A Comparative Analysis of Organic Agro-Food Systems in Developing and Developed Regions: Structures and Policies

Tropentag
September 2024

Arezou Babajani (1)**, Snour Ahmadi** (2)

(1) Institute of Agricultural Policy and Markets, University of Hohenheim, 70599 Stuttgart, Germany

(2) Department of Economics, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy

Introduction

- Despite challenges, policymakers & planners are urged to develop the organic farming system.
- FiBL and IFOAM Report in 2022:
  - 96.4 million hectares of agricultural land globally (2.0 % of farmland) were organic.
  - Oceania and Europe: leading in organic land areas.
  - The organic food market: 135 billion euros.
  - The United States, European Union, and China: the largest markets.
  - The most significant advancements in organic agro-food systems: in developed nations. (Willer et al., 2024)
- **Research Objective:** to identify the disparities in the background and conditions of organic agro-food systems between developed and developing regions.

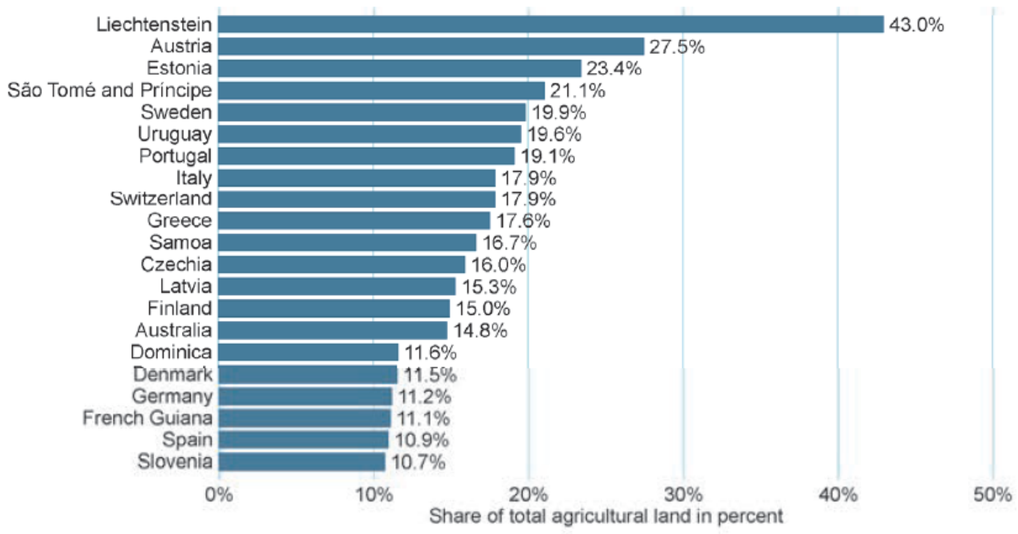

Figure 1- World: Countries with an organic share of the total agricultural land of at least 10 percent 2022
Source: FiBL survey 2024.

Methods

- ✓ The **Snowball method** to select the publications and reports in different countries.
- ✓ The policies, patterns, and main driving factors of organic farming development were investigated.
- ✓ To discover appropriate and reliable articles, the following steps were taken:

1- Choosing key terms to search in databases (Scopus & Web of Science)

2- Searching the keywords in 2 databases and 2 search engines

3- Reviewing the articles' topics and abstracts (published until **June 20224)**

4- Checking the results to determine the accuracy of the articles (43 papers)

5- Examining the findings and identifying codes/key factors from the articles

6- Using the factors for comparative analysis.

- ✓ To organize and code the qualitative data :MAXQDA 2022 software

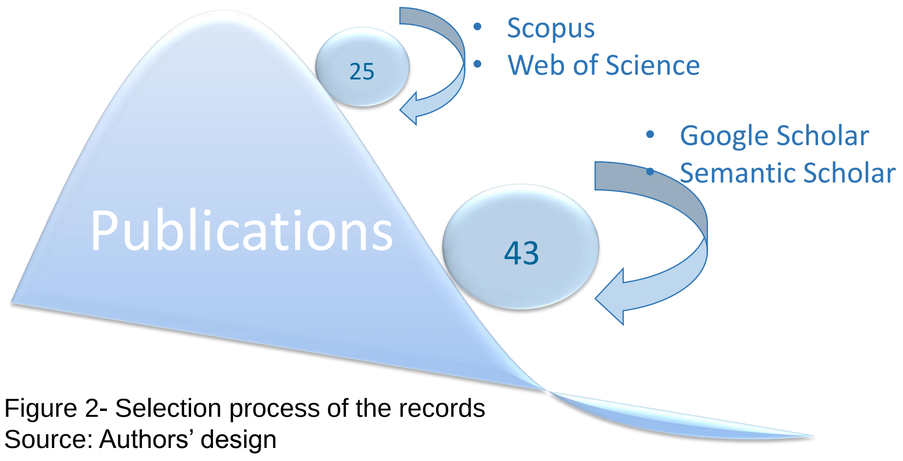

Figure 2- Selection process of the records
Source: Authors' design

Results

➢ Two main contexts:

a. The **bio-physical context** (climatic conditions, natural inputs, and land use patterns)

b. The **socio-economic context** (governmental and political structures, social structures, social capital, economic matters, and underdeveloped infrastructures).

➢ Two main approaches of **transition to organic agro-food systems**:

1. Top-down (policy-driven and commercial)
2. Bottom-up (natural farming systems and consumption or demand-driven).

➢ **The choice between organic or conventional** production systems in a region depends on:

– **Local contexts**: governmental, demographic, and agro-environmental structures & infrastructures

– **The priorities** of different stakeholders

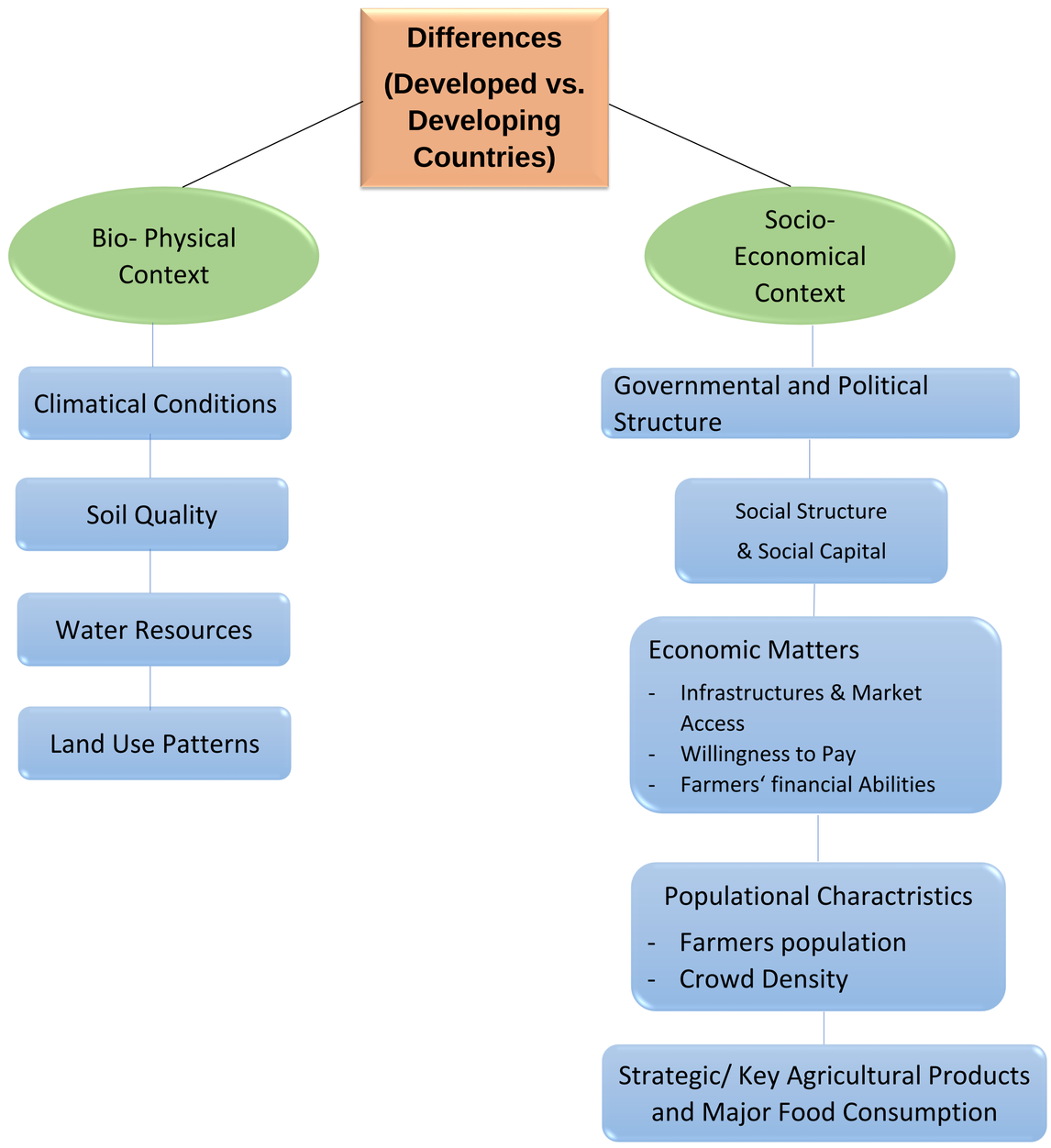

Figure 3- contextual differences between developed and developing countries in the transition to organic agro-food systems

Conclusion

- **In developing regions**, attention should be paid to **basic drivers t**o develop certified organic agro-food systems, such as legislation and inspection-body systems, financial support policies,
- **In developed regions:** increasing financial and institutional support and investment in marketing (local markets, national markets, and trade).