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Perception of vegetation succession following agricultural abandonment determined by stakeholders' expertise and landscape context

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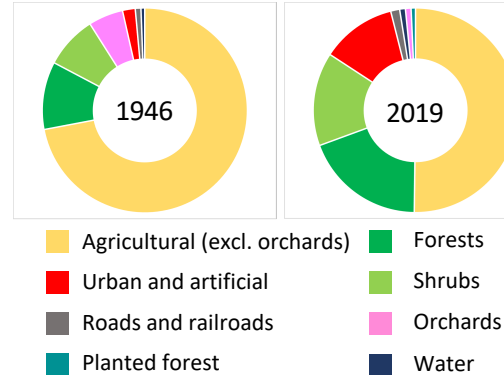
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Context :

Our study zone has undergone urbanization, agricultural intensification and agricultural abandonment (fig 1). The latter is followed by succession and create a diversity of agricultural zones in succession (1). It affects ecosystems and consequently biodiversity, services (SE) and disservices (DES) (2). Stakeholders' perception of those zones is driven by different dimension (3) (4). SE and DES are one tool helping to understand this perception and the position of stakeholders (in favor or opposed) (5). The characteristics of stakeholders also explain landscape perception, for instance professional activity (6) and relationship to nature (7).

Figure 1



Questions:

- 1) How do stakeholders perceive agricultural zones in succession ? Are they in favor or opposed ?
- 2) How to explain this perception ?

Methods :

We conducted 29 semi-structure interviews with :

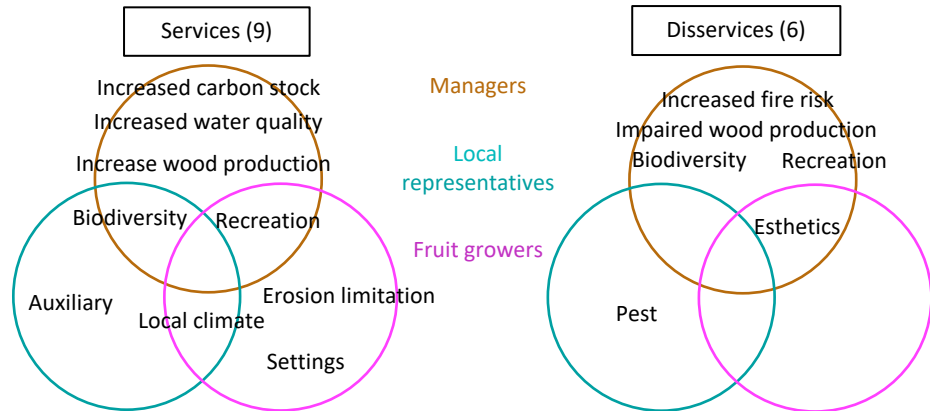
- Local representatives (9)
- Managers (16)
- Farmers (fruit growers) (4)

Results :

1) Agricultural zone in succession : a multiplicity of wording

31 words and expressions including *forest, wood, nature, trees, closed* and *friche*. It shows that these zones are diverse but also hard to define for stakeholders.

2) Different services and disservices associated with agricultural zones in succession



3) Other themes structuring perception are common to all stakeholders

- Declining historical activities ;
- Control of the ecosystems' free evolution ;
- Artificialization and intensification in the territory ;
- Constraints (natural, land property, economic)

Discussion :

