

Rural Food Systems Approach

For an analysis based on Local Food Networks (RAL)

The case of PAT Un piattu in più - OTVS (South Corsica)

Whether local or national initiatives are involved, the field of food is enriched by a diversity of hitherto unrelated fields. In France, the National Food Programme seeks to integrate issues related to health, social justice, food education, the fight against waste, the territorial anchoring of production and heritage into public food policies (PNA, 2019). In the territories, initiatives led by institutions, local authorities or citizen associations are multiplying to ensure the ongoing food transition (Tramoni and Sorba, 2018).

The food transition takes shape around the notion of a localized or territorialized food system. The establishment of such food systems is based on a renewal of the connections between agriculture and consumption. However, actors even more than analysts encounter serious difficulties in grasping such systems in a concrete manner. The communication questions the operability of this notion by questioning it on the basis of an action-research experiment based on local supply networks (RAL).

The communication presents the first experiences of a territorial food project (PAT) being carried out in a region of South-West Corsica (Ornanu, Taravu, Vaddincu, Sartinesi). It exposes and analyses the obstacles as they are spontaneously expressed by the actors: scarcity and low variety of local products, irregular supply (in quantity and time), complicated flows of goods and information, price and cost formation, etc. It is also interested in the particular problems encountered in the context of a rural region marked by tourism and a coastal residential economy: weakness of supply, downstream power, everyday food vs. typical products, accessibility of products and movement of people, public collective catering, demographic weakness, etc.

We highlight the limits of an approach to the relocation of food systems based on the application of devices (physical and digital platforms, collective catering, producer outlets, farmers' markets, etc.) and engineering methods set as universal (guide, vademecum, educational resources, brochures, directory).

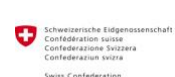
The objective is to show that the relocation of food (or its territorialisation) is the result of a new and always unique organisation. It requires taking into account the commitment and experience of a diversity of actors, driven by rationalities and desires (producers, customers, market professions, public institutions, etc.) which are themselves different. It implies identifying the learning to be achieved and the forms of organisation that need to be transformed.

The notion of Local Food Network (LFR) reflects the values and food supply practices actually implemented by producers for local eaters. The first lessons reveal the importance of logistical issues, particularly digital issues, in the operation and management of local food supply networks (LFNS). Management activities are profoundly reconfiguring the form and dynamics of territorial relations between farms, customers and eaters, businesses, organizations and institutions, and beyond, all the entities making up the networks.

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References

Tramoni et Sorba, 2018, « La reconquête de l'espace alimentaire local : un levier de transition territoriale ? », Le cas du Projet Alimentaire Territorial (P.A.T.), « Un piattu in più » - un couvert en plus - (Sud Corse), Forum Origin, Diversity and Territories – 19th-21 st September, 2018, Turin, Italy, Workshop 2 : Strategies and tools to plan and manage territorial transitions.

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