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Discussion to lecture 4

[Susanne Gjedsted Bügel](#)

11 Jun at 11:31

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Heres a question from Alex for lecture 4:

Which are the most crucial stakeholders which need to interact or need to be connected to build sustainable food systems? How to keep already existing good systems sustainable?

Regards

Susanne

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12 Jun 2017

After reading the article "The Food System Approach in Agroecology Supported by Natural and Social Sciences: Topic, Concepts, Applications", I think that most crucial stakeholders which need to interact or need to be connected are farmers and different national/local institutions. Information exchange between those two groups is lacking. Farmers are often not aware of or well informed about the different courses of action of certain institutions (like with the ministry of the environment). Also, organic food short and long supply changes are still in development. So there should be more communication between farmers and distributors.

AMAP system is good and sustainable. I think that this kind of short supply chain is vital and we should promote it around the world. Advertising and achieving popularity is important. The more farmers and consumers are participating this kind of project, the more sustainable it is.

I gave my best to answer these questions.

Mariana



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13 Jun 2017

Very good reflections about the stakeholders.

Also often a farmer does not know where his commodities end up when she/he just delivered it to a retailer. So already finding ways to bring some of these stakeholders together to discuss their supply chain and what can be improved towards making it more sustainable can help a lot. But it is not an easy task. And when you are involved as an organizer you should be a good moderator and facilitator of the discussion to get the different stakeholders constructively talking to each other.

Alexander

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[Gloria Passuelo](#)



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12 Jun 2017

The paper was really interesting to me, especially the three examples provided, which show how the involvement of different kind of stakeholders both from natural science and social science sector can be beneficial when considering the development of a sustainable food-system taking a broader perspective which includes economical, enviromental and social factors.

I agree with the message proposed in the text when it says that the inclusion of many different research disciplines and also regional institutions can help foresee problems arising during the research/implementation of a food-system and adjust for improvements in a faster way.

Thus interdisciplinary partecipation on a multi-level scale could be a suitable way to sustain and improve such systems.

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[Alexander Wazels](#)



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13 Jun 2017

Yes, integrating different research diciplines and stakeholders is very important. But already bringing together natural and social science researchers and find a 'common' language and approaches to tackle a questions is a big challenge (also from owon experience). Each one is often so formatted in its disciplinary thinking that it is difficult to look beyond its own sphere of science.

Alexander

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<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/40094>

[Marianne Erichsen](#)



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15 Jun 2017

I agree that we need stakeholders from both the natural and social science approach represented to form a sustainable food system, and I think the three examples in the article reflects this very well. If ideally, we were to embrace both aspects of health, environment, education, ethics, community development etc, but also food production, security (all parts of the chain), processing, transport, retail, consumption, waist and all the other aspects there is, I think it will be important to include both politicians, policy makers, different businesses and institutions (both private and public sector), market actors, consumers and farmers to get as many aspects at possible represented. If we were to put representatives from all above mentioned in one room, i´m not sure how productive the discussions will be.

If we start smaller, maybe with just a few stakeholders from the supply chain as Mariana mentioned: e.g. the farmers and some institutions, they could start the conversation about future possibilities (inform, orientate and maybe also educate each other) and then expand to the next part of the chain and so on?

Some opinions about this? What is even realistic?

Edited by [Marianne Erichsen \(https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/40094\)](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/40094) on 15 Jun at 8:48

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16 Jun 2017

Hello, yes I agree with Marianne, it's probably one of the best way to implement such systems - because I think this cost a lot for farmers (in the first instance) but also a lot to conduct research which seems essential.

Then, this has to be accepted by producers (and some are steel thinking than organic farmers are "hippies" -as though my previous trainaig supervisor-).

It also has to be accepted by food factories which can lead the change with specific demand (requirments specifications) or support : for example it take 3 years to be certified as organic and the price may increase during this 3 years without having the label but farmers must have opportunities to fullfil the conversion. Many people are afraided to change because this is not all black and white : an other example is for background knowledge. Indeed, farmers but also counsellors has to be very well informed (organic farms which succeed best are lead by farmers who are very technical for example speaking only about organic farming) and time has to be spent for diverse training course (and accessible as for the price than geographically).

I am wondering if there is not a critical size for farms for long term improvement for biodiversity if they are surrounded by conventional farming ?

Edited by [Clarisse Emeline Oceane Loaec \(https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157254\)](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157254) on 16 Jun at 12:29

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[Pierre Poiran](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157259)

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157259>

3 Jul 2017

Hi everyone,

I also think that there must be a very close link between farmers and institutions like mentioned marianna.

Moreover, it seems to me as important that there should be a close link between the institutions and the last link in the chain: consumers

Indeed, institutions must inform consumers about the importance of responsible and environmentally consumption patterns. I think this because farmers or distributors, are simply responding to a demand: that of the consumer. This may involve advertising campaigns on TV, or courses on consumption in college or in small classes, it is necessary to recreate the link between men and the land. Indeed, it is sad to know that in France, land of gastronomy only 25% of the children do not know that the fries come from the potatoes (according to a study carried out in the south of France). I think that if people are informed, they will consume responsibly

This may sound utopian but I think we are the main actors of change and thus of the creation of sustainable food systems. If we change our way of consumption, all food system will have to change too, It is a matter of supply and demand. Of course, this change in production must be accompanied by state aid so that farmers can reach it.

Do you think that is possible?

Pierre

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