SOME EVIDENCES IN FAVOUR OF A WIDESPREAD TERRITORIAL TRANSITION PROCESS TOWARDS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS IN FRANCE

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Democratizing food governance

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Introduction

• In France as in other European countries, the local food economy has intensified since the early 2000’s.
• This phenomenon has been accompanied by strong academic and public debates:
• Are those phenomenon only constituting a specific niche or are we witnessing a widespread transition?

• European level: FAAN (2008-2010) and FarmPath (2011-2014) [Now witnessing SALSA (2016-2019)]
Transition theory


Food regime
3 components
PIONNEERS : A new referential shared by the actors of local food systems (FAAN 2009)

- **Societal vision**
  - Ensuring equitable access to food
  - Increase solidarity between citizens
  - Encourage collaborative decision-making
  - Delete corporatist pressures

- **Environmental vision**
  - Impact "macro" on the environment (greenhouse gases, biodiversity ...)
  - Local environmental impact (water quality, soil ...)
PIONNEERS: A new referential shared by the actors of local food systems (FAAN 2009)

- Vision of economy
  - Ethics (equity, transparency ...)
  - Increased autonomy from the industrial system
  - Promote a viable overall lifestyle
  - Increase the added value of products
  - Negotiate the right price
  - Regulate competition

- Social vision of the product
  - Fresh, healthy, "living" (no additives or treatments)
  - Support local traditions
  - Notion of common territory
  - Promoting social services through the products (public health, access to food for the poorest ...)

PIONNEERS : A new referential shared by the actors of local food systems (FAAN 2009)
## Milestones in research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 – 2009</td>
<td>SALT – (CROC – Coxinel…)</td>
<td>« Something is happening » - Describing relocalisation and its conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 - 2010</td>
<td>FAAN (UE)</td>
<td>Local food systems in Europe : describing the forms and conditions of reinforcement</td>
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<td>2010 – 2013</td>
<td>Rennes Self feeding city FAFU workshop (French metropokes)</td>
<td>Solving some limiting factors to the transition towards urban relocalised food systems</td>
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<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>FarmPath (EU)</td>
<td>Confirm and characterize the food territorial transition (“the missing actor”)</td>
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<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>INTERVAL (Interregion)</td>
<td>Enrolling the local food processors and retailors in order to reinforce local food systems (= enrolling “missing actors”)</td>
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<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>RMT Alimentation local</td>
<td>Federating at the national level the researches and initiatives about local food chains</td>
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<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>ATLASS</td>
<td>Supporting territories in their dynamics of creations of local food systems and territorial food projects – Monitoring the changes</td>
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## Milestones for institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Vocabulary and key-notions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>STATE Grenelle of environment</td>
<td>20 % of organic food in public procurements</td>
<td>Organic food</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Loi Barnier</td>
<td>Official definition of short supply chains</td>
<td>Direct marketing by farmers and short supply chains</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Agriculture census</td>
<td>Monitoring of direct marketing by farmers in the national census of agriculture</td>
<td>Direct marketing by farmers</td>
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<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>TERRES en VILLES 26 French METROPOLES and extension services</td>
<td>« Farming forms, Urban forms » national seminar and pluti-annual project</td>
<td>Urban food systems</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>ARF Association des REGIONS de France</td>
<td>Rennes declaration in favour of territorial food systems</td>
<td>Territorial food systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE MINISTRY « Loi d’avenir » (orientation law for agriculture)</td>
<td>Will support and finance « territorial food projects » (PAT)</td>
<td>Territorial food projects</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To territorial food systems: public coordination of clusters of initiatives (2015)

To local food chains and community supported agriculture (2005-2015)

From direct marketing from producers to consumers (90’s, early 2000’s)
Rennes, a laboratory?

A late region for farmers direct marketing in 2010
Local food marketing in Rennes Metropole: recent evolutions

Offre alimentaire locale: "Il se passe quelque chose!"

Source: Noémie Legrand, mémoire de Master FRCIVAM Bretagne projet SALT, 2013
Increasing structuration of activities in local practices

Socio-technical landscape (exogenous context)

Socio-technical regime

Rennes 2003

Rennes 2009

Rennes 2015

Niche-innovations

Landscape developments put pressure on existing regime, which opens up, creating windows of opportunity for novelties.

New regime influences landscape.

Socio-technical regime is ‘dynamically stable. On different dimensions there are ongoing processes.

Configuration breaks through, taking advantage of ‘windows of opportunity’. Adjustments occur in socio-technical regime.

External influences on niches (via expectations and networks)

Elements become aligned, and stabilise in a dominant design. Internal momentum increases.

Small networks of actors support novelties on the basis of expectations and visions.

Learning processes take place on multiple dimensions (co-construction). Efforts to link different elements in a seamless web.

Time

Fig. 1. Multi-level perspective on transitions (adapted from Geels, 2002, p. 1263)
Current issue: enrolling the intermediary actors

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE: Values conflicts with the pioneers: negociation, transparency, equity, agroecology

Needed for larger volumes to feed a whole territory and to optimize logistics
Hesistation on the conclusive diagnosis

Regime resistance and territorial bifurcation toward an autonomous food system?
(Diaz and Darrot, 2014, « The missing actor »)

Hybridation and transition?
(following Geels and al models)

Fig. 1. Multi-level perspective on transitions (adapted from Geels, 2002, p. 1263).
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
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