

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

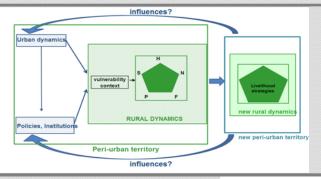


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Issues, context, objective

- 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

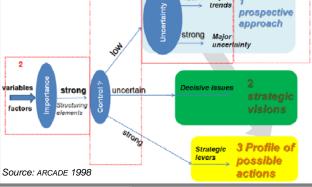
Major

- 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
- Identify the driving forces that have influences
- Pre-determined elements and uncertainties
- 4. Selecting the scenario logics
- Fleshing out. Basic narratives plausible sequence of events.



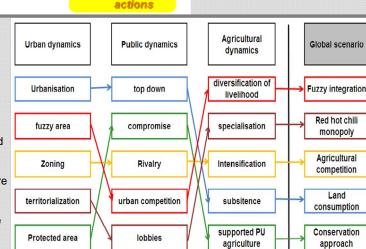
+ Strategic visions which could be developed

+ farm and territory model

+ Strategic levers which influence the development of peri-urban areas

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.



Necessary to determine which kind of urbanization will lead to which type of urbanized agriculture.

Conclusion

- 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



