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► To cite this version:

Alice Josserand, Olivier Therond, Christian Bockstaller. How to account ecosystem services into energy assessment of agroecosystems and bioeconomy?. 18th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy (ESA), “Synergies for a resilient future: from knowledge to action”, Aug 2024, Rennes, France. Book of Abstracts, 2024. hal-04872802

HAL Id: hal-04872802

<https://hal.science/hal-04872802v1>

Submitted on 8 Jan 2025

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How to account ecosystem services into energy assessment of agroecosystems and bioeconomy?

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ESQ
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR AGRONOMY
Rennes, France
26th – 30th August 2024

INTRODUCTION

- **Agroecosystems** produce biomass by means of **external inputs (EI** ; based on fossil energy) and **ecosystem services (ES**; ecosystem processes supporting agricultural production)
- Current **energy assessments** of agroecosystem **do not take ES into account** (e.g. Guzman et al. 2018)
- ☞ **Need for a conceptual and methodological framework to assess energy and agroecological performance of agroecosystems, accounting for ES energy flows**

METHODS

ES energy flow (ESE) is estimated using replacement cost method

Example: The ES of Nitrogen (N) supply

Ecological processes (ES):

- ❖ Mineralization of N in soil
- ❖ N fixed by legumes in the crop rotation

External input replacement (EI):

- ❖ Mineral N synthesized using fossil energy
- ❖ Energy cost of 36,4 MJ / kg N

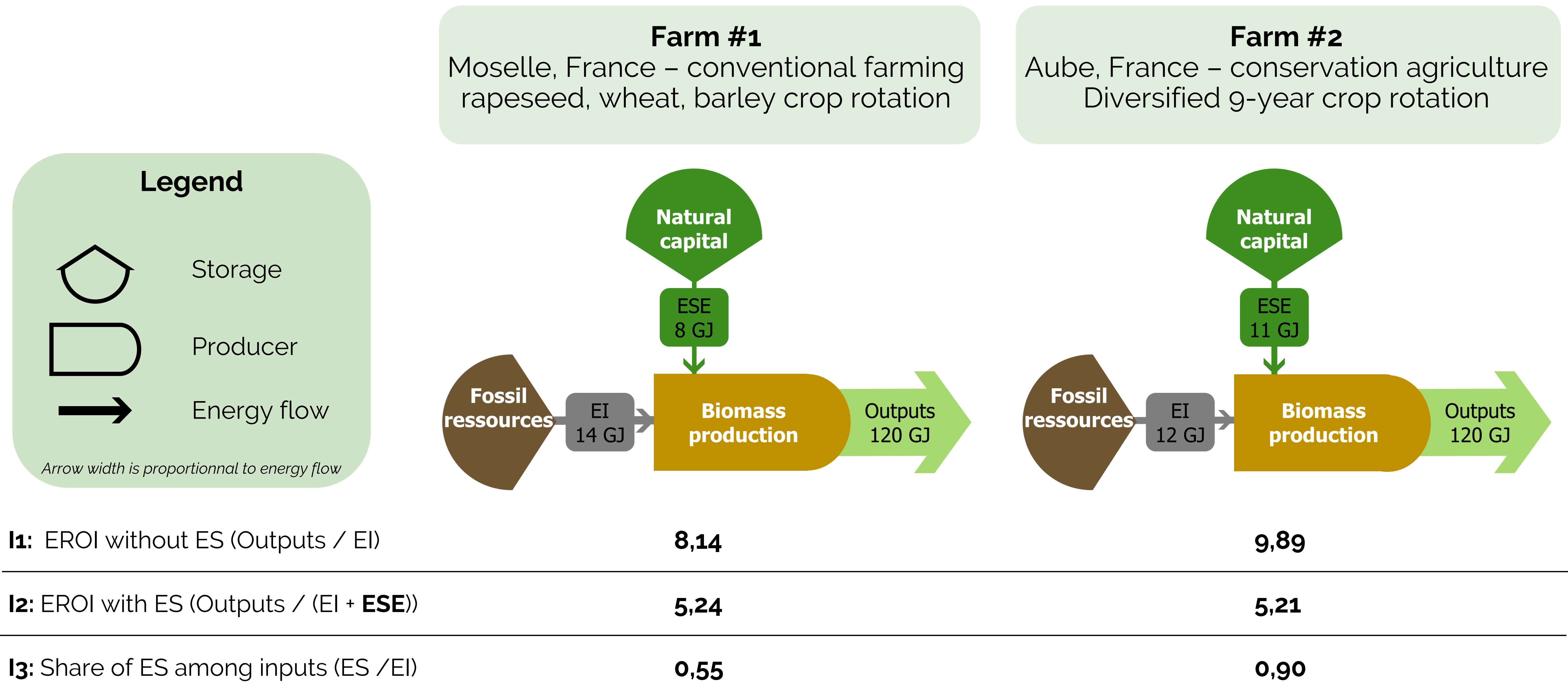
Energy flow of the ES of N supply is estimated as the **energy needed** to produce the **same quantity of mineral N** with **fossil energy**

Performance of the agroecosystem are assessed with 3 indicators :

- Energy Return On Investment (**EROI**) without and with accounting ES (Harchaoui & Chatzimpiros, 2018)
- **Ratio of energy** coming from ES to energy coming from EI
- **Assessment for two farms** (Dardonville et al 2023)

☞ The following **ES** have been **accounted** in **ESE** : **N supply, soil structuration, erosion control** and **weed control**

RESULTS



Farm #2 **I1 & I3**: ☞ is more efficient than Farm #1, due to less EI and more ESE. **I2** : ☞ level of ESE may be increased

CONCLUSION

- Validation of the **proof of concept** in **two contrasted agroecosystems**
- **Other ES** such as water retention, phosphorus supply, pollination, etc. **will be taken into account**
- **More agroecosystems** will be assessed, including agroecosystems connected to **biogas plant**

References: Dardonville et al., 2022. Ecosystem services, 54, 101415
Harchaoui & Chatzimpiros, 2018. Journal of Industrial Ecology, 23,412-425.
Guzman et al., 2018. Regional Environmental Change, 18, 995-1008

Aknowledgements:
The autors thank the AgroEcoSystem scientific division of INRAE for funding the primary autor's thesis