

Agroecological transition: the work of farmers, advisers, teachers and researchers in question

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Agroecological transition: the work of farmers, advisers, teachers and researchers in question (in France)



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✓ Which framework to understand and to support work transformation?

✓ Some results



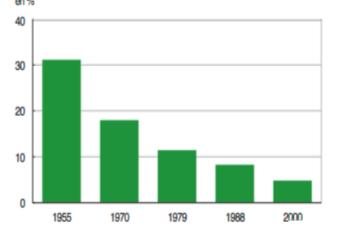
✓ Moving forwards : a research agenda

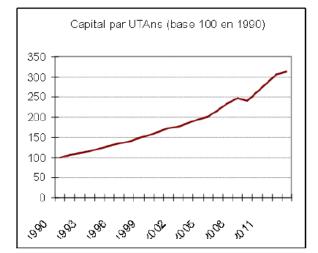
A deep agricultural crisis but still a tendency to solve it through enhancing farm size and work productivity!

In 2014 1 212 906 persons working in the agricultura sector

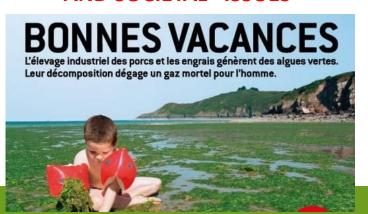
1. Part de l'emploi agricole dans l'emploi total







ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES



ECONOMIC ISSUES



HEALTH ISSUES

One suicid every 2 days (AFP)





Sources: SCEES et Insee, recensements agricoles et

séries d'emplois de la comptabilité nationale

Agroecology: a new project for the French agriculture launched in 2012 by the Ministry of **Agriculture!**

http://agriculture.gouv.fr/agriculture_couv.fr et-foret/projet-agro-ecologique



PLATEFORME D'ÉCHANGES POUR LA MISE EN PRATIQUE DE L'AGROÉCOLOGIE























e rotation

Adaptation climatique





























Pollinisation

Gestion de l'equ







Semences







✓ Which framework to understand and to support work transformation?

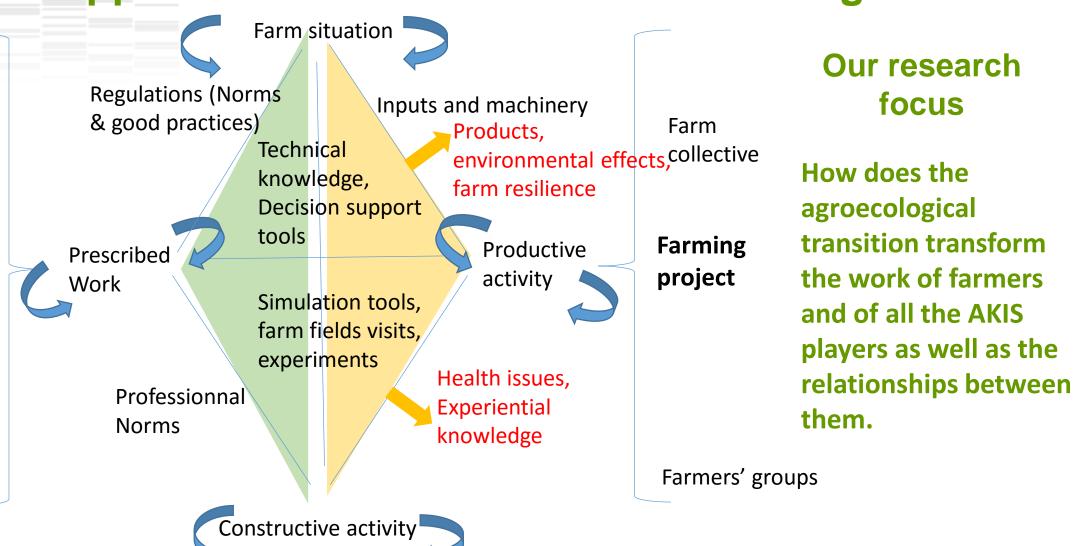
✓ Some results



✓ Moving forwards : a research agenda

A systemic approach of work transformation in agriculture

AKIS players (Teachers, Advisors, Researchers, Firms, Policy Makers...)





Work transformation in relation to agroecological transition: which questions have been addressed?

Change in

work

organisation

and workload

AKIS players (Teachers, Advisors, Researchers, Firms, Policy Makers...)

- How does agroecology change the relation AKIS players build to knowledge?
- How do they change their way to Prescribed train or to advice farmers?

Work

Change in AKIS

work activities

and work

relations

- To which extent do they take one board issues related to farmers' productive/constructive activity at farm level?
- Is there a move towards a less linear RDT process?

How does agroecology change work Farm situation organization at farm level? How does it change the work load distribution

Which new skills are required to

monitor production processes?

Productive activity

Professional transitions

How to model the constructive activity undertaken during a transition process?

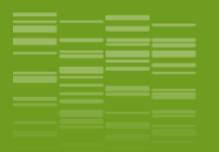
Farm

collective

How does the transition path get along with a transformation of the farmer's professional world?









✓ Which framework to understand and to support work transformation?

✓ Some results



✓ Moving forwards : a research agenda

Work transformations related to agroecological transition in France

Transformation of farmers' work for deep agroecological transition path

Change in work organisation and workload Productive work

Constructive activity

Professional

transition

Farm situation

- More observation tasks have to be handled, operations have to be done rapidly following observations
- New workload distribution is observed : more overlapping tasks, more complex cognitive work
 - Transformation is achieved in a step by step process in which productive activity and constructive activity are intertwined in daily work
 - Constructive activity is enabled by experiential learning in collective forms of experimentations related to production dimensions and the role played by participation in diverse networks, places and arenas.
 - Farmers have built new values, new practices and new understanding of the farming processes.

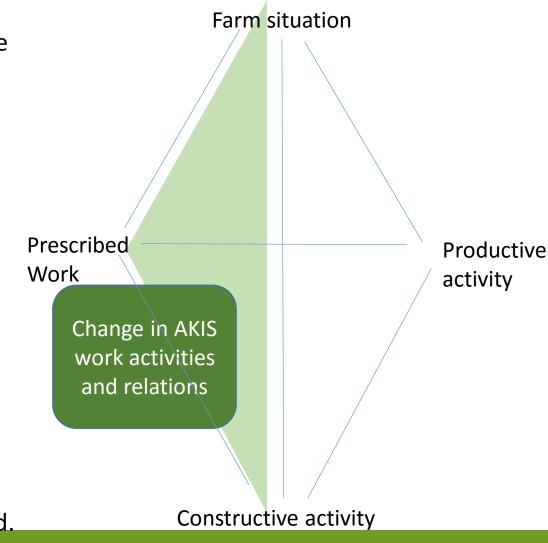
Work transformations related to agroecological transition in France

AKIS players' work: New relations to knowledge?

- Teachers and Advisors face growing uncertainties related to the proliferation of available knowledge, be it scientific and technical knowledge and/or empirical knowledge => evidence that they have to deal with the frictions between facts and values, and between knowledge and beliefs.
- Advisors supporting farmers in their transition :
 - a more questioning type of advice to steer farmers' diagnosis towards the long term.
 - A process in which they rebuild their way to design the agricultural scene (a field, a stable, an experiment) as a support of their relation to farmers and trainees.

A less top-down RDT approach?

- Evidence of changes in the relations between front and back office but in many different ways which need to be better qualified.









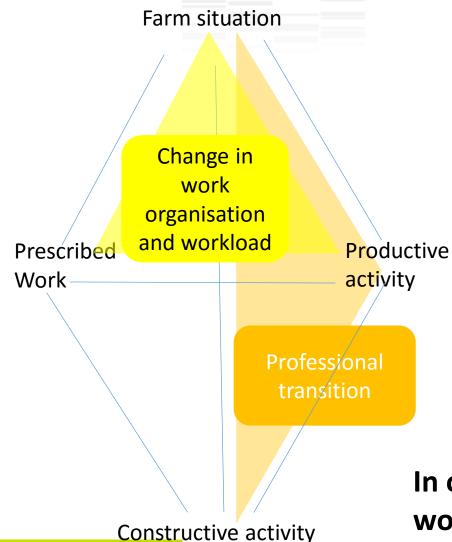
✓ Which framework to understand and to support work transformation?

✓ Some results



✓ Moving forwards: a research agenda

Moving forwards: some questions at farm collective level



Addressing the diversity of transition pathways (e-agriculture versus deep agroecology)

- Cognitive and social capital/inputs and machinery: what are the artefacts which best support sustainable work?
- Do all levels of agroecological transition lead to the same type of capital/labour substitution and what is the resulting agroecological and economic sustainability?
- How can we describe and assess the diversity of transition pathways and their impacts on the farm collective professional world as well as on his relation to the natural and sensitive world?

In order to better support farm collectives in their redesign of work and in the development of a more sustainable work



Moving forwards: some questions at AKIS level

Addressing the collaboration among farmers and AKIS players in a diversity of transition pathways

- How can we describe and assess the diversity of artefacts used by AKIS players and the position which AKIS players endorsed to support the diversity of transition pathways?
- How to describe and assess the evolution of the relation between prescribed work and farming activity in terms of kwnoledge production and use?

Prescribed **Productive** Work activity Change in AKIS work activities and relations

Constructive activity

Farm situation

In order to better support AKIS players in the development of more enabling environments for both advisors and farmers



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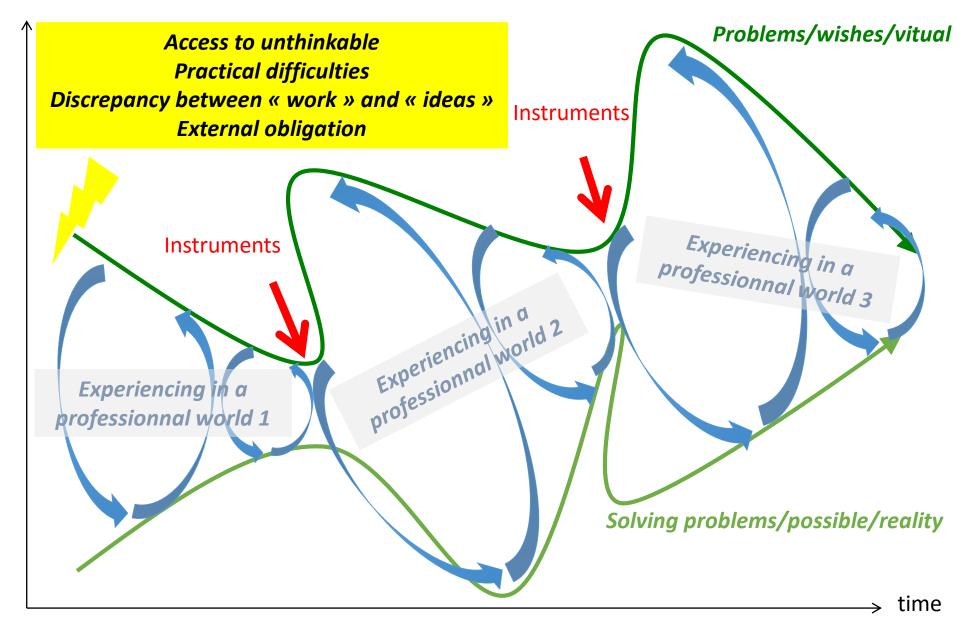
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION







Professional world



What do we know about work transformations related to agroecological transition in France (1)

Transformation of farmers' work: embedded in their daily activity

- Transformation is achieved in a step by step process in which productive activity and constructive activity are intertwined
- Constructive activity is enabled by experiential learning in collective forms of experimentation related to production dimensions and the role played by participation in diverse networks, places and arenas.
- Farmers who have achieved a deep agroecological transition have built new values, new practices and new understanding of the farming processes.
- More observation tasks have to be handled, operation have to be done rapidly following observations and new workload distribution is observed: more overlapping tasks, more complex cognitive work



What do we know about work transformations related to agroecological transition in France (2)

Transformation of AKIS actors'work: new relations to knowledge?

Some difficulties which AKIS actors face: growing uncertainties related to the proliferation of available knowledge, be it scientific and technical knowledge and/or empirical knowledge, evidence that they have to deal with the frictions between facts and values, and between knowledge and beliefs.

Some changes observed in advisory work (Chambres d'Agriculture) supporting farmers in their transition: a move towards a more questioning type of advice to steer farmers' diagnosis towards the long term. A process in which they rebuild their way t design the agricultural scene (a field, a stable, an experiment) as a support of their relation to farmers and trainees.

Transformation of RFD towards a less top-down approach?

many different ways to redesign the advisory work (front and back office) ...which need to be better understand

