1. The relevance of food security as an entry point for the promotion of AE to convince policy-makers

- Other entry points such as climate change may be more audible for policy makers, a more powerful argument to convince them.

- Compromise: put forward the issue of sustainable food systems [under climate change] to enhance long term food security, food safety and nutrition.

- Knowing that one or another dimension of FNS could be more relevant depending on countries: food availability, on nutrition, or food safety;

Maybe need to elaborate a little bit more on what we consider as food systems: short supply chains?

2. What is AE for us: the issue of the definition of AE

- Many definitions of AE across countries and across actors within countries. It refers to many systems of production from a technical point of view. There is also a social and political dimension, which is more or less strong depending on countries.

- Agreeing on a definition of AE to clarify what we will look at, what we will compare with conventional agriculture, and how we will identify policies supportive of AE is of course absolutely needed (no interest to study organic production or extensive agroecology, focus on family and peasant system (AET and conventional)

- Suggestion: keep our definition of AE in the project deliberately as large as possible in terms of agricultural practices. The criteria used by AIDA may be useful at this regard.

- But also consider the social and political dimension of AE, i.e. the proposal/ promise of an alternative food system, a structural change. So a definition not too strict in terms of technical systems but not too large in terms of social structures to avoid the risk of perpetuating a business as usual system, greenwashing, etc. => focus on small-scale farmers/ family farming (AE paysanne).

- While recognizing the very wide diversity/ gradient of systems of production: examples of AE small scale/peasants systems

=> comparison of different systems of AE and with conventional agriculture.
3. The issue of transition

- The issue of transition is very different from one country to another. If transition is from point A to point B, it means that the starting point is very important and it is very different across countries depending of the dominant system of production.

- There is no one transition but different types of transitions and at least 2 reverse transitions: from conventional agriculture to AE (= ecologisation of intensive production) and from AE by default to AE intensification (= intensification of ecological production).

a) Dualistic agriculture from South Africa (small-scale marginal) to Argentina and Brasil (where family farming succeed to be recognized at the political level)

b) Small scale agriculture using too much chemicals: Vietnam, Laos?

c) Small scale agriculture in AE de facto/ by default: Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Mali

Positioning countries across a technical gradient, from mostly conventional and chemical input based agriculture to no chemical inputs; and a social gradient from small-scale to large scale farms.
4. The link between AE and food security

- at the hh level, as regards to the food security of farmers involved in AE: we have methodologies to address the complexity of agricultural hh, standardized and almost simple food security indicators, opportunity to use original and new methodologies to overcome limitations of standardized indicators, possibility to consider gender issues, especially in terms of workload and consequences on food and nutrition security, etc.

At this level non-food crops such as cotton, rubber, etc. and also non-farm activities have to be considered as they indirectly contribute to hh food and nutrition security.

- at the meso or macro level (capacity of AE to ensure food security beyond farmers involved in AE): issue of scale to pass from the scale of production systems to the scale of food systems (i.e. considering the up-stream activities of the food system) and to the scale of territories.

- Still need to reflect on that, and also on the link between the two levels. One option could be to trace and map out food flows supplying markets.

At this level, the issue of labor is addressed in a different way, more associated with the issue of youth employment rather than workload.

At this level probably gender issues would also be more difficult to consider or would need to be considered in a different way.

5. Policy support

- the degree of institutionalization of AE is very different from one country to another.

- We pointed out the issue of segmentation of public policies and the challenge to embark agricultural ministries with ministries of economy or labor, ministries of health, of environment, etc.

- Importance of local governments to be targeted (for instance in Vietnam, local authorities have resources to invest, want to support farmers in AE but don’t know how), of existing local initiatives.

6. Drivers of change

Consumers, demand for safe products, etc.
Social structure of production systems

Large-scale farmers

Small-scale farmers

Use of chemicals

Commercial farming

Dualistic agriculture

Argentina

Brazil

South Africa

Agroecological transition of intensive practices

Agroecological intensification

Madagascar

Vietnam

Laos

Burkina Faso

Mali

Commercial farming
Synthesis 26/02

• Key words
  o Agroecological transition → changes in food systems
  o Food chains ? Value Chains ?
  o Territory, place-based
  o Labour

=> Main objective/goal/ challenge:

=> Sub-objectives/ sustainability challenges:

=> Hypothesis:

Transition toward sustainable food systems

Supply of healthy food (Foo and nutrition security/safety)

Adaptation to climate change/ NR management

At the HH/ territory level

Contribution of AE production systems better than CA to...
Priorization of challenges
Study the current situations in terms of sustainability challenges → outcomes = prioritization of challenges that are context specific

Selection of AE production systems
- Focus of small-scale farmers (context-specific definition) – justification? The most vulnerable, the vast majority of farmers...
- Focus on those engaged in technical and organisational innovations
- Typology of different models of AE transition
- Comparison AET /Conventional system within territories

Selection of « territories »
- Where there are a diversity of production systems (cselected AET
- Where there are innovative food systems/dynamics which involve the selected AET
- Mapping actors, public policies and local initiatives on AE
Final synthesis

Recall

Main challenges

Transition toward sustainable food systems

Supply of healthy food (Foo and nutrition security/safety)

NR management under climate change

At the HH/territory level

Contribution of AET to...

Sub sustainability challenges

Decent labour and incomes
Regarding NRM

⇒ Better integrate agronomists and zootechnicians in our research team

⇒ We have the HR in each country but caution with the dimension of the research team

⇒ Needed for identification of AE practices, AET typologies, at farm levels and food systems
Structure of the project

WP 1. Stocktaking of national policies and initiatives

• What are the social forces promoting AE, the public actions?
• What are the power struggle between actors? What are their narratives (e.g. how the sustainability challenges and AE are framed)?
• What is the degree of institutionalization of AE?

Embark national policy makers

⇒ Selection of territories (1-2 territories?) based on criteria:
  • Diversified production: family farming/ conventional
  • Presence of public policies
  • Innovations/ new dynamics in socio-technological food systems
  • Where we already have a baseline data
WP 2. Territorial food systems

2.1. Food systems and actors mapping
Stocktaking of stakeholders in food systems, local initiatives/public actions, etc.
+ the environmental dimension
+ labor market (see Pierre’s PPT on up/downstream activities)
Food flows mapping methods, food systems profiles, etc.
Embark local policy makers

2.2 Scenarios building/ Long term foresight exercises
Scenarios around the 3 sustainability challenges of food systems (drivers, etc.)
Morphological matrix or the 3 horizons (no 2*2 because too limited)
To be further reflected: participatory approaches, focus groups,
⇒ Comparison of possible future food systems with the current situation
WP 3. Current and potential performances of farming systems

3.1. Assessment of current performances (baseline)

Farm hh surveys (farming systems analysis, quantitative/qualitative): production, consumption, labor, income, NRM performances

Sample: not representative at the national (and even at the territory level?), but of the diversity of farming systems

Additional surveys?

• With non-farmer HH? -> secondary data (e.g LSMS for consumption)?
• With workers in corporate farms and processing enterprises?

Survey timeframe: one year?

3.2 Constraints and opportunities with regards to possible scenarios

=> Narratives for alleviating constraints and for taking opportunities within a medium-long term vision (backcasting?)