Integrating Peri-Urban Farmers into Regional Planning: Case Study of the Oued el Maleh Valley, Morocco

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**Issues, context, objective**
- Actual trend: bringing urban and rural spheres closer together by highlighting possible synergies to optimize the peri-urban development.
- A peri-urban agricultural valley, shaped by small-scale mixed-farming family farms, under urban pressure coming from Casablanca.
- Better integration of peri-urban farmers into the regional planning.

**Key issues: planning system, farm viability, public policies and management of urban-rural relationships**

**An adapted research framework**
- 2 levels: farm and territory
- Farm level: farm viability + livelihood strategies
- Territory level: spatial configuration of land use, relationship between farming and urban systems, main functions of agriculture and the way such functions are fulfilled.
- Urban dynamics and political issues (including planning system issues) : impacts on the peri-urban territory

**Methodology: prospective scenarios**

Five traditional main steps:
1. Identify the focal issue or decision
2. Identify the driving forces that have influences
3. Pre-determined elements and uncertainties
4. Selecting the scenario logics
5. Flesching out. Basic narratives plausible sequence of events.

**Results: 5 global scenarios**
- “Fuzzy integration” scenario: urbanization spread over without strong land regulation. Farmers survive with on and off-farm activities.
- “Red hot chili monopoly” scenario: land regulation defined clearly the type of land use. Where agriculture is protected, production of red hot chili supported by a powerful cooperative.
- “Agricultural competition” scenario: mainly irrigated surfaces protected for agriculture, farmers individually intensifying vegetable production.
- “Land consumption” scenario, urbanization is not controlled, agriculture activities are disappearing.
- “Conservation approach” scenario: territory is protected for agriculture which is supported by local actors. Farmers have to improve practices to fulfill urban expectations.

**Conclusion**
- Necessary to determine which kind of urbanization will lead to which type of urbanized agriculture.
- Externalities or multifunctionality: enhance urban-rural synergies but not main aspect to consider to integrate agriculture into the planning system
- Land regulation and recognition of peri-urban agriculture importance: 2 variables with a strong influence on peri-urban farm development.
- Integration of agriculture into planning system: not one optimal solution but different solutions which should be adapted to each territory