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Title :

Analysing the levers of an agro-ecological transition at local level: the contribution of ecology and application in the Quint valley, Drôme.

Summary:

Faced with the current problems of global change and the collapse of biodiversity, human activities must evolve. Today, agriculture appears to be one of the sectors most affected by societal expectations of transition, and agro-ecology is often put forward as a viable solution to these challenges.

Agroecology does not have a global, unanimous definition, but we understand it here as covering the entire agri-food system, in terms of both agronomic practices and economic, political and social organisation. We therefore define agro-ecological transitions as systemic processes, going beyond the greening of agriculture and mobilising all the players in society.

Increasingly, agro-ecological transitions are being approached on a local scale, that of the territory (which can cover a variety of spatial realities). This scale seems relevant for understanding these changes at the material, institutional and lived levels (Pachoud *et al.*, 2022), and thus for addressing the interaction between the various ecological and social issues that determine the transition processes (Lamine *et al.*, 2019).

There are a variety of approaches to analysing agro-ecological transitions, at different scales, but we propose to present here the territorial ecology approach, which has been developing for several years in the French-speaking field of socio-metabolic approaches. This approach attempts to link environmental and social issues, in order to achieve a better understanding and knowledge of socio-ecosystems (Buclet, 2011), how they function and how they are changing.

A territorial ecology approach, based on the analysis of tangible and intangible flows, has never before been explicitly applied to the study of agroecological transitions on the scale of small territories, and this is what we are currently experimenting with as part of a thesis. The aim of this work is to test an analytical framework largely inspired by territorial ecology (Bellom *et al.*, 2024 - forthcoming), which should make it possible to determine the levers of change towards an agroecological system, on a territorial scale. This approach has been applied to the Quint valley in the Drôme, and we present here some preliminary results of the study. At this stage, the analytical framework used shows, for example, the various intangible links that exist within the area, between stakeholders from agricultural and non-agricultural backgrounds, as well as natives and non-natives of the area, which enable the development of collective initiatives along the lines of a global agroecological transition, at the scale of the valley. Our framework also makes it possible to show the role played by various key figures, both individual and collective, in driving these initiatives forward, as well as in managing disputes and differences of opinion within the area. These are all elements that we propose to present at the Journées scientifiques de l'agroécologie.

References :

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