

Towards a territorial peri-urban agriculture? The case of Toulouse InterSCoT in southwestern France.

XV EAAE Congress

Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Balancing between Markets and Society

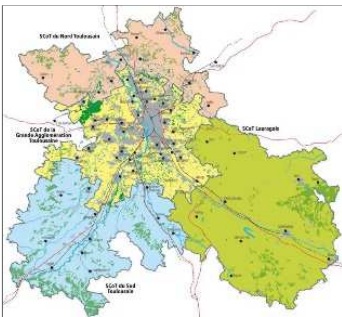
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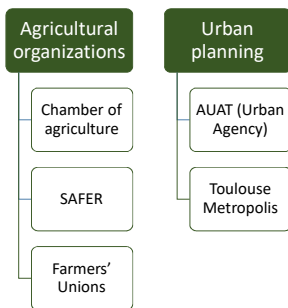
• Context

More environmentally-concerned citizens and new opportunities for farmers are shaping a new agricultural sector. In peri-urban areas, the geographical proximity of agriculture with residents unused to farm practices can exacerbate these trends.



Toulouse InterSCoT (T.I) has resulted from the coordination of more than 440 municipalities. Together, they have defined a common strategy to face the rapid demographic growth of Toulouse Metropolitan Area and the induced urban sprawl. T.I is subdivided in four subareas (intermunicipalities) to allow for flexibility.

Preserving farmland and a dynamic agricultural sector is among the top priorities of the InterSCoT municipalities. The Green Crown policy, in discussion since 2010, would aim to create a patchwork of activities in a multi-purpose area that would be loosely defined.



Characterized by the existence of several organizations with competencies in agricultural activities, the InterSCoT bottom-up approach is assumed to be a favorable context to maintain a dynamic peri-urban agricultural activity.

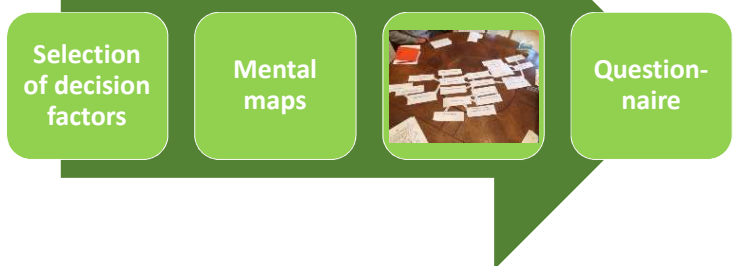
• Conceptual framework

Agricultural amenities can be considered as territorial assets in peri-urban areas (Fleury and Moustier 1999, Zasada 2011). Yet, their activation necessitates effective actors' coordination, which can be a challenge (Crespo et al. 2014, Del Corso et al. 2015). Therefore, we have used :

- a meso-economics approach (Rastoin and Gherzi 2010) to analyze the coordination of the many InterSCoT stakeholders on agricultural matters and the link agriculture/InterSCoT territory.
- J.R. Commons' concept of futurity (Commons 1934), which refers to actors' engagement in projects in an uncertain world : investment decisions are the outcome of stakeholders' perception of their productive environment its anticipated evolutions.

• Methodology

1. Construction of mental maps :



2. Focus group with traditional agricultural and urban planning organizations.

• Results

Farm start

- Constraining initial investment
- Difficult access to land
- Partial accompanying

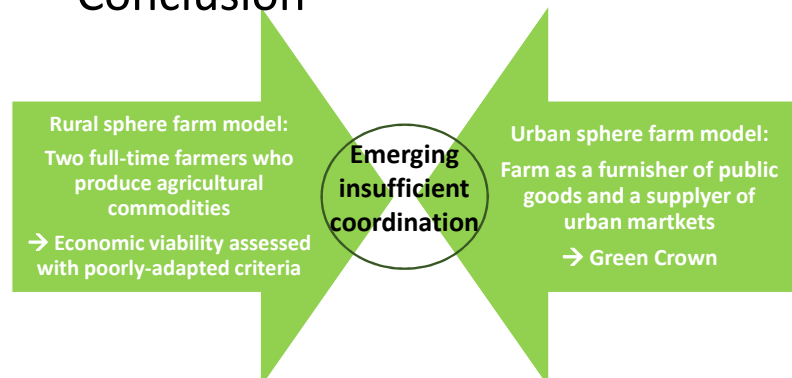
Farm maturity

- Generate a sufficient income
- Handle conflicts
- Eco-innovate to compensate for 'urban' costs

Farm transmission or exit

- Difficulties to identify successors
- Difficulties to access labor
- Evolution of the peri-urban agricultural sector

• Conclusion



➔ Improving InterSCoT stakeholders' coordination requires them to define a common agricultural project.

➔ Further investigations : additional fields and use of quantitative data.

