



Social innovation for agroecological transitions: Changing roles in multi-stakeholder collaborations for improved local food system development

Markus Frank^{1,2}, Mariano M. Amoroso³, Brigitte Kaufmann^{1,2}

¹German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL); ²Social Ecology of Tropical and Subtropical Land-Use Systems, Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics (Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute), University of Hohenheim; ³Universidad Nacional de Río Negro, Instituto de Investigaciones en Recursos Naturales, Agroecología y Desarrollo Rural (IRNAD), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina

Background

- Social innovation (SI) comprises change of multi-stakeholders' relationships, involving new ways of organizing, doing, framing and knowing in transition initiatives.
- Participatory Guaranty Systems (PGS) represents an approach to establish such socially driven agroecological transition initiatives.
- Analyzing PGS developments and involved role understandings and enactment by participating stakeholders helps conceptualizing new forms of governance in the support of local agroecological transitions.

Objectives

- Document and assess a transdisciplinary PGS development process from a social innovation perspective: how the multi-stakeholder process facilitated new ways of organizing, doing, framing and knowing ?
- Analyze role understandings, as perceived and enacted by the different participating stakeholder groups, and how the collaboration process brought about changes of roles and relationships.

Results

Fig. 1: The transdisciplinary PGS development process at a glance

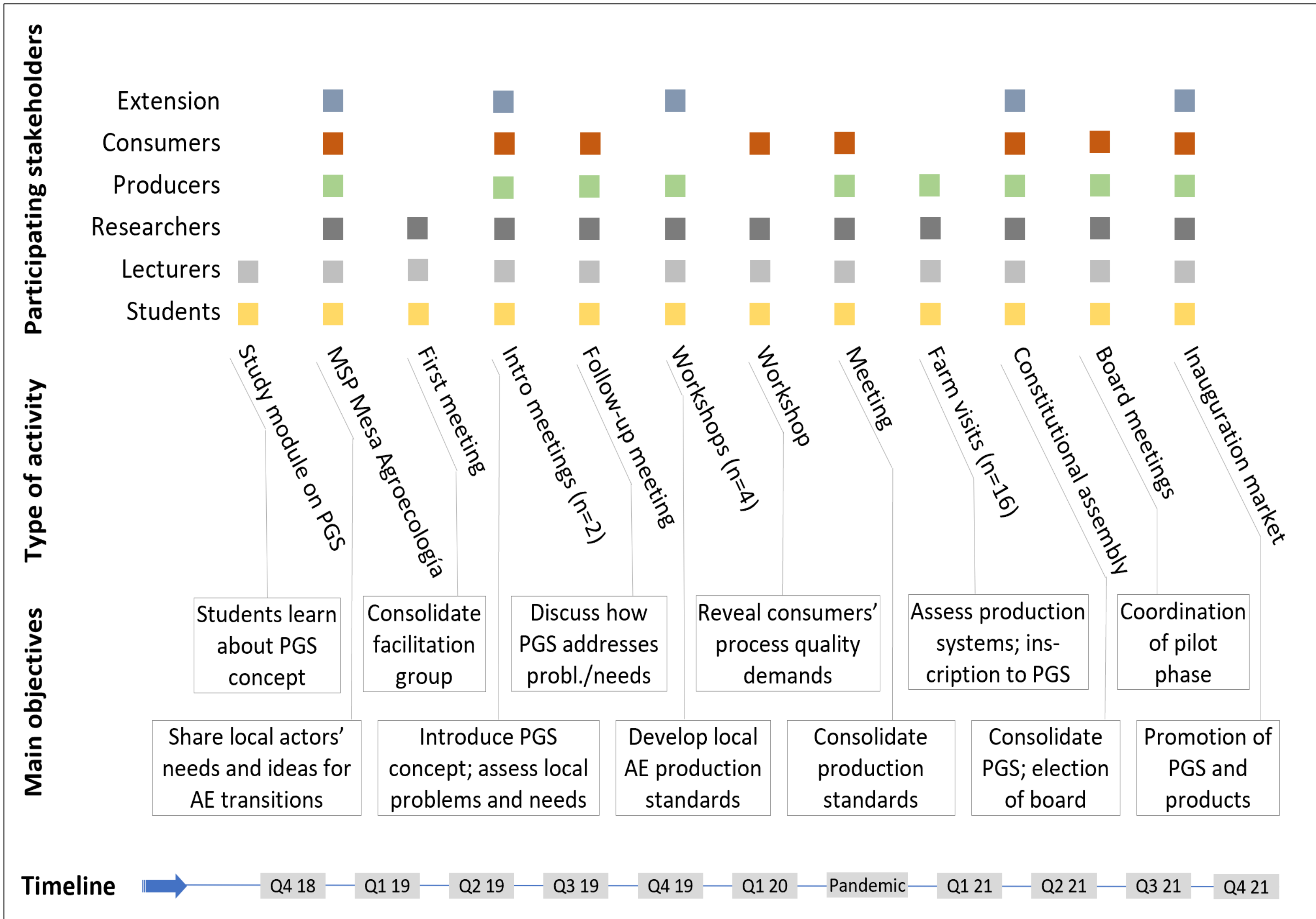


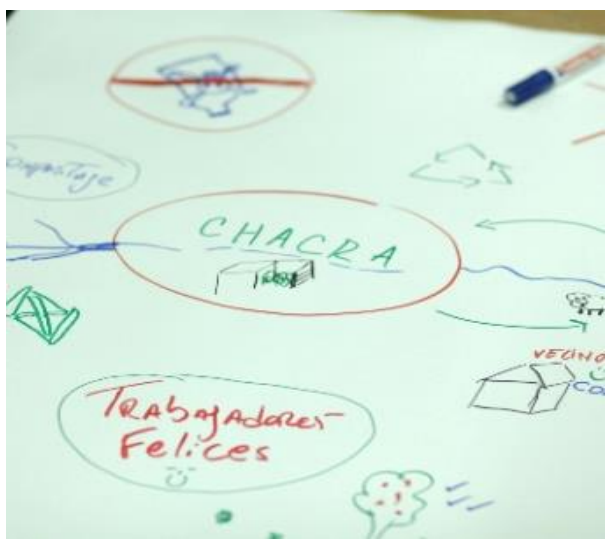
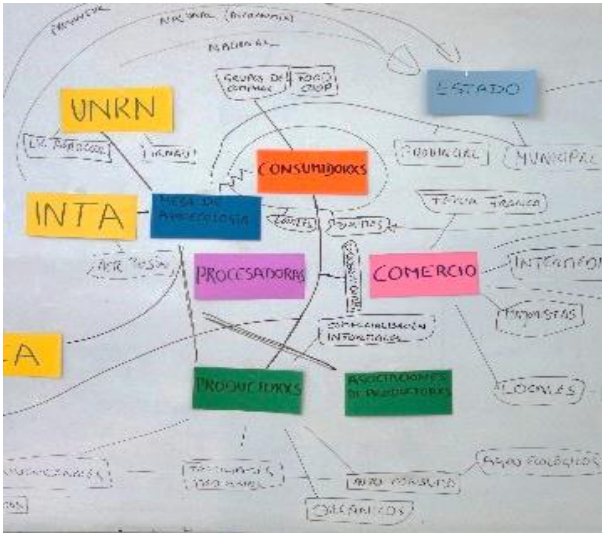
Fig. 2: Narratives of change: Institutionalization of relationships and roles



Statements made by: Producers Consumers Students Lecturers Researchers Extension

Fig. 3: Role understanding and enactment: Self-perceptions stakeholder groups

Key motivation and incentives for participation	Role understanding (tasks and responsibilities within the PGS process)	Rights
Become direct user of PGS; develop and access local markets for income	Promote PGS; participate in markets, cross-visits, meetings; peer-to-peer support	Consensus-based horizontal decision-making
Become direct user of PGS; develop and access local ecological products	Promote PGS among consumers; Promote healthy, local, seasonal consumption	
Obtain practical experience and do social work within study program	Coordinate and administrate PGS; facilitate group processes	
Support students; interest related to their academic activities	Coordinate and administrate PGS; facilitate group processes; provide knowledge	
Conduct transdisciplinary research as part of PhD project	Support development process; generate and share science-based knowledge	
Support local agroecological development initiatives	Provide institutional and logistical support of PGS and activities	



Conclusion

- The multi-stakeholder initiative co-designed and implemented the PGS stepwise, through new relationships and ways of organizing, doing, framing and knowing.
- Narratives of change help initiative to develop shared ambitions and to define roles. To be successful the enactment of new roles needs to match the narratives of change.
- Role changes increase room to maneuver of initiatives, when the various motivations and roles assumed are purposefully combined to better meet social innovation aims.

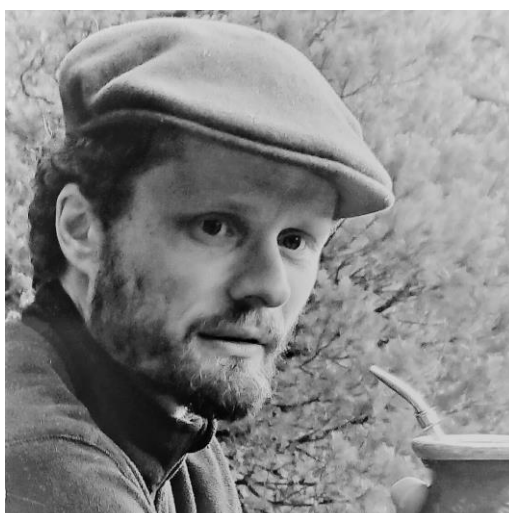
Study location

Comarca Andina del Paralelo 42, Provinces of Río Negro and Chubut, Argentina

- Patagonian Andean valley region
- Rapidly growing urban centers
- Niche of organic and agroecological farming and processing
- Actors interested in agroecological food system development

Data collection & analysis

- Qualitative materials were collected in during group activities (Fig. 1)
- Participatory tools, such as stakeholder mapping, rich picture & focus groups
- Memos on participant observation and field notes
- Qualitative content analysis (Mayring & Fenzl, 2014) was conducted with all collected materials (28 hrs. of transcripts; memos; visual group work results)



Contact:
m.frank@ditsl.org
www.ditsl.org



Acknowledgment:
This study was conducted within the project EcoPath:
Exploring transition pathways towards agroecological
farming in Argentina. Financial support was provided by:

