



## Value pluralism, legitimacy, and agriculture models: A socio-agronomic approach to sustainable transitions

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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)?



Lock-in as legitimacy-disqualification processes

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



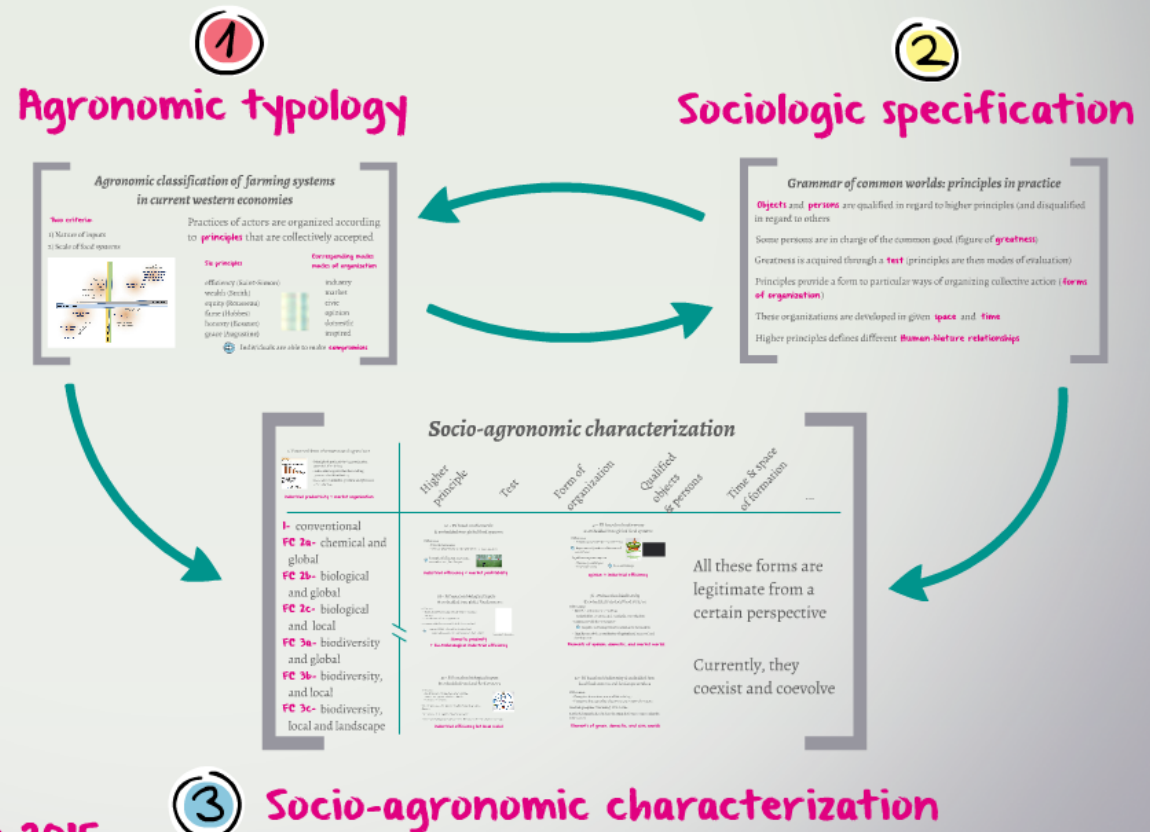
Governing transitions: political tools as legitimate-disqualified means

- 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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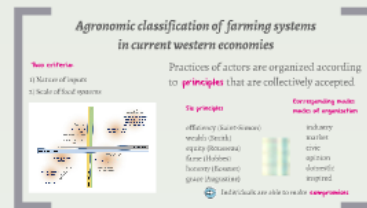


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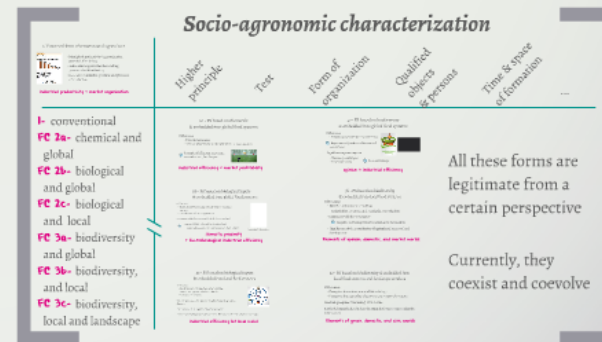
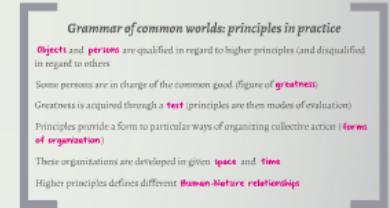
1

## Agronomic typology



2

## Sociologic specification



3

## Socio-agronomic characterization

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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

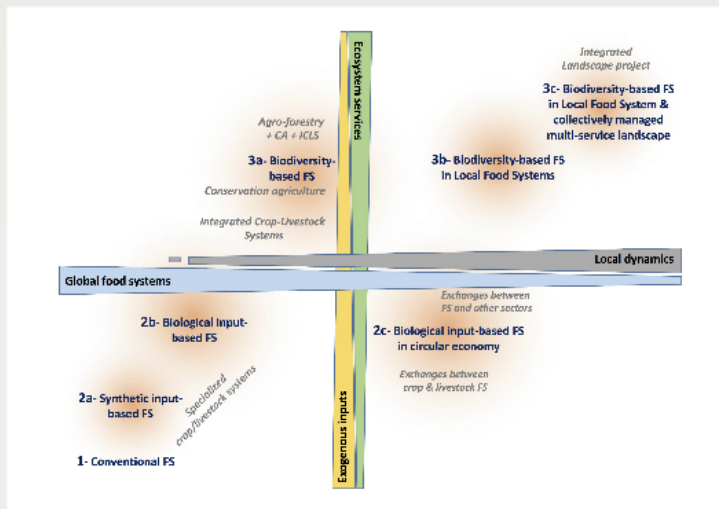
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wealth (Smith)  
equity (Rousseau)  
fame (Hobbes)  
honesty (Bossuet)  
grace (Augustine)

## Corresponding modes modes of organization

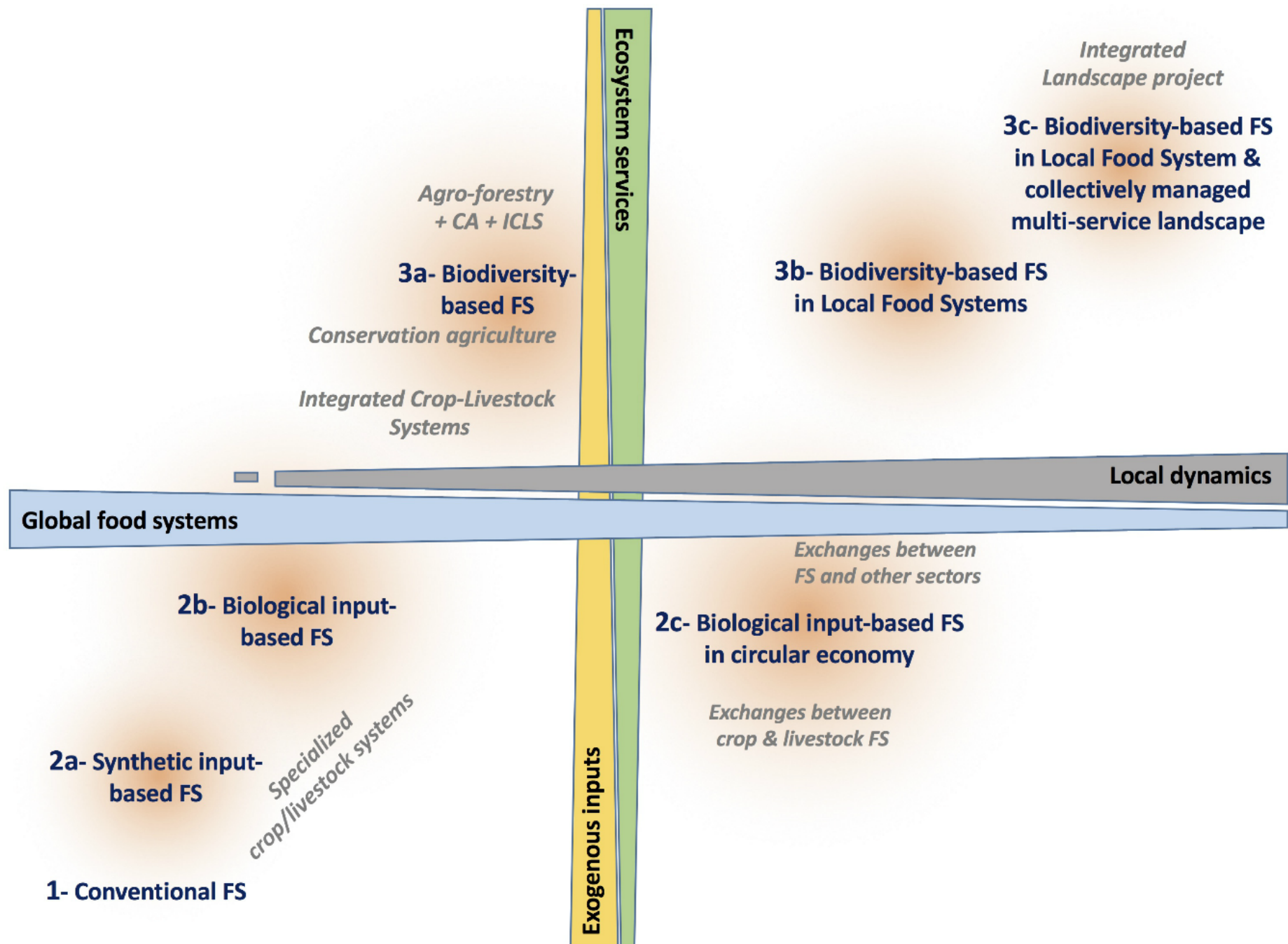
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Individuals are able to make **compromises**







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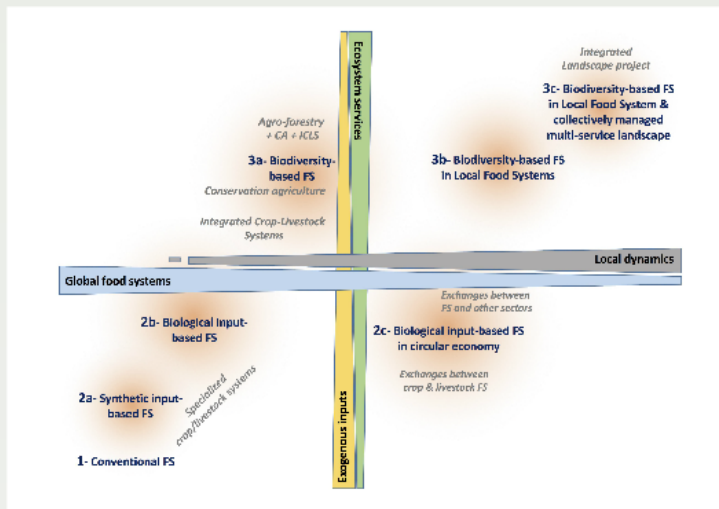
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## *Grammar of common worlds: principles in practice*

**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
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- FC 3a- biodiversity and global
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- FC 3c- biodiversity, local and landscape

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

Differences:

- Political injunctions
- Increase of petto-chemical input prices (insurance practices)



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 local and environmental damages
- Consideration for satisfactory inputs

New organization for new markets (role of composition)

- No great deficit of knowledge, deficits of soil
- Process adapt a domestic environmental "vehicle" (vehicle)



Biological technologies

domestic proximity + bio-technological industrial efficiency

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

Differences:

- Indication that water force other activities create new opportunities for production
- Territorial perspective

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

Innovation often organized in or by "networks"

Sustainable, higher principle remains efficiency to maximize the times of time



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)

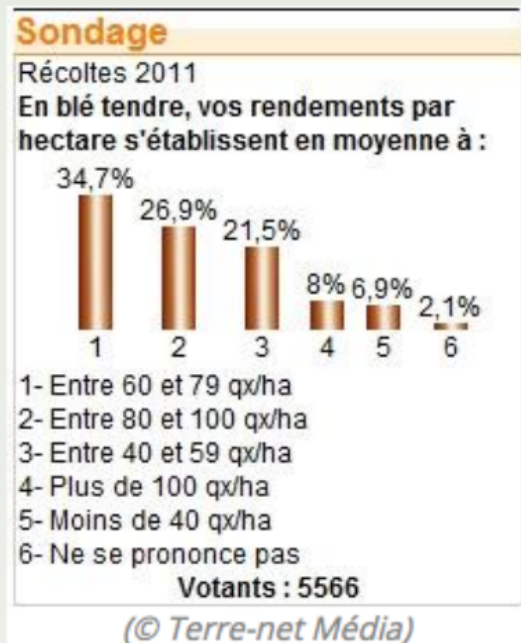
Elements of green, domestic, and civic worlds

All these forms are legitimate from a certain perspective

Currently, they coexist and coevolve



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

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)

Farmers adopt a domestic environmental "ethic" (beliefs)



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**domestic proximity**  
**+ bio-technological industrial efficiency**

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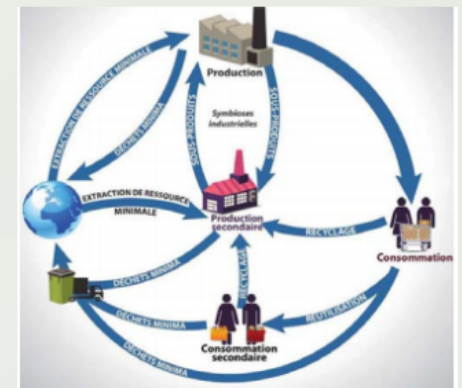
- Realization that wastes from other activities create new opportunities for production
- Territorial perspective

"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

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community

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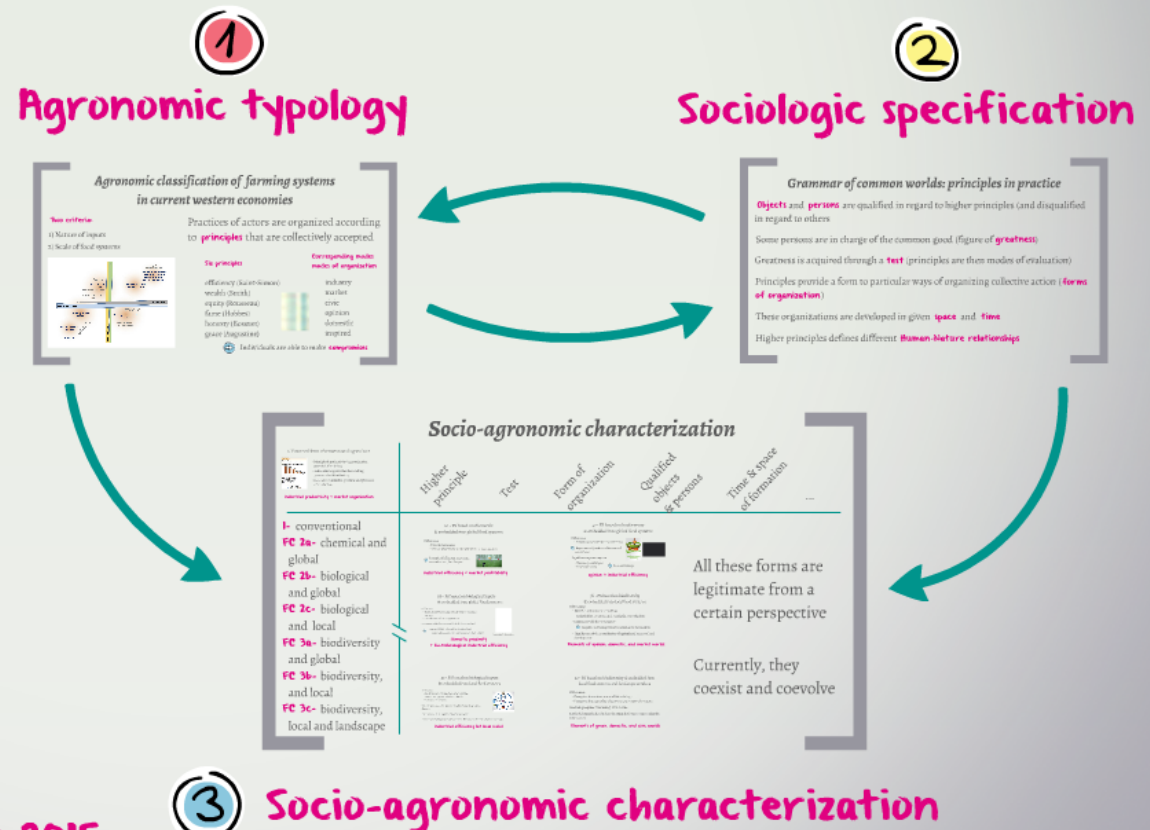
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