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Discussion on lecture 7

[Susanne Gjedsted Bügel](#)

18 Jun at 15:26

12

Discuss the following statement re Paola's lecture and paper:

- When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.
- I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one
- I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price
- I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses
- Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability

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<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/12396>


[Bernhard Johannes Kahl](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/12396)

⚙️

20 Jun 2017

Hello to all,

another aspects to discuss: shall we reduce sustainability to CO2-emissions as THE main criterion as this reduction may be very managable for policy making (based on e.g. the political process on climate change, Paris agreement etc.) and then ban composting and put ruminants in close staples with filtering the emissions as consequences?




<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/155586>

[Paola Migliorini](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/155586)

⚙️

21 Jun 2017

Dear Johannes, of course in my opinion to reduce to ONE indicator is NOT correct. A possible solution is the use one INDEX or SCORE for policy makers, that take into consideration several criteria and several indicators. Although the reduction of information of complex issues is always critical, Index and Score could be used.



<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/79790>

[William de Montpolin](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/79790)

⚙️

Yesterday

I agree with Paola! I don't think only reducing CO2 emissions is sufficient to call a system sustainable. Only looking at one criterion while ignoring many others makes it easy to greenwash a system. Policy makers should be more comprehensive in their assessments.

◀ Write a reply...

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

Hàng Vu Thi Thu

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

23 Jun 2017

Hallo,

- When I buy an agri-food product I choose by certification standard --> It depends on which market I go for shopping. In my home country, the certification process is not much reliable. But when it comes to the German market, I have high trust in certification body agency, therefore I expose high level of trust on certification.

- Yes, I prefer local product because I know where it comes from and I can see my direct support for the farmers in my surround living area.

- No, sometimes good price doesn't mean with good quality

- I am not sure about it, If it is the farmers market I should know who are the farmers and where they do their agriculture and visit if possible- Yes, I agree on that. i

- Yes, I agree on that. As the gender equality could help to improve not only the social but also economic goal

◀ Write a reply...

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157316>

Diana Ismael

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157316>

24 Jun 2017

Hallo,

Regarding the first statement: *When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.* For me, I search first, I try to go online to read more about it and to see what the reviewers wrote about this certification standard.

- ***I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one.*** Of course this procedure is more sustainable than buying importing or long distance food .

- ***I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price.*** Trusting is not always working. and prices sometimes is not the best indicator for trust. Trust depends on the region, on the relationship between the seller and the consumer, and on the continuance to get what I expect to get from this supermarket every time I shop there.

- ***I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses.*** If we are really seeking the sustainability we should not trust any farmers or any market without going back to its origin and its real practices.

- ***Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability.*** Gender equality, **Without a doubt**, is a MUST everywhere and all times. Although I cannot find a strong link maintains a stronger society and gives a better generation in the future to build a stronger economic system.

◀ Write a reply...

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



Mariana Praante

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

27 Jun 2017



When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.

Usually, I don't select products by the certification standards, but I trust them.

I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one.

Yes, I prefer local products because with that I can support local agriculture. Also, this is more sustainable than for example buying organic apple which is from Spain.

I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price.

I'm not the brand person.

I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses.

Usually, I don't buy from farmers markets and also I have some trust issues (like previous responders had). I grow my own vegetables, eggs and honey come from a local farmer I know.

Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability.

I think that this is an aspect not to be considered for sustainability because everyone makes their own decisions.

◀ Write a reply...

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157390>



Thomas Knorr

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157390>

27 Jun 2017



Last week I was in the supermarket trying to make a decision about what type of carrots are the most sustainable ones. I've had the following options:

- 1.) conventional carrots from Germany, packed in plastic
- 2.) conventional carrots from Spain, non wrapped
- 3.) organic carrots from Italy, packed in plastic

My thoughts about the products:

- 1.) few food miles, but unecological packaging
- 2.) no packaging, but many food miles and *maybe* higher water usage compared to Germany, because of warmer climate
- 3.) organically produced, but many food miles, unecological packaging and *maybe* higher water usage compared to Germany, because of warmer climate

I could not make a decision about which of these carrots is the most sustainable option. It is not easy to compare all these different indicators, because I don't have any knowledge about farming methods. In the end, I bought a non wrapped kohlrabi from Germany instead. At the moment, both vegetables are available as seasonal product, but kohlrabi is always non wrapped. This story pictures how difficult it is to make decisions.

Consumers need simple indicators to make the best sustainable decisions (e. g., conventional, local and non wrapped vegetables are more sustainable than organic wrapped vegetables from more than 1000 km away).

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

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157257>

Saturday

I've had these same thoughts many times, thank you for sharing! And again, what does conventional really mean? Probably not the same in Italy, Germany and Spain, and within different producers. A wine producer from Germany was talking to me about the fact that often organic wine farmers spray more often than conventional, but different products- what are these products and why are they less harmful in bigger amounts than few treatments of non-organic certified product? And what does harmful even mean, groundwater pollution, residues in the product, killing of living systems around the plant?

In the end, isn't the problem that there aren't any simple indicators, no black and white thinking that will be valuable for all products?

← Write a reply...

 [Tooba Jamil](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157308) 

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157308>

29 Jun 2017

When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard

In my home country certification is not reliable. So, I do not choose the product by the certification standard. But, in Germany I trust on certifications and sometimes purchase product consideration certification standards.

I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one

Yes, I prefer local products because they are more sustainable than an organic one which comes from long distance.

I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price

Usually, I prefer to buy all the goods from one supermarket so you can say that I trust on that supermarket.

I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses

I do not buy from farmers market.

Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability

Yes, I think it will help to improve social and economic growth.

← Write a reply...

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

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

Hi,

- When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.

I think that these standards of certification are not necessarily the absolute guarantee of a responsible product but they at least allow to reduce the doubts. Indeed, as it was mentioned that to make a choice between an organic product coming from a far country or a product coming from the conventional agriculture but local . This is why I think it is up to each of us to make a ranking of the most important criteria (environment, health, social, equitable ..) and to make its choice in addition to simple certification.

- I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one

I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one I think it still depends on the criteria we put ourselves in mind. I always favor local products, whether organic or not, but it is more for a desire to encourage agriculture in my region.

- I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price

For having worked in this sector I can easily say that the products sold by supermarket brand are the same as the other products it is just the packaging that changes. Therefore, I also have confidence in supermarket brands.

- I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses

Sometime I go to farmers market but I go there to meet the producers and to discover new vegetables or fruits, cheese... I do it more out of curiosity. On the Lyon market close to home I know that I can trust the producers because for many of them they have explanatory maps of the products or propose to visit their farms.

- Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability

I totally agree with what was said about it.

Pierre
 Edited by [Pierre Pairain \(https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157259\)](https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/157259) on 9 Jul at 2:13

◀ **Write a reply...**

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/79790>
 William de Montmoulin

<https://absalon.ku.dk/courses/21676/users/79790>
 Yesterday

When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.

Certification standards (e.g. organic, fair trade, biodynamic) are one of the factors that I consider when buying agri-food products, but it's certainly not the only one. Price, origin, and perceived quality come to mind as other factors I consider. However, the majority of my food comes from food sharing or dumpster diving, both of which I consider a more sustainable alternative to purchasing food--especially when I sometimes can't afford to choose what I think are the most sustainable products.

I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one

As a rule of thumb when choosing between local or organic, I still pick organic over local if it's from the EU (price considerations excluded). I think it's a hard choice to make, though, because organic doesn't necessarily mean a food product is the more sustainable choice depending on what it is and the indicators you're judging by.

I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price

I don't consider brands much when I'm buying food, but my instinct is to be critical of what they promise. Granted, I don't know much about them, so maybe I'm too quick to judge.

I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses

At a farmer's market, I would trust the farmers that are transparent about the information mentioned above more than those that aren't. It's been a while since I've gone to a farmer's market, but I remember it being very tricky to get that kind of information by simply looking at stalls, although, of course, you have a rare opportunity to actually ask the producer in person.

Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability

This is a tough one for me to answer, because I generally think of sustainability as purely environmental and not social. Of course, I would agree that gender equality is part of social sustainability, but I don't know what role it plays in environmental sustainability. However, I think that a holistic framework for assessing agro-food sustainability includes criteria that consider social sustainability, such as gender equality--so I think that I agree with this statement.

◀ [Write a reply...](#)

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

Stina Passuello



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

Yesterday

- When I buy an agri-food product I choose by the certification standard.

Rather than checking the standard I check the ingredient list and if I see many additives or weird codes so that I do not even know anymore what I am about to eat... I go for another product that contain less ingredients.

- I prefer to buy a local product rather than an organic one

This is a difficult one... sometimes I have seen local producers using a huge amount of herbicides in the field, so I guess.. even if it would mean less food miles and fostering local farming, I still don't feel like promoting this way of production.

- I trust the brand of my supermarket where I always find all the products at a good price

I tend not to buy according to specific brands and price ranges, I mostly check the ingredients and see if it is organic and where it was produced (if available!)

- I trust the farmers market, although I do not know if he has a farm, where it is and which agricultural and processing practices he uses

I think after you live in a place for a while you can establish a kind of relationship with the farmers selling the products and by this way try to make conscious choices according to the information collected or experiences from previous purchases in the market with the respective farmers.

- Gender equality is an aspect to be considered for sustainability

Social factors such as gender equality are really relevant issues connected to food production. However those aspects are very intransparent and difficult to be traced back (and up to now still not included in the organic certification), so it is not always possible to align purchasing habits to it.

◀ [Write a reply...](#)