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Kuang Yu Wang, Yves Michelin, B. Cicilien

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Agriculture is not only a food producing system but a mechanism that needs to be well driven for sustainability in landscape: some teachings from French and Taiwanese situations

Wang, Kuang-Yu¹; Michelin, Yves² & Cicilien, Benoit²

¹ *Chuan Yuan University, Taiwan*

² *VetAgroSup, France*

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Rural agricultural landscapes have a long history in Europe and East Asia where farming practices are not only producing food but are also closely connected to local culture and environment. Nowadays they have been transformed into serving the regional and global networks for food production, often valorized by competitiveness of productivity and price. In the dominant idea of the free market and the global division of food production, agricultural landscapes gradually get detached from individuality and local contexts. At the same time, urbanization has a major influence on the change of agriculture and rural landscapes. Many rural landscapes are exploited and developed for leisure purposes and tourist attractions in order to serve the needs of an urban population for rural fantasy.

But the meaning of rural agricultural landscapes can be more than that of food producing machines or a 'Disneyland'. Biodiversity, cultural heritage, social networks, etc., could also be values related to agricultural practices while local communities seek new developments to keep the cultural heritage alive. Our study focuses on the comparison of three contrasted situations:

- In Yilan County (Taiwan), the spring onion production has a special quality derived from its good match with the local environmental conditions. However, growing tourism and rural housing have encouraged land speculation and increased the land prices, resulting in the decrease of farming. Some efforts were made to support local farming practices, conserving landscape characters and promoting sustainable rural developments.
- In the French Cevennes terraces, sweet onion production has increased since it has been protected by a specific regulation based on the guarantee of origin with the support of specific laws inside a national park. As a result, terraces have been renovated and new producers develop their activities.
- In the suburb of Clermont-Ferrand (France), a traditional garlic production is disappearing due to the lack of specific regulation or a dynamic network of farmers in a context of competition with intensive crop production and development demands.

Our study analyses the difficulties they face and the strategies they use, with a view to draw up guidelines for better management of sustainable local development and landscape.