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Workshop n°4, Session n°4

**Title:**

**The potential role of Geographical Indications in agroecological transitions: extending the IAD/SES framework**

**Abstract :**

For over a century, the development of geographical indications (GI) has played an important role in the dynamics of territorial development in France as well as the preservation of local agricultural products and culinary specialties, against a backdrop of modernization and intensification of agriculture and standardization of food products initiated after the Second World War (Barham and Sylvander, 2011). Geographical Indication production systems are localized approaches based on a *terroir*, i.e. the specific conjunction of human knowledge and culture, techniques and their local natural environment. A key dimension of GIs also lies in their specific models of collective action and stakeholders self-organization (notably through the Organismes de Défense et de Gestion, ODG), which may or may not be a lever for facilitating collective learning and knowledge transfer.

The GingKo project aims to examine the various strategies developed by GIs systems in the context of agroecological transition (evolution of specifications, production systems and practices, environmental or organic co-certifications, etc.) as well as the specific socioeconomic challenges of GIs towards more sustainable socio-ecological systems. Our research proposal aims to extend Ostrom's (2009) IAD/SES framework by defining GIs as knowledge commons (Mazé, 2023). Due to the importance of "evidence-based approach" to establish the specific link to *terroir*, systems under GIs provide a particularly interesting field study to dissect the interactions between natural commons and knowledge commons (Ostrom 2009, Hess, 2012; Mazé 2023), and the importance of the concept of territorial or ecological embeddedness (Penker 2006, Bowen and Mutersbaugh 2014; Baritiaux et al. 2016.).

As underlined by Köhler et al. (2019), analysing transitions "calls for process-oriented modes of investigation" which can be understood as "describing, analysing and explaining the what, why and how of some sequence of individual and collective action" (Pettigrew, 1997). Therefore, we suggest dynamic application of the IAD/SES framework to systems under GIs, with a focus on their governance systems ("who can do what to whom and under what authority?") and agro-ecological practices to examine processes and identify potential levers for agro-ecological transitions (Vidal and al, 2020). To trace these transition processes, we propose to adopt an approach based on trajectory modelling using secondary data collection and a mixed method inspired from quantified narrative method (Grossetti et al. 2011; Polge et Pagès, 2022) that enable us to understand and describe changes over time. This approach allow us to (1) identify situations of action, actors involved and outcomes associated (2) identify changes in the components of the GI

system, using the second-level variables defined by E. Ostrom (2009). By analyzing the dynamic of SES over time, we will be able to comprehend the causal relationships between the processes at work, and understand the economic and social dynamics that surround GIs, affecting both their surroundings and the development of more resilient agri-food systems. Currently, twelve case studies, in France and abroad, covering a range of agroecosystems characterized by distinct pedoclimatic conditions, as well as production—vineyards, fruits and vegetables, animals (poultry, sheep, goats, cattle, dairy production, etc.)—use this conceptual framework.

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