

Summary

Among the recent transformations in the landscape of food distribution, the rise and renewal of short circuits is a well-documented highlight (Chiffolleau 2017). But beyond the most militant forms, the transition in downstream markets, and particularly within the more traditional channels, whether hybrid (Le Velly and Dubuisson-Quellier 2008) or "middle food systems" (Chazoule et al. 2018), is a major challenge that remains to be better described and supported.

This communication proposes to deepen the role of short circuits to an intermediary in the transition of agricultural and food systems by studying more specifically the case of the tiles of MIN producers, the hidden face of local food supply. The work is based on the results of a PhD thesis conducted within the UMR Innovation, funded by ADEME, and defended in February 2020. The data collected are derived from surveys conducted among farmers (41 market gardeners and arboriculturists) at the MIN-Mercadis in Montpellier, as well as focus groups and observations from a research intervention protocol conducted on the producers' floor between 2017 and 2018.

Based on the Montpellier case, it will be :

- (i) to characterise the functioning of the semi-wholesale market, emphasising the recent dynamics that are going through the MIN producers' window (expansion of AB, strengthening of the power of wholesalers, development of direct sales);
- (ii) to describe the MIN's strategy to renew itself and play a central role in the structuring of local supply on the territory;
- (iii) to discuss the consequences of these dynamics on the transition of agricultural models and practices, since the increasing value of proximity can act, under certain conditions, as a lever for transition without this effect being systematic.

The interest in short circuits and local food has been reinforced since the beginning of the health crisis and during the containment period. In this respect, an additional survey could be conducted on the post-covid dynamics that mark the MIN (changes in attendance, reorganization, price variations), with a specific look at the implications of the crisis for producers focused on semi wholesale marketing (adaptation in sales channels, changes in practices).

Main organizers



Co-organizers



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