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## Discussion on lecture 9

[Céline Michaud](#)


26 Jun at 14:55

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Can Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) have positive effects on the environment?

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[Magdalena Theresa Becker](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157325)


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4 Jul 2017

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Yes, they can.

PDO and PGI Products are produced with traditional breeds and sorts, that are typical for a specific region. The Production of PDO and PGI Products can help rare plants and animal breeds to survive and like that preserve biodiversity.



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[Maximilian Rhys Henkel](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157251)


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Thursday

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Unfortunately not at all. This can be the case, but unfortunately especially with PGI products often it isn't. If we look for cases of PGI for example in Germany, particularly at *Thüringer Rostbratwurst* and *Schwarzwälder Schinken* the PGI doesn't make any comments on where the meat originally has to come from or which quality of meat has to be used. In the case of *Schwarzwälder Schinken*, 90% of the meat used does not originate from the geographical area of the Schwarzwald (70% from other parts of Germany and 20% even from EU foreign countries), plus coming usually from conventional farms. Thus we have only a certification of a recipe or style of processing of meat that has been transported through Germany or even other EU countries. The regulation says specifically, that the meat has to be processed, cut and packaged in the Black Forest, nothing about nutritional quality or sustainability. For example usually between 1 and 3 different preserving agents are used during the production. Other examples I could come up with is for example Barolo wine (regarding non EU indications such as e.g. DOCG) or Parmigiano-Reggiano (regarding PDO).

I think PDO and PGI and other, national geographic indications are generally a good anti- fraud measurement and preserving history and tradition when it comes to food processing (which is without any doubt very important) but has a very small to any impact on the environment in its momentary form.



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[Sofia Elisabeth Berlinghof](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157257)

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Saturday

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Thank you for your critical reflection, I wasn't aware of the foreign origin of these products. I think the Mozzarella di Bufala Campana D.O.P. is a very good example as well, where the promotion of course saved a traditional practice but it has gone so far that now the demand is so high, the animals "of course" have to be fed mais and corn in order to receive a high enough yield. Is it really worth it, promoting a "regional" italian product for sale in New York and Tokyo for example by the Consorzio (which is the equivalent of the cooperation shown in the course, dedicated to the promotion and quality assurance).

I think problematic about brands like these (also organic label?) is that without proper education on the actual meaning of it, the consumer trusts the product on a much wider criteria spectrum than is actually covered by it.

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Hang Vu Thi Thu

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157309>

4 Jul 2017

Hello everyone,

I read one paper about the impact of PDO and PGI with the environment, in which it proposes two opinions regards this matter.

- The PDO and PGI could conserve many species and maintain the balance of the ecosystem, for example, some small ruminants in the Mediterreiant or the rice in Albufera lagoon in Spain could maintain the diversity of flora and fauna in the area. The PDO and PGI can then protect the uniqueness and authenticity of the biodiversity in the area. In my opinion, the case of PDO, all the productions are taken place in one area that could help to reduce the supply chain that could lead to the reduction of transportation cost and decrease the CO2 emission.

- On the other hand, there is some criticism on PDO and PGI since the consumer demand for these products could lead to high using of resources. Therefore, the using of fertilizer or chemicals in the area might increase that turn out not bring benefit to the environment.

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Mariana Vaante

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157252>

Friday

I think that PDO is more sustainable than PGI because the product must be produced and processed and prepared in the geographical area. But like Hang Vu Thi Thu pointed out that the consumer demand for these products could lead to high using of resources. Therefore the balance between the environment and production must be found.

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Gloria Passuello

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157246>

Yesterday

I definitely agree with you Mariana and with Maximilian.

I think the regulation behind PGI products is lacking in providing any assurance that local breeds and nearby resources are utilized in the production, thus increasing food miles and making assumption about the quality of the product very difficult and not traceable.

PDO is in this regard more sustainable and more reliable from a quality point of view, however high demand of these products could create problems of the sourcing local materials and probably lead to fraudulent/mislabelling behaviours.

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Pierre Poiran



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

Sunday

I've read an article from the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) very interesting on the subject. According to them, PDOs more precisely may have several negative impacts on the environment:

- A loss of biodiversity because we will favor the production of these products because they are paid more to producers. This leads to a reduction in polyculture practices. While we know that monoculture is not desirable (ecosystem disruption, weaker soil, parasite development and disease)

I think that PGIs and PDOs are simply used to keep traditions and to occupy difficult production areas (mountain area with steep terrain for example). Therefore, they also help to maintain jobs in these areas and to maintain the landscape.

Pierre

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