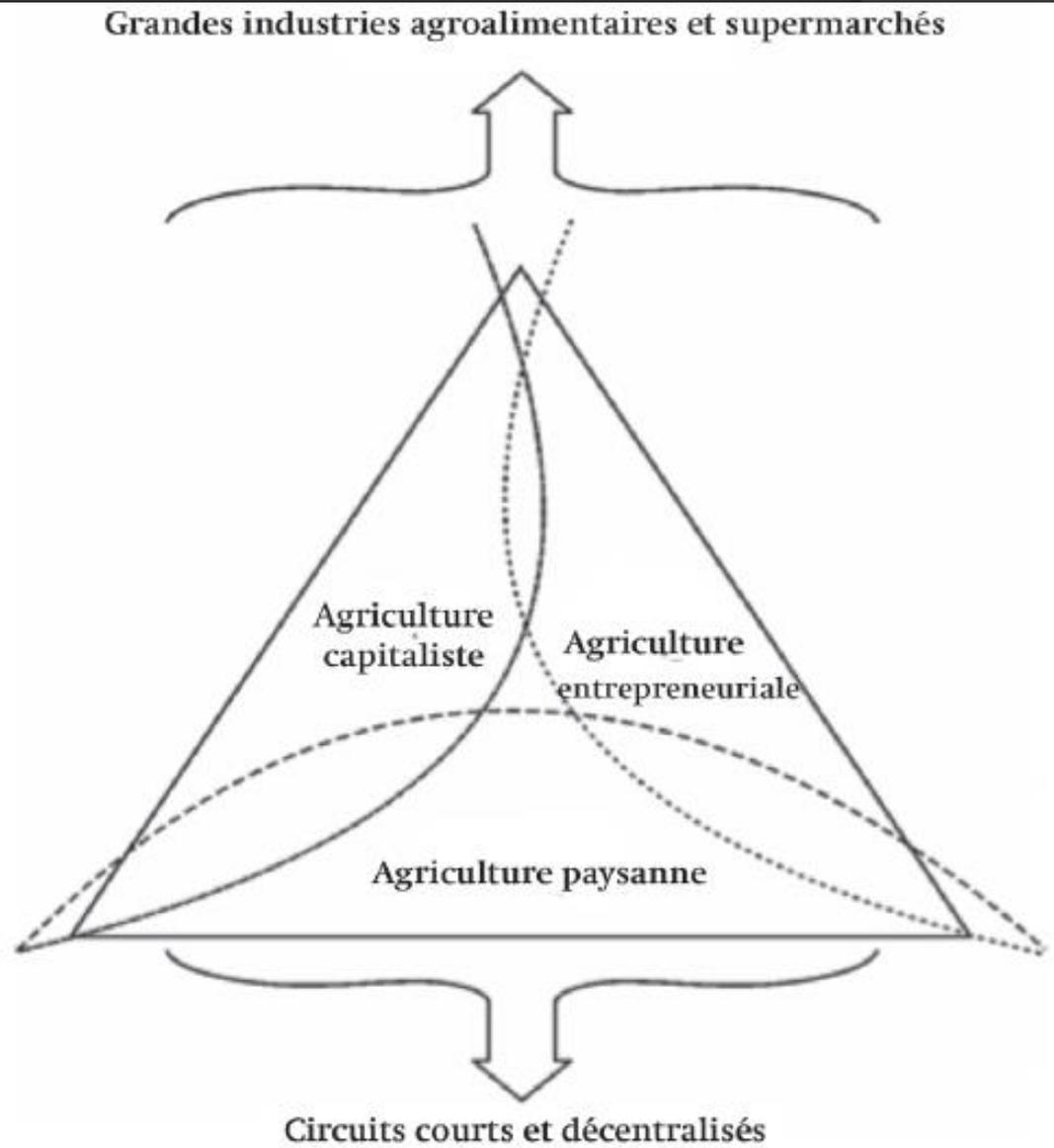
Unions with demands and projects highly contrasted, but family farm is not one of the main issues debated



2. Some analytical frameworks of forms of agriculture

- Some of the main analytical frameworks : Farming Styles, Sociotechnical Transition Pathways (Multilevel Perspective), Sociology of Agricultural Worlds, Agrarian Systems, etc.
- Divergencies between theoretical frameworks of agricultural forms and about the conditions of their coexistence:
 - actor-oriented approach where human being is an actor and a subject of his history vs. approach that sums up the actor to a system or to "a sum of capitals"
 - political and epistemological postures : "there is room for all" vs. "it is a matter of power relationships with domination, exclusion and resistance"
 - what are the key variables considered : work, technology, relations to the nature, relations with the market, etc.
 - ...

Farming styles



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Sociotechnical transition pathways

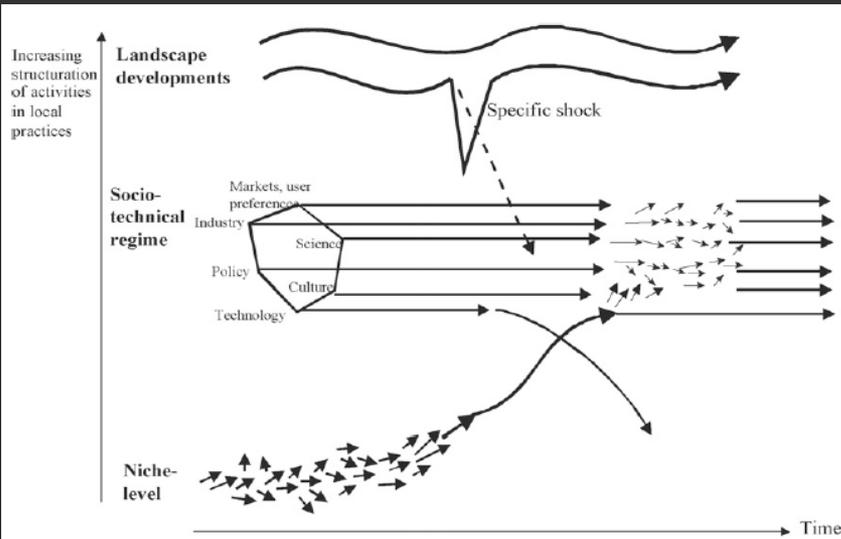


Fig. 8. Technological substitution pathway.

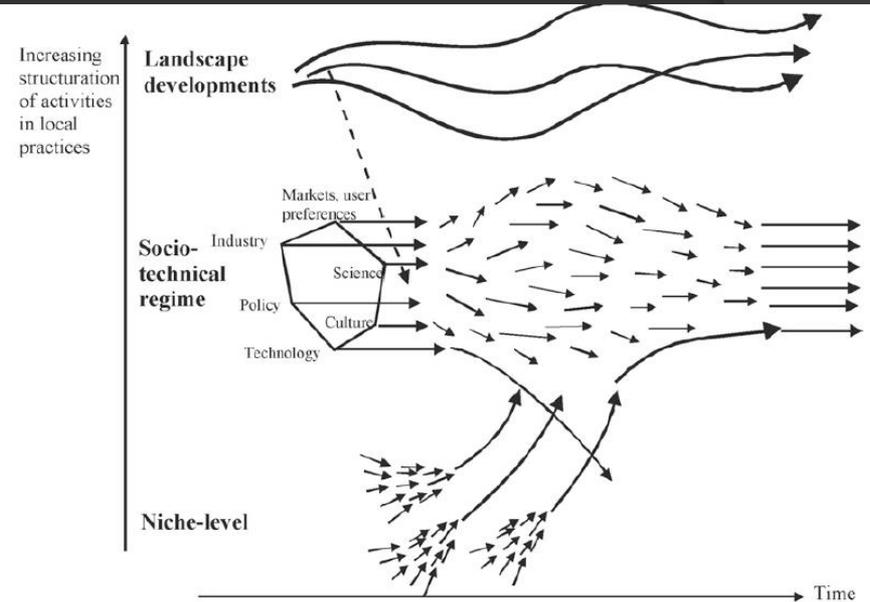


Fig. 6. De-alignment and re-alignment pathway.

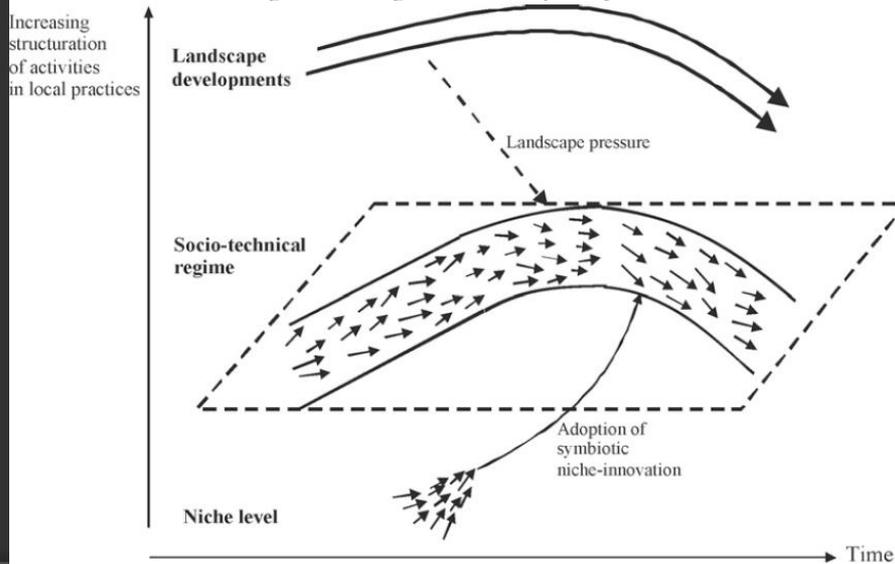


Fig. 5. Transformation pathway.

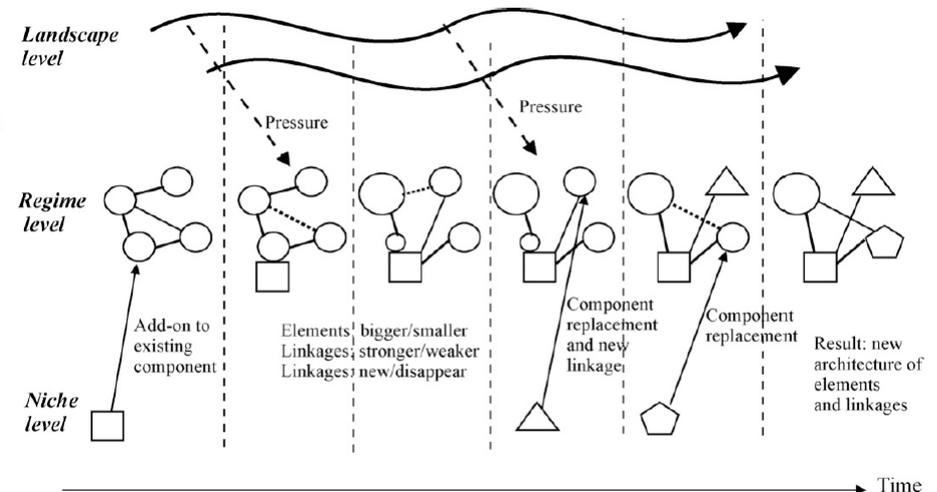


Fig. 10. Reconfiguration pathway.

Sociology of agricultural worlds

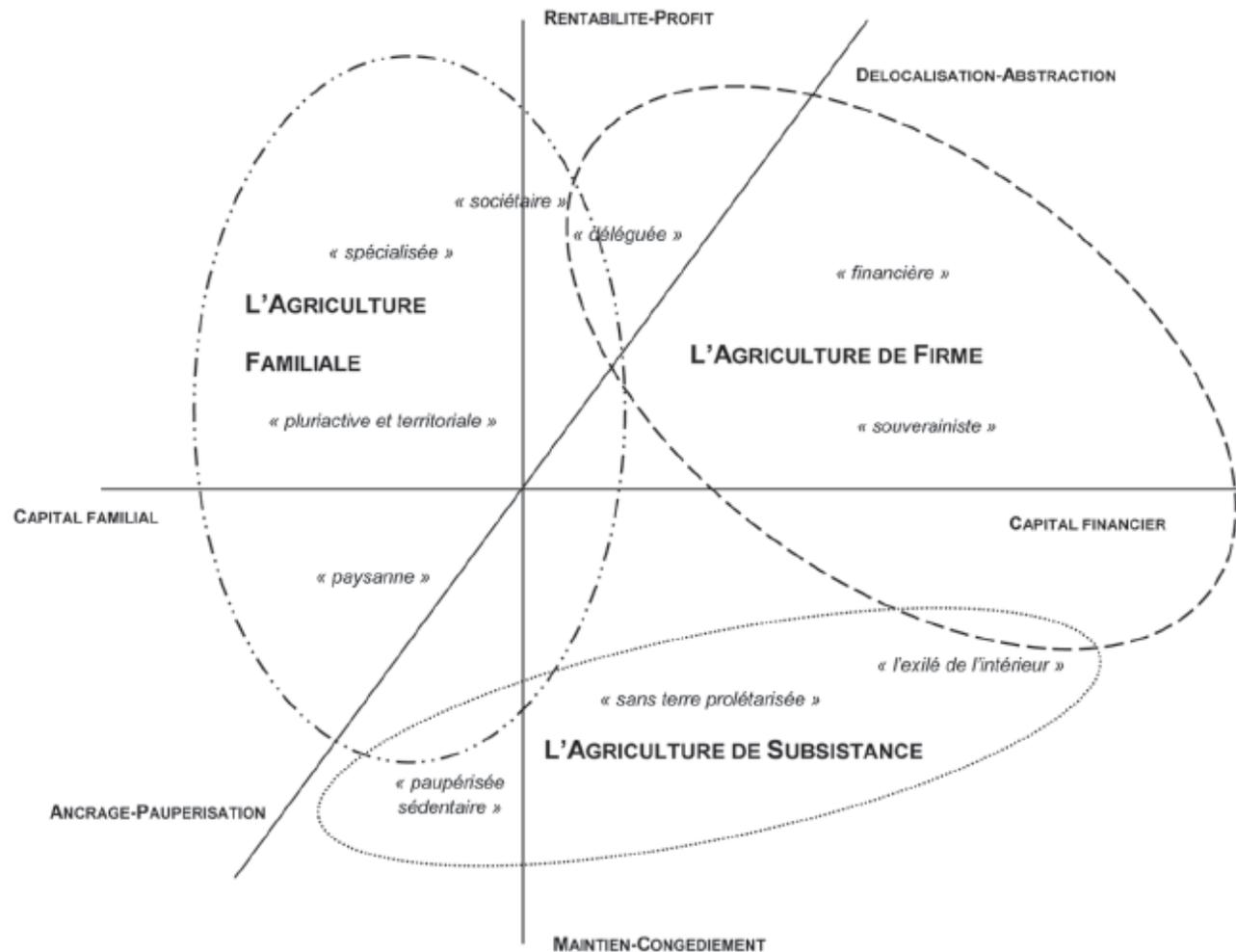
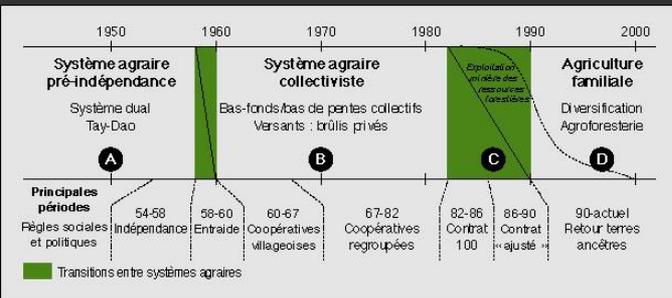


Figure : L'éclatement des formes d'organisation sociale et économique du travail en agriculture (B. Hervieu, F. Purseigle, 2011)

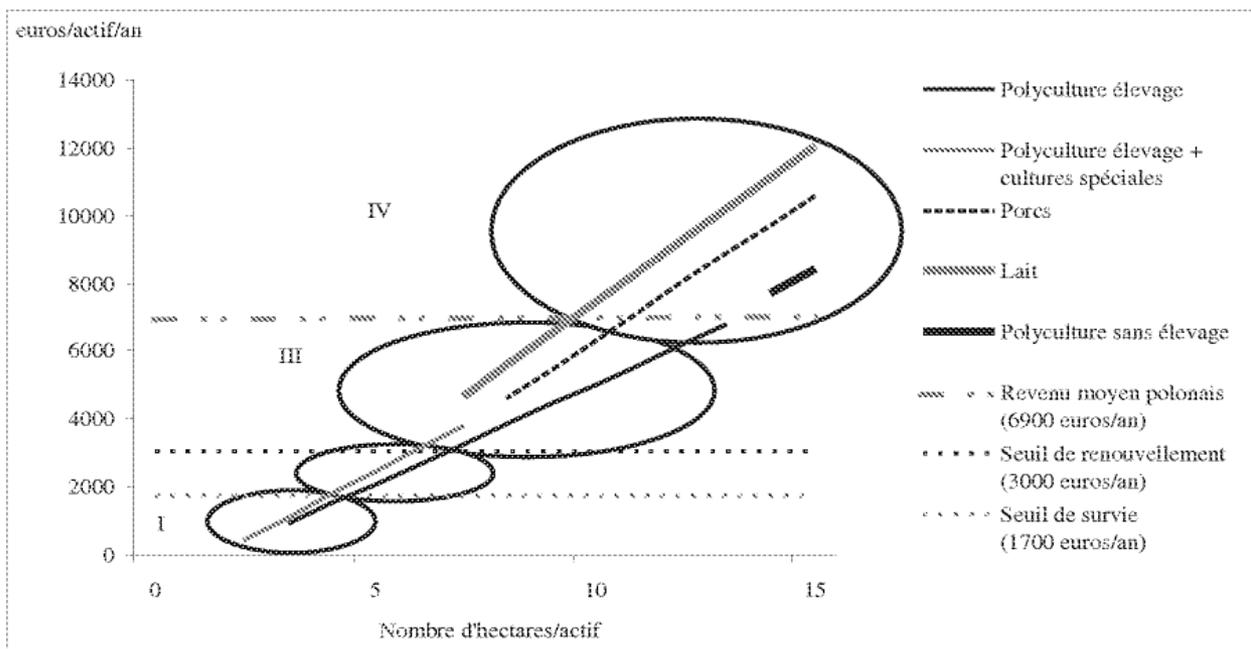
Agrarian systems



Graphique 2

concept	Système agraire		
	Système de production (farming system) / système d'activités		Village / région / nation
	Système de culture / système d'élevage		
Objet / échelle d'analyse	Parcelle / troupeau	Exploitation agricole	Village / région / nation
Type d'analyse	Agro-écologique (biotechnique)	Agro-économique	Agro-géographique et socio-économique

Modélisation des revenus agricoles nets des exploitations agricoles pour les principaux systèmes de production



3. What is an “agricultural model”?

- An abstract, schematic and simplified representation of the reality
- Is not observed in the reality but can be shaped in a real project (Jean Piaget, Yves Clot)
- Refers to ways of thinking about development: economic growth, successive stages (Rostow), human development, sustainable development, eco-development, degrowth, frugal development, etc.

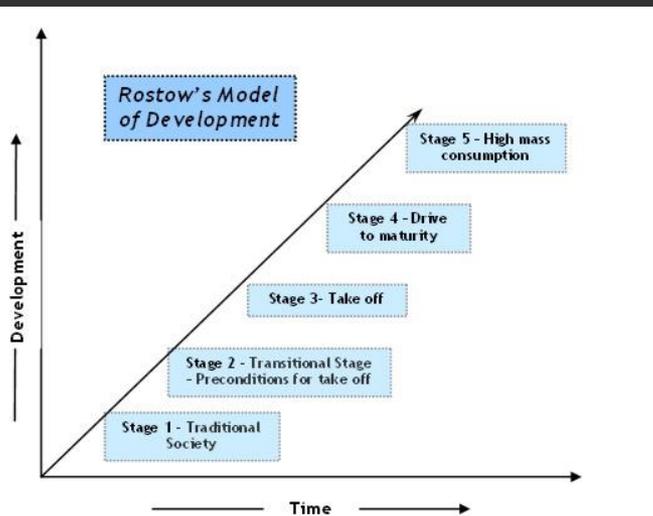
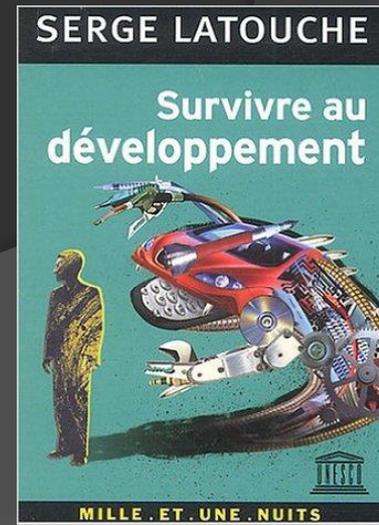
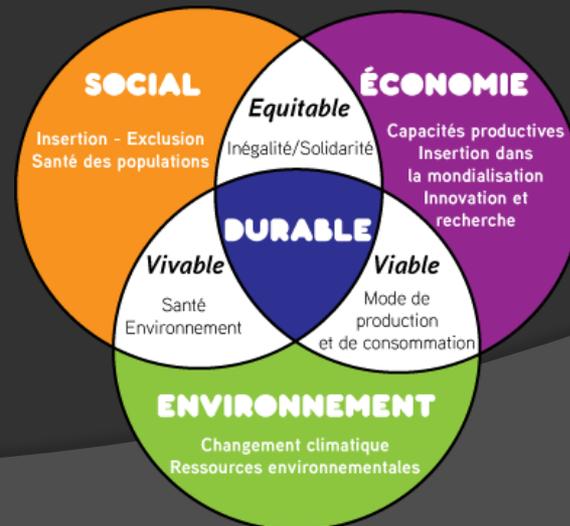


Figure 1: Rostow's Model of Development.



What is an “agricultural model”?

An experiment, a prophetic horizon to defend ideas, a utopia, an analytical framework... We propose to distinguish four meanings:

- archetype of an observed reality (now or in the past)
- statement or a claim (social, trade union, political, identity, etc.)
- standard for the action (such as organic farming)
- researchers' analytical categories (who defines what he considers family farming, corporate farm, agroecology, etc.).

It will therefore not be considered the "farm models" derived from a mathematical or computer formalism.

Dialectic between agricultural model and development model

- Development model = three broad dimensions of project and action :
 - An intended target collectively perceived as positive, often thought in terms of stakes (demographic, ecologization, climate change, energy, employment...)
 - Principles of action (in terms of power sharing, decision making, distribution of wealth, treatment of social relations, definition and arbitration of Justice)
 - Specific relationships of human being and its institutions with : market, technology, Nature...

The concept of agricultural model: a proposition

- Specific relations of human being (actors of the food system, not only the farmer) and his institutions (farming, food, local, environmental) with:
 - Activity (Hannah Arendt), in particular relations with :
 - work
 - feeding
 - consumption
 - collective action
 - Territory, Market and State
 - Nature, Technology and Knowledge
- An overall coherency between all of these variables
- Some variables considered as highly decisive which overdetermine the agricultural model: for example, in the relations with work, technology, market or with Nature...

To illustrate: different ways of thinking and interacting with Nature

- ⦿ Focus :
 - Reductionism approach (Nature understood as delimited elements: genes, varieties, species component soil, water)
 - Systemic approach (the interactions between elements, at different temporal and spatial scales, and emergent properties)
 - Holistic approach (Nature considered as a whole, not reducible to its parts)
- ⦿ Insurance process vs. Regulated natural dynamics
- ⦿ Simplification of the ecosystemic interactions vs. Complexity management
- ⦿ Standardization (plant, soil, growing conditions) vs. Heterogeneity management
- ⦿ Instrumentalization of Nature objects vs. equivalence relation between Human being and Nature (gift/counter-gift)

Why thinking coexistence and confrontation of agricultural models?

- Agricultural models and issues of coexistence, confrontation, hybridization, etc. more or less affirmed depending on the countries
- Topical theme in the professional and political field, less in the research field
- "Coexistence and confrontation". Modalities that are often not peaceful and quiet: passive co-presence, cohabitation, hybridization, synergy, complementarity, confrontation, competition, coevolution, etc.

Why thinking coexistence and confrontation of agricultural models?

- ◉ Discuss legitimation registers of the agricultural models in order to stimulate critical debates in scientific, professional, political and civil arenas
- ◉ Criticize and renew methodology of typologies to overstep a too often dual thinking of agricultural model : peasant farm vs. corporate farm, agroecology vs. smart agriculture, etc.
- ◉ Agricultural models do not refer to the same value systems: requires rethinking assessment of agricultural models (which indicators? which methods? etc.)
- ◉ Invites thinking the governance of agricultural development to manage the confrontation, reduce exclusions, create synergies, enhance complementarities

ありがとう！

Thank you !

