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 Forum Origin, Diversity and Territories
 [Introduction]



Questioning the possibility of territorial (agro)ecological transition? The case of the Drôme Biovallée valley

This paper is based on the results of an action-research project, which consisted in the co-construction and interpretation of a chronosystemic frieze on the development of organic agriculture and agroecology over the last fifty years in the Drôme valley (Project PSDR4 Sagacité).

The research question concerns the possibility of characterising a territory in transition, by questioning the temporalities and spatiality of the dynamics, but also by questioning the modes of articulation of the actors, with regard to the public policies implemented. In particular, the aim is to identify the territorial elements that play a favourable role in these ecological transition processes. In this sense, we do not consider the territory as a framework or a scale of analysis, between micro and macro processes, but rather as a moving social construction, the fruit of actors interacting with and in their living spaces.

We articulate two theoretical approaches, one of socio-ecological transitions, the other of territorial development, to better understand how, how and under what conditions localised innovations, whether individual or collective, can transform the dominant territorial dynamics.

For the interpretation of this chronosystemic frieze of the Drôme valley, we propose an analysis of four trajectories plus one emergent. The first trajectory describes the paths of ecological modernization of different agricultural sectors. The second trajectory focuses on the way in which intercommunalities have seized AB and agro-ecology as a lever for territorial development. The third and fourth trajectories focus on the place and role of cultural and heritage action, on the one hand, and the construction and dissemination of knowledge, on the other hand, in the dynamics of (agro)ecological transition.

Finally, a food trajectory is emerging that sees the emergence of operators providing direct links between consumers and producers, shaping a new agri-food, territorial and more environmentally friendly system. These operators are developing the capacity to orient farms towards other production and processing systems and citizens towards other modes of consumption (responsible consumers but also consumers-entrepreneurs). Moreover, they have the capacity to link actors who were not, coming from different worlds (based on hybridisation sites), and to act as intermediaries between different geographical scales through involvement in inter-territorial networks. They organise places for debate and decision-making to guide actions, contributing to changing historical power relations and rethinking modes of governance. Moreover, they facilitate the emergence, construction and dissemination of new values, norms, knowledge and practices. They also try to contribute to the elaboration of new

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territorial narratives, linking long and contemporary cultural history in order to think about the future.

The approach led to the production, in partnership with Cap Rural and the Communauté de communes du Val de Drôme, of an online educational support, accessible at the following address: http://sagacite.caprural.org/story_html5.html.

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