Local food systems in Île-de-France: challenges and opportunities

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Some data about the Île-de-France – Paris region

- Some figures
  - 12 012 km²;
  - 1 281 municipalities (Paris included);
  - 11.5 millions people (19% of the French population) on 2% of the national territory;

- First French economical region (29% GNP).
Use of space for urbanisation: Example of the central part of the region

Use of natural and agricultural lands for urbanization

• Important use of natural and agricultural lands during the 1987–2003 period
• Use of natural spaces quite important between 1982 and 1999
• Decreasing urbanization trend during the 1999–2003 period
Local agriculture: direct marketing, a tradition in Île-de-France

- 11.5 million consumers
- 21% of producers use direct marketing (15% national average)
- Reduction in the 90’s
- Recent increase, mostly due to the AMAP (association pour le maintien d’une agriculture paysanne). To be confirmed

Development of short circuit: limits and challenges

A sector in crisis:
- reduction of capacities (land, material…)
- competition with other regions (from France and abroad)
- Lack of skilled workers
- Nutrition transition: new consumption patterns
- Lack of producer organization

For all the productions:
- Land tenure: reduction of available space for agriculture production and degradation
- Growing distances between facilities and services
A Paris « vegetable belt », from large to fragmented

- A centrifuge movement with the growing of the central city.
- The most productive lands have been turned for other uses: we should protect the existing one and, if possible, go backwards for some areas.
- The « terroirs » (local specific productions) are needed for a diversified production, complementary to extensive agriculture.

« Terroirs » and indigenous plants: assets for the future

- A very rich heritage of local fruits and vegetables
- The various types have been selected and adapted to the « terroirs » for centuries
- New dynamics for historical terroirs
- Promote emerging new terroirs
- Take advantage of the micro-climats
- (Re)-learn the seasons for the consumers
Local agriculture: social and cultural advantages

Reducing the links between:
- cities and rural areas,
- farmers and city dwellers

Contribution to the social diversity
Raising of « new » farmers, « new » kind of consumers.
- Answer to the need of space and nature to people living in the cities or at its limits
- Know-how, freshness of the products, Connaissance, fraîcheur, choice of food products
- Links product-terroir-landscape-know-how-ways of producing
- Ties with the earth

Regional agricultural, forestry and natural spaces
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a planning linking urban and rural areas for access to a better food

• Thanks for your attention

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