Bucking the trend

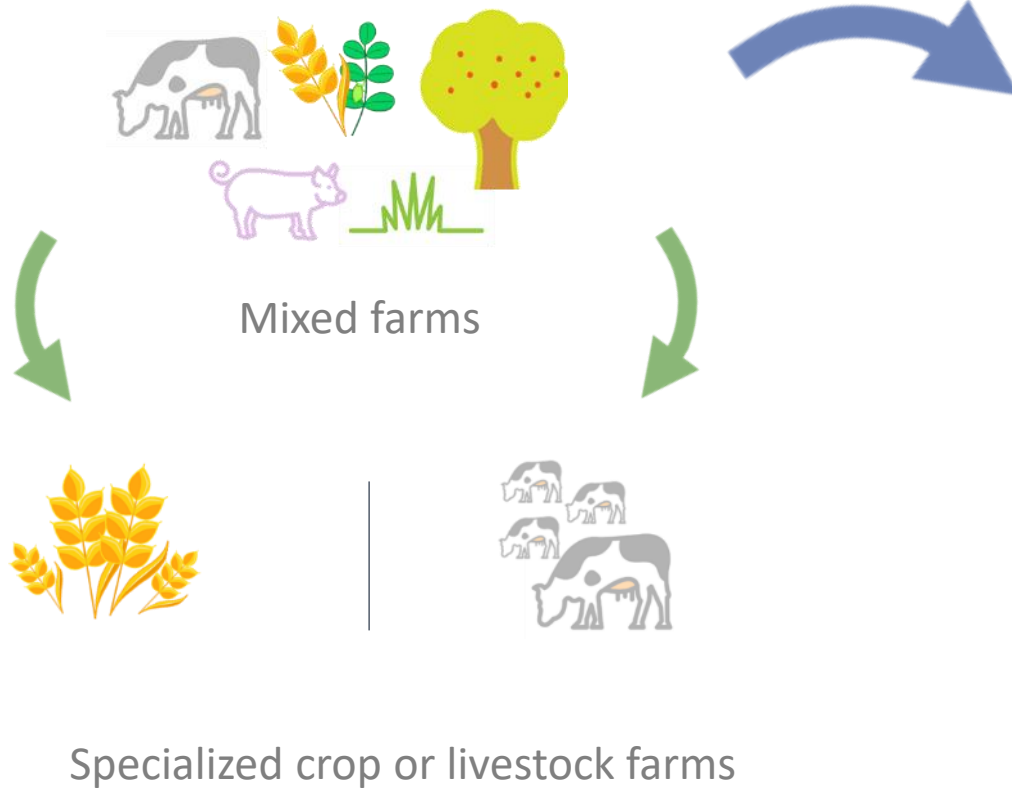## Crop farmers' motivations for reintegrating livestock

Clémentine Meunier

Guillaume Martin, Cécile Barnaud, Julie Ryschawy
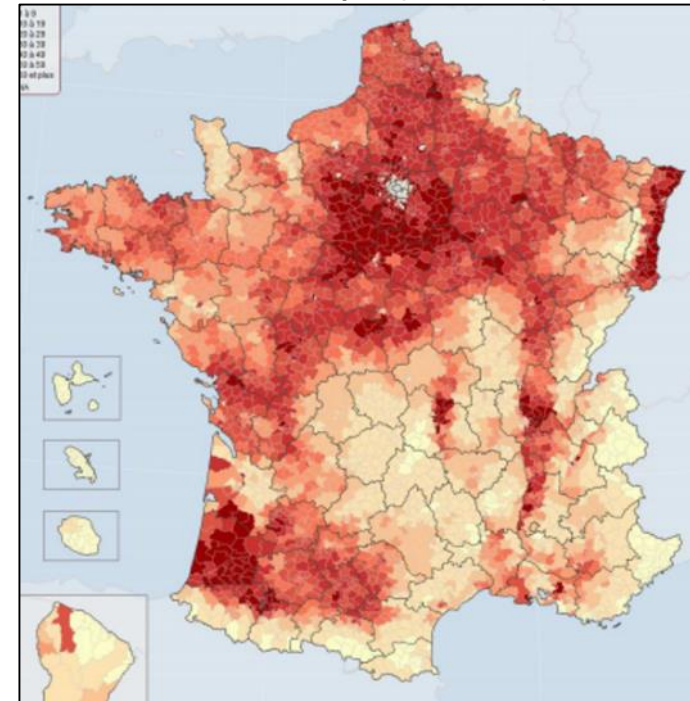
At the farm level

Mixed farms

Specialized crop or livestock farms

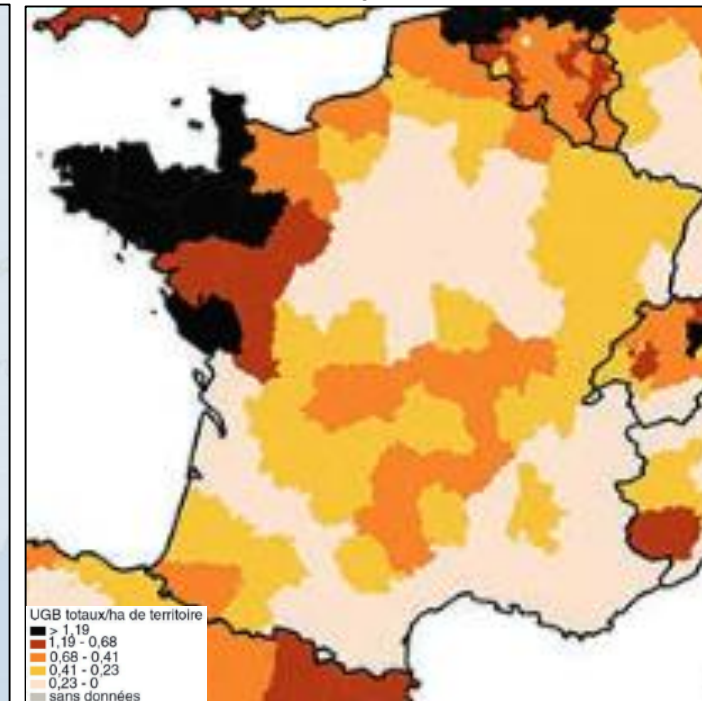| Farms (% of french Farms)	1988	2020
Mixed	19 %	12 %
Livestock	44 %	36 %
Crops	37 %	52 %

At the regional level

Grain crops (% UAA)

(MAAF – 2012 – IGN Géo Fla 2010 – Agreste – Recensement agricole 2010 / Traitement INRA SMART – LERECO)
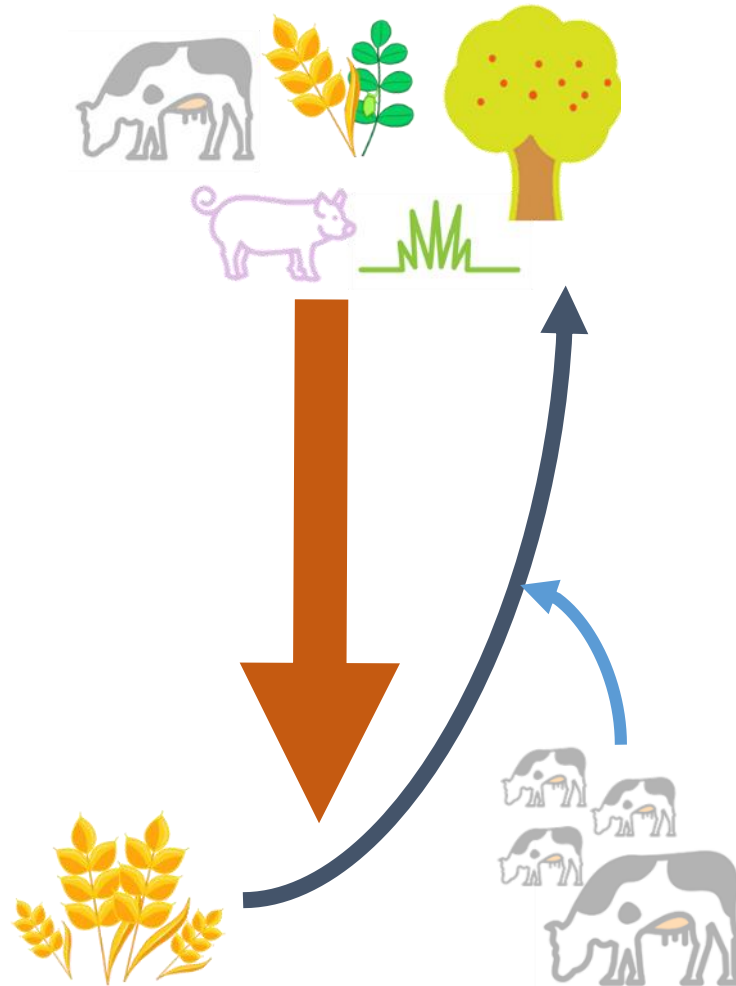
LU / ha

(Eurostat 2010 - Traitement RMTEconomie des filières animales)

(AGRESTE, 2020 ; Lemaire, 2014 ; Veysset, 2014 ; Martin, 2016)

And still…

Some pioneer farmers are bucking these trends to reintegrate livestock !

Reintegrating livestock
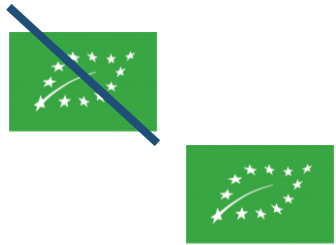
In various systems

Understudied by research

Identifying farmers' motivations to reintegrate livestock to support the scaling up of this agroecological practice

Targeting diversity

Farm or regional level

2 areas with various history regarding livestock production

All types of crops and livestock

Relying on our network and snowball effect to build the sample

ERABLES 31
La BIO en Haute-Garonne

Les BIOS du Gers
Le Groupement des Agriculteurs
Biologiques et Biodynamiques

agrof'île

AGRICULTURES & TERRITOIRES
CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE

(Salembier, 2016, 2021)

Occitanie (10)

Mostly organic farmic
8 certified (+2)

Diverse crops
- Vineyards (3) and orchards (2)
- Grain crops (5 + 1)

Diverse types of reintegration
- Sheep reintegration in all types of crops at all levels (3 regional, 1 on-farm, 3 both)
- Poultry reintegration on grain crop farms (3)

Parisian Basin (8)

Diverse production modes
4 certified (+1)

Mostly grain crops
- Grain crops (7)
- Vegetables (1)

On-farm reintegration of diverse livestock

Sheep (4), Pigs (1), Cattle (1) and Poultry (2 + 1)

Time since reintegration
2 to 24 years ; M = 5.6 years, med = 4 years

A mixed method to let motivations emerge and hierarchize them

18 interviews from innovation tracking

Inductive analysis
Transcription, Coding and Analysis

Ranking analysis
Number of selections, ranks
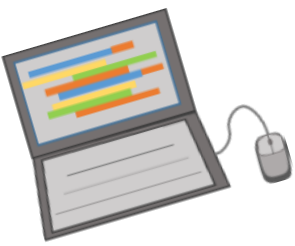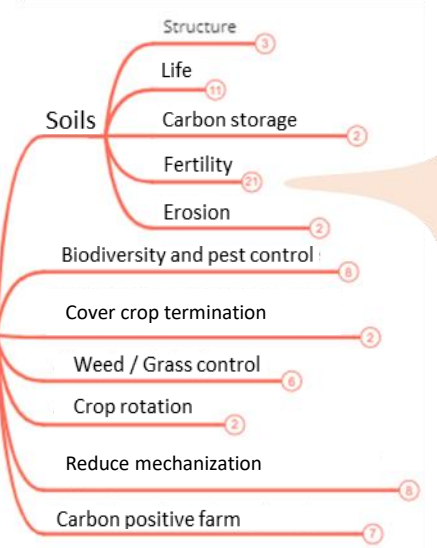
Inventory of motivations

Hierarchization of motivations

(Elo and Kyngas, 2008)
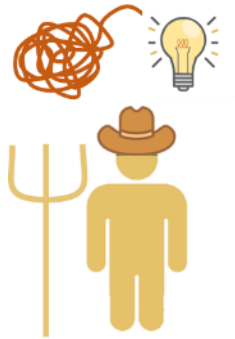
Following personal ethical and moral values (17)

Increasing and stabilising income (17)

In my philosophy, it's a good thing. Because I think that bringing animals back into the system, it is **healthy for nature**. (F4)

This is what helped increase the complexity of the specialized systems I grew up into. **Complexity and elegance**. When you imagine them in your mind, it **seems obvious** we should not have left those systems apart. (F12)

I have two sons, so **I plan for their future**. (F10)

I get up in the morning with **pleasure**. I do the things I **love**. (F3)
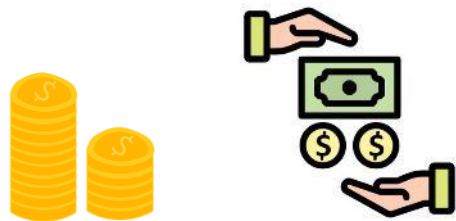
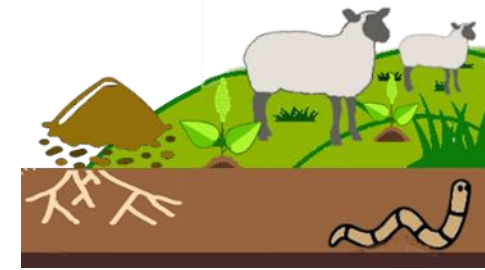Well, it's about **money,** honestly. Could I have lived from my fields, I probably would not have done it. It is less constraining to crop fields. (F10)

And the second reason is, I had pasture on the farm. […] Pasture, **what do I earn from them ?** (F11)
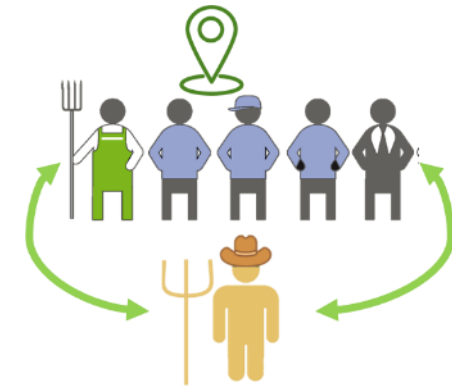
It allowed us to have livestock on the farm, so to **produce organic matter** for the fields. (F16)

First, I do not have to **deal with the grass** anymore. Not at all. (F5)

Promoting ecosystem services (16)

I, I was not born as a livestock farmer. My job is **to give a hand** to a landless shepherd. (F4)
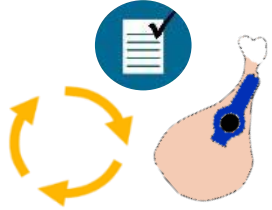
Livestock farming, **it's a social support**. (F12)

When I walk across the village with my ewes, **people like that** ! (F11)

Connecting to the local community (14)

Increasing self-sufficiency and traceability (9)

What we advocate on the farm today is a maximum of **autonomy**, be it regarding seeds, animal feed or fertilizers. (F15)

I spreaded 5 tons of [imported] chicken manure per hectare, it was as if I had not done anything ! (F8)

Decreasing pollutions (3)

Livestock farming is blamed, regarding **climate** change. And it is fair. But I believe we can do things more vertuously [...], the idea is that animals stay outside grazing [...] to **limit any kind of mechanization** for hay and so on. (F6)
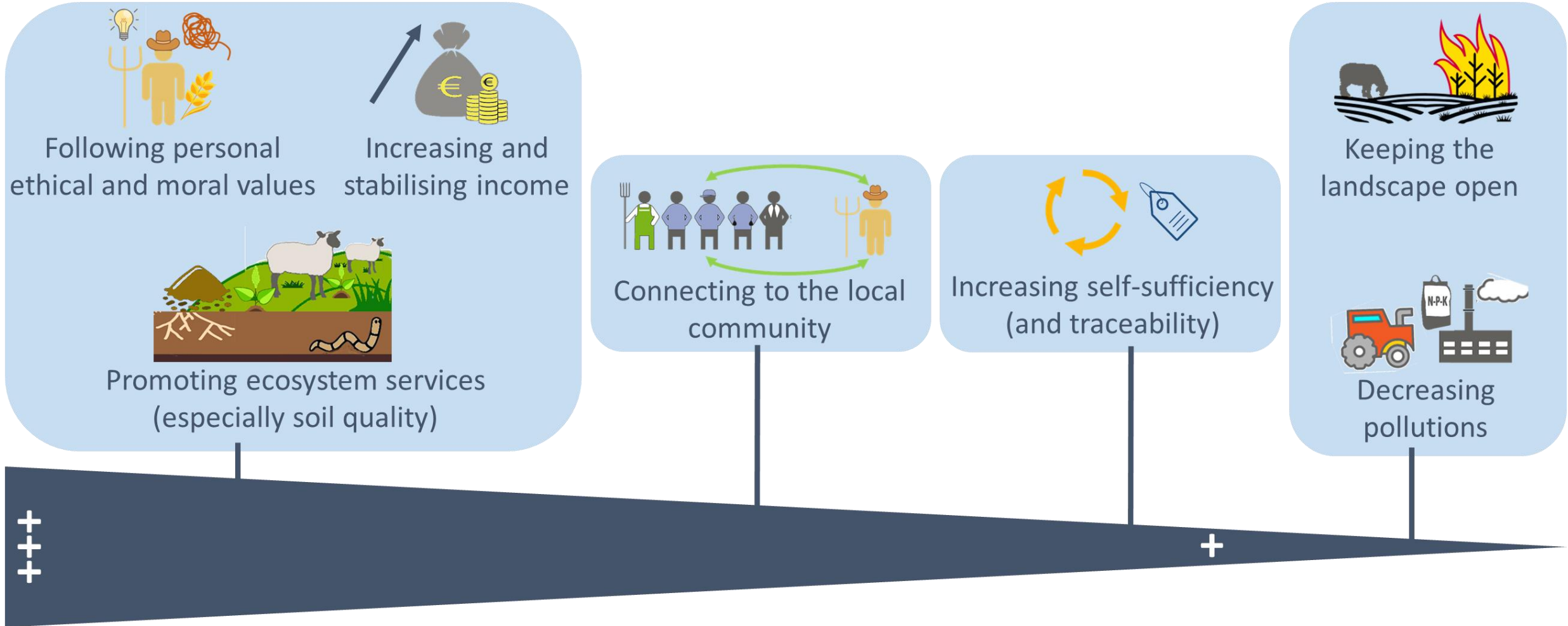
Keeping landscape open (3)

It is a solution for stopping cropping small parts of poor soil land without being annoyed by the idea it is going to become **wasteland**. (F12)

We do not have livestock for meat only. We also have them to **keep the landscape open**. (F2)

(n=18 French farmers)

In agreement with…

Documented benefits of ICLS

Farmers' motivations to adopt other agroecological practices
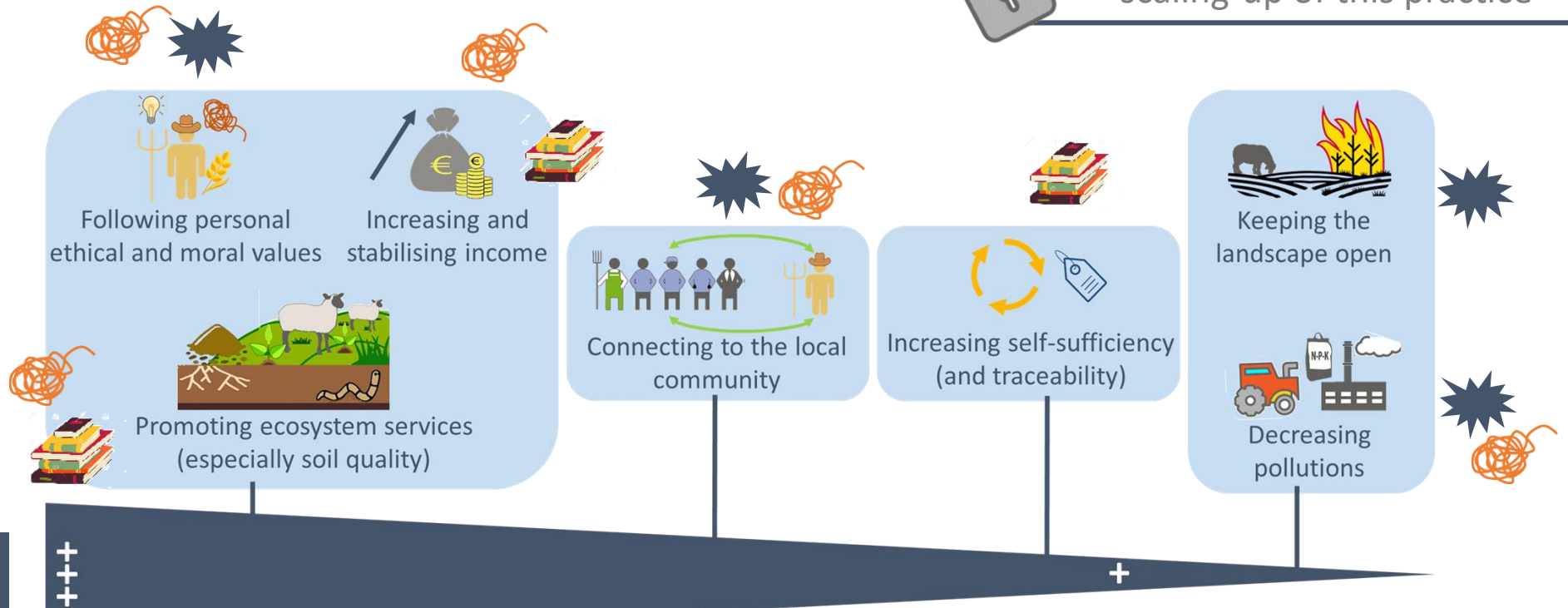
Beyond motivations, other determinants ease or hinder the scaling-up of this practice

Following personal ethical and moral values

Increasing and stabilising income

Promoting ecosystem services (especially soil quality)

Connecting to the local community

Increasing self-sufficiency (and traceability)

Keeping the landscape open

Decreasing pollutions

+++

+

The actual benefits of these systems have been understudied to date

(Bouttes, 2019 ; Casagrande, 2016 ; Ryschawy, 2021)

Thank you for your attention !

Clémentine Meunier

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