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Value Pluralism, Legitimacy, and Agriculture Models: A Socio-Agronomic Approach to Sustainable Transitions

Plumecocq G. (gael.plumecocq@toulouse.inra.fr), Debril, T., Duru, M. Magrini, M-B., Sarthou, J.P. et Thérond O.

Introduction

➡ Transition toward a more sustainable agriculture

Objective: characterize different forms of agriculture

- ecological principles
- institutional and organizational principles

Conclusion: what about transition(s)?

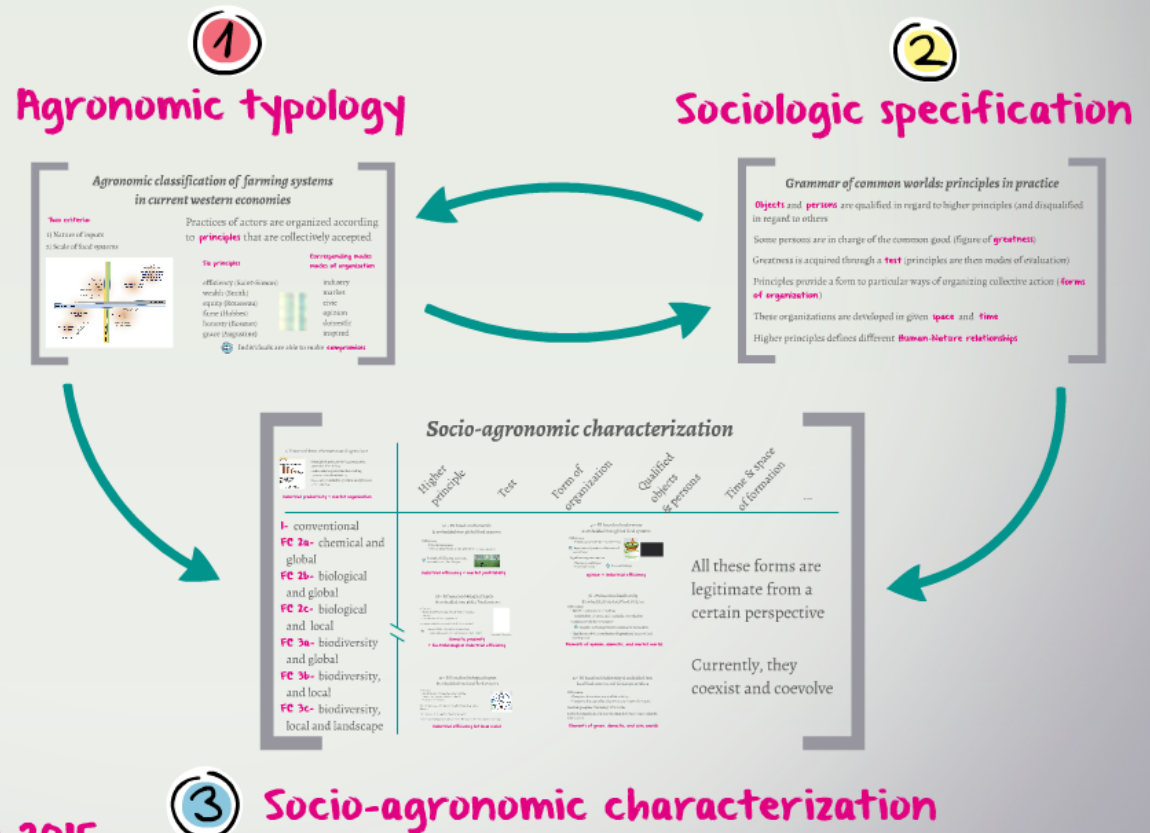
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 - Significance of principles (moral ground, justice, organization)
 - Rules prevailing in certain forms of agriculture are lock-in for other forms

🏛️ Governing transitions: political tools as legitimate-disqualified means

- Against one "size fits all" policies
- Non neutrality of political tools

📄 About transition themselves:

- Against the notion of "pathway": level of critiques (devices vs. directing values)
- Complementarity of forms of agriculture



ESEE conference - Leeds - 30 June-2 July 2015



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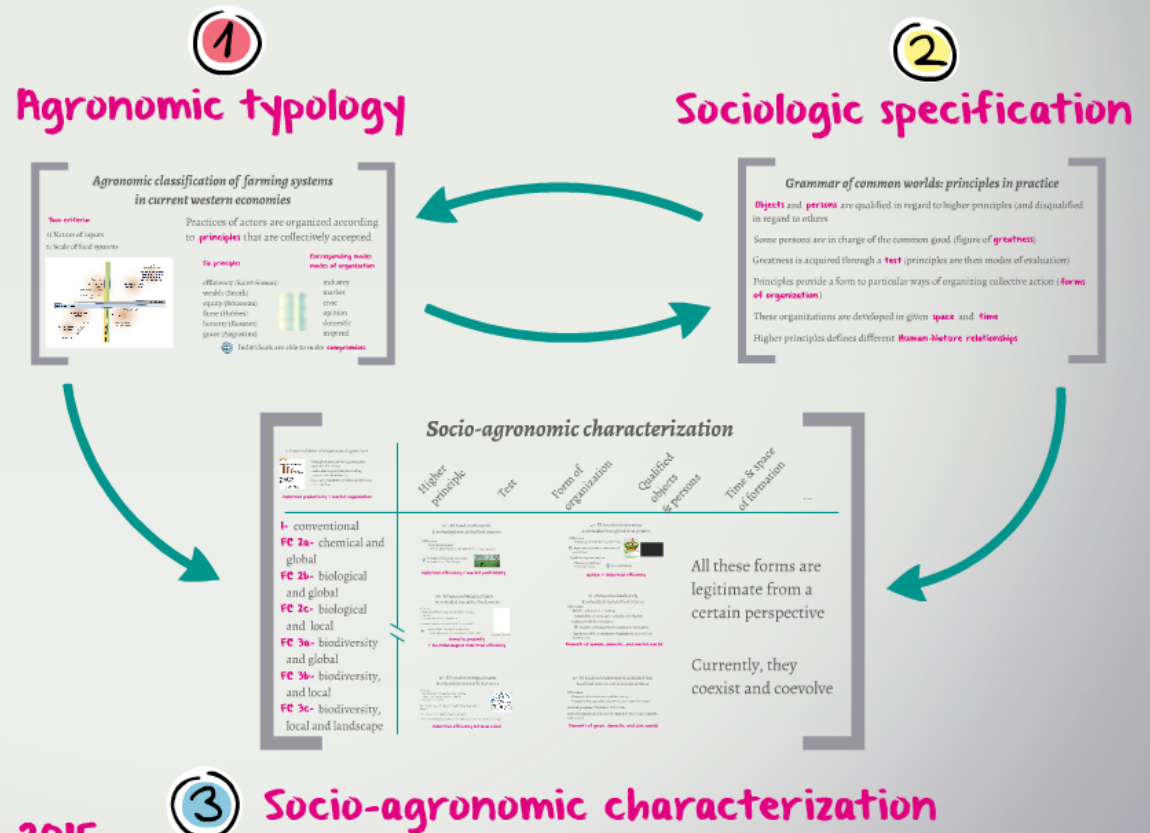
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Agronomic classification of farming systems in current western economies

Two criteria:

- 1) Nature of inputs
- 2) Scale of food systems

Practices of actors are organized according to **principles** that are collectively accepted

Six principles

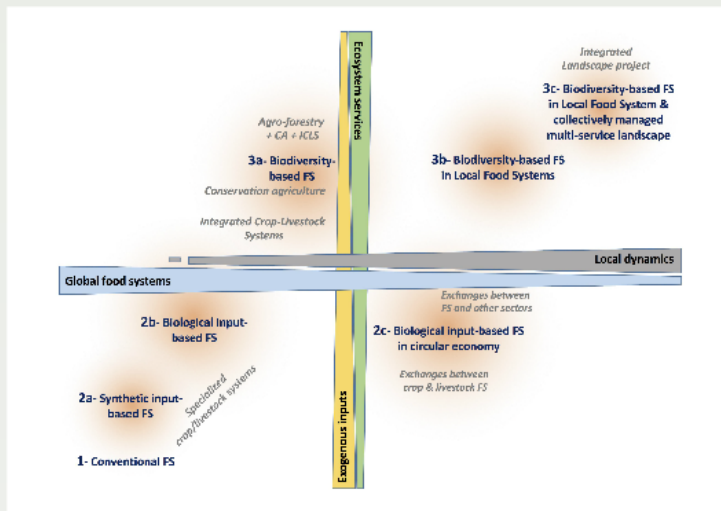
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wealth (Smith)
equity (Rousseau)
fame (Hobbes)
honesty (Bossuet)
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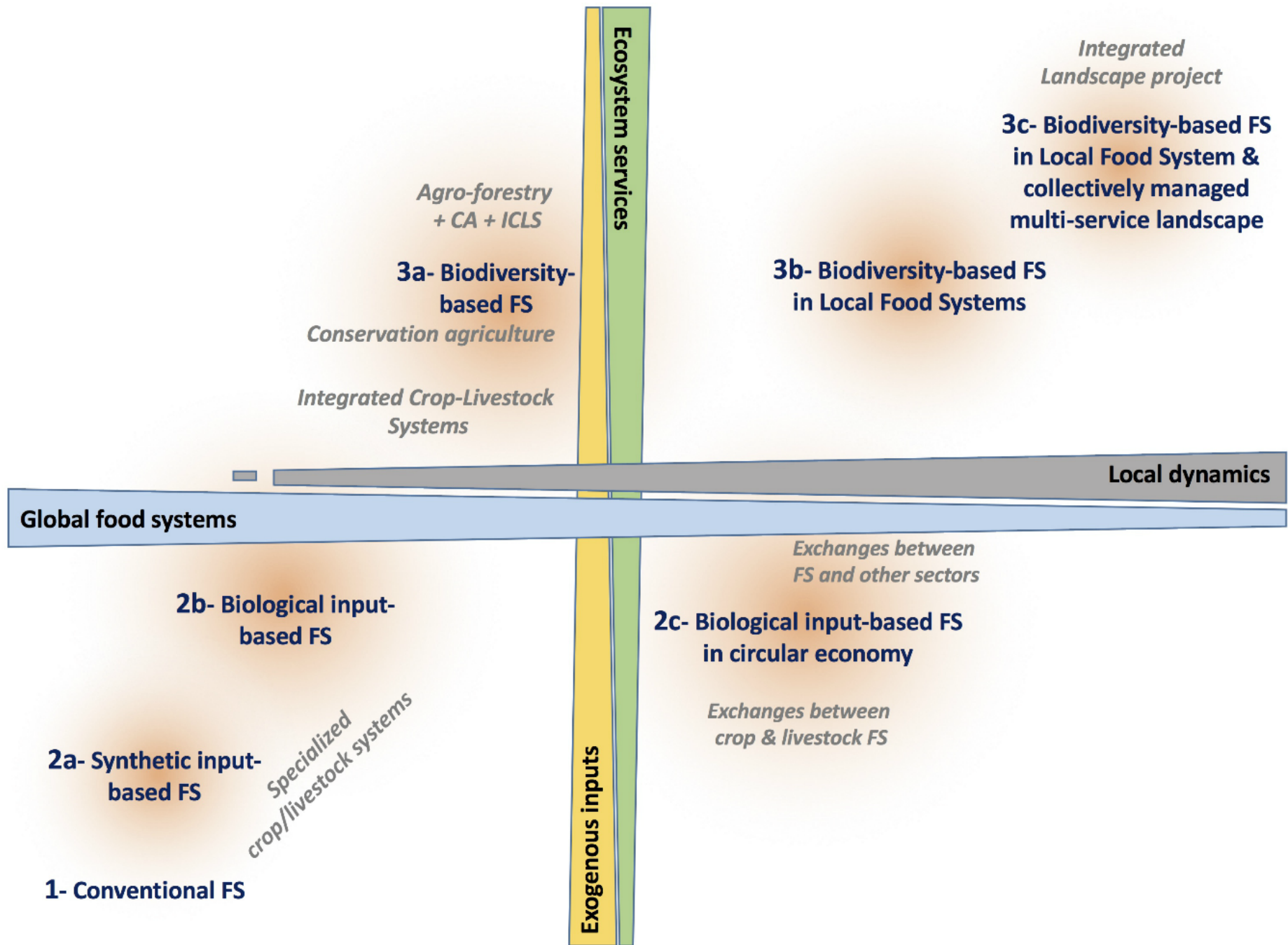
Corresponding modes modes of organization

industry
market
civic
opinion
domestic
inspired



Individuals are able to make **compromises**





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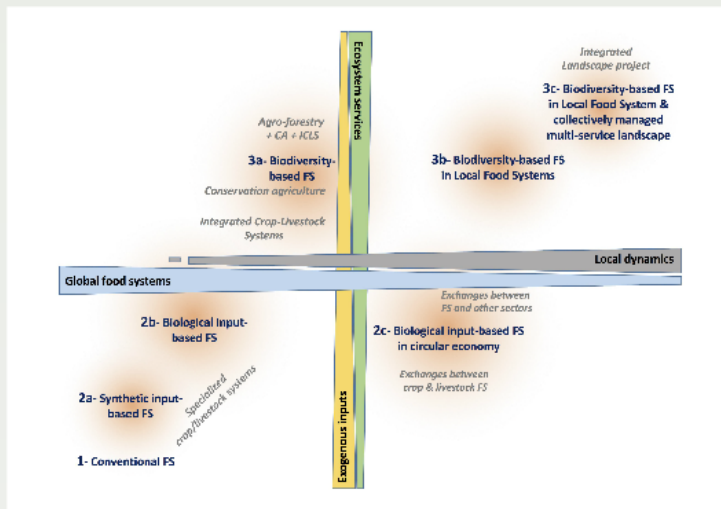
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Grammar of common worlds: principles in practice

Objects and **persons** are qualified in regard to higher principles (and disqualified in regard to others)

Some persons are in charge of the common good (figure of **greatness**)

Greatness is acquired through a **test** (principles are then modes of evaluation)


Principles provide a form to particular ways of organizing collective action (**forms of organization**)

These organizations are developed in given **space** and **time**

Higher principles defines different **human-Nature relationships**

Socio-agronomic characterization

1- Historical form of conventional agriculture



- Principle of productivity (e.g. production potential of varieties)
- and market organization for retailing (supermarket distribution)
- Mass and standardize products and processes of production

industrial productivity + market organization

Higher principle

Test

Form of organization

Qualified objects & persons

Time & space of formation

...


I- conventional
FC 2a- chemical and global
FC 2b- biological and global
FC 2c- biological and local
FC 3a- biodiversity and global
FC 3b- biodiversity, and local
FC 3c- biodiversity, local and landscape

2a - FS based on chemicals & embedded into global food systems

Differences:

- Political injunctions
- Increase of petro-chemical input prices (insurance premium)

Principle of efficiency to produce as much as in 1, but cheaper



industrial efficiency + market profitability

2b - FS based on biological inputs & embedded into global food systems

Differences:

- Reduction of the inputs of localized environmental damages
- Consideration for secondary inputs
- New opportunities for new markets (role of cooperatives)

No great deficit of knowledge, deficit of will
 Farmers adapt a domestic environmental "niche" (niche)



domestic proximity + bio-technological industrial efficiency

2c - FS based on biological inputs & embedded into local food systems


Differences:

- Realization that various other activities create new opportunities for production
- Territorial perspective

"Closed" processes of production (feedback, interdependence, time...)

Institutions often organized in or by "peasants"

Sustainable, higher principle: remains efficiency to increase the tones of Euro



industrial efficiency (at local scale)

3a - FS based on biodiversity & embedded into global food systems

Differences:

- Environmental ethic (life is productive)
- Importance of productive functions of ecosystems

Significant cognitive aspects:

- Knowledge exchanges
- Experimentation
- Peer community



opinion + industrial efficiency

3b - FS based on biodiversity & embedded into local food systems

Differences:

- Need for autonomy (in retailing)
- Redefinition of norms and standards of production
- Reconnect with the "consumer"
- Requires new competencies (social & on the market)
- Significance of the contribution of agricultural sector to local development

Elements of opinion, domestic, and market worlds

3c - FS based on biodiversity & embedded into local food systems and landscape services

Differences:

- Recognize the unique status of living beings
- Recognize that agricultural activities are systemic by nature

Producing requires "discussing" with Nature

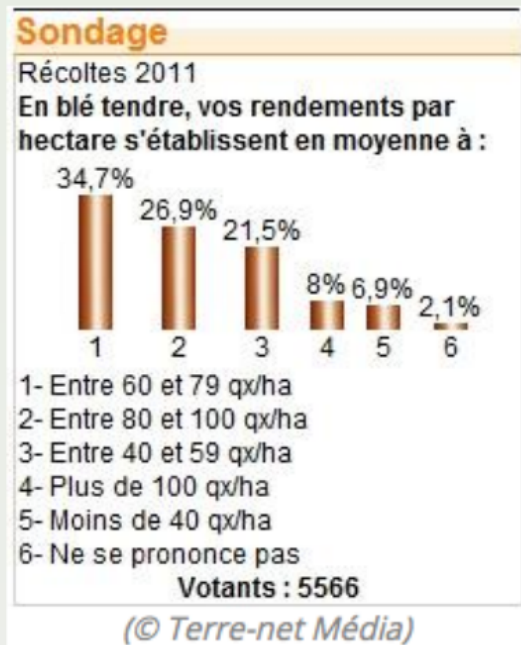
Territorial organization imitate the organization(s) Nature (adaptive governance)

Elements of green, domestic, and civic worlds

All these forms are legitimate from a certain perspective

Currently, they coexist and coevolve

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Principle of efficiency: to produce
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industrial efficiency + market profitability

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Differences:

- Realization of the impacts of localized environmental damages
- Consideration for sanitary impacts

New opportunities for new markets (role of cooperatives)



No proof (deficit of knowledge, deficit of test)

Famers adopt a domestic environmental "ethic" (beliefs)



Biological technologies

domestic proximity
+ bio-technological industrial efficiency

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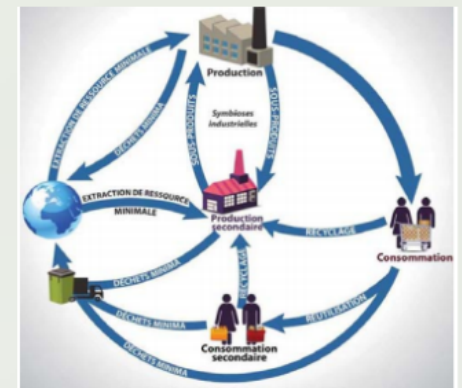
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- Territorial perspective

"Closed" processes of production (feedback, interdependence, flows...)

Interactions often organized in or by "projects"

Fundamentally, higher principle remains efficiency (to minimize the losses of flow)

industrial efficiency (at local scale)



Source : King County, WA USA - Traduction et adaptation de Mydiane

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opinion + industrial efficiency



+ CAPITAL
PROPRETÉ PARCELLES

POUR RECEVOIR DES CONSEILS
AVISÉS À CHAQUE ÉTAPE-CLÉ
DE VOTRE DÉSHERBAGE CÉRÉALES

[> INSCRIVEZ-VOUS](#)



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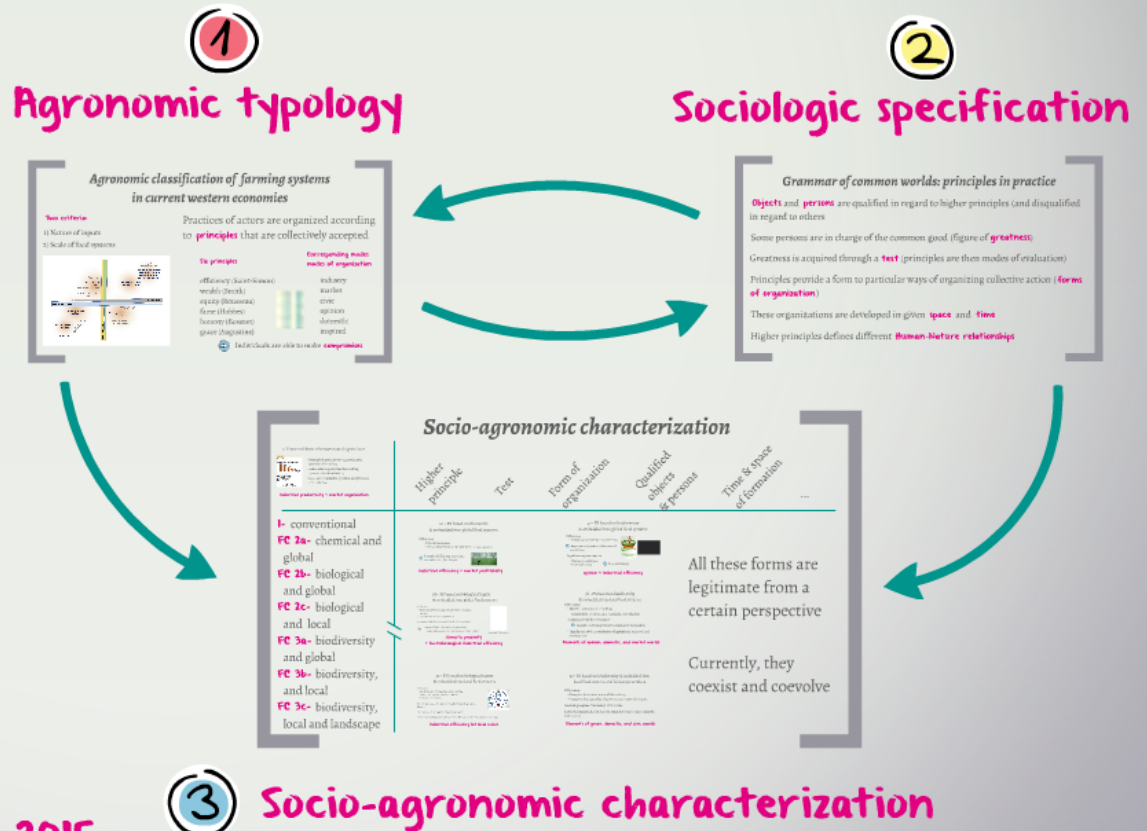
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