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[Food supplies for public catering: organizational determinants of their environmental sustainability]

Collective catering is in a unique position to promote the sustainability of the food system on both the production and consumption sides. Its supply is now perceived in Europe and worldwide as an important lever for transforming the food system (Swensson et al., 2021). In Switzerland and in France, national and territorial public policies encourage public collective restaurants to source locally, although the notion of "local" is not perfectly defined.

The objectives of these policies are multiple, local economic development, maintaining agriculture on the territory, increasing the quality of products in collective catering and increasing the sustainability of food.

However, the scientific literature agrees that "local" is not synonymous with sustainable, especially on the environmental dimension where the optimization of conventional supply chains can give them an advantage in terms of energy demand according to some authors (Schlich and Fleissner, 2005). However, the framework for analyzing supply chains in these studies is partial and should be expanded to take into account the actual practices of the actors involved and all aspects of sustainability (Maréchal et al., 2019).

Through several case studies in French-speaking Switzerland and France, we sought to understand the structuring of food supply chains in public catering, with a particular focus on the processing and supply stages, and their consequences on the environmental performance of the systems.

The originality of the research comes from the will to adopt a multidisciplinary approach combining a socio-economic analysis of the case studies and a life cycle analysis (LCA). We thus propose to quantify the environmental damage corresponding to different supply scenarios representative of the real practices of the actors and their potential evolutions under the impact of public policies and of a greater cooperation between actors of the chain.

Bibliographic references

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