Transition towards agroecology of an arable farm in Belgium: a model for the future of agriculture?

Graux Estate (100 ha)

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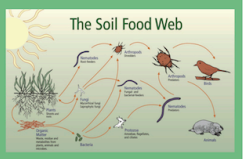
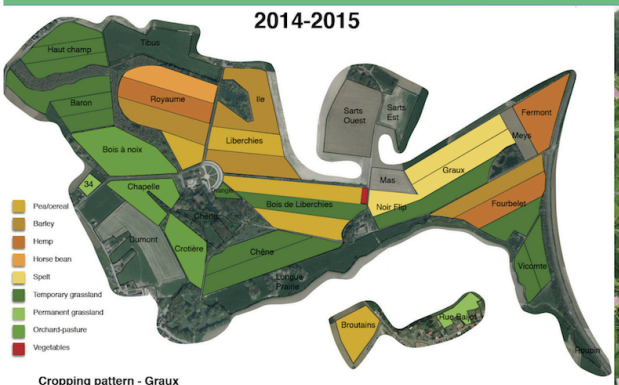
From conventional -> conservation agriculture -> organic farming -> agroecology

Technical changes: maximum use of biodiversity

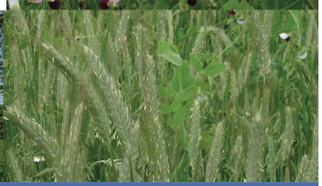
Soil and self-sufficiency minded agriculture



- No more industrial crops, tillage or monocultures
- Long crop rotation: 7 years, half of temporary grasslands
- Living mulch between or within crops
- Ramial Chipped Wood (RCW) and composts
- Collaborating with microbes for soil fertility and disease control: rhizobium, VAM, bacteria and fungi from compost tea
- Introduction of rustic livestock
- Use of new ideotypes of crops and farmer's breeding
- Plots with herbaceous borders every 60 m designed for natural enemies



Cropping pattern - Graux



Social component: providing healthy food to households and reconciling them with farmers

Paradigm shift: from 'feeding' agro-food industries to feeding households with a balanced selection of healthy food

Reconciling farmers with citizens using short marketing chains: the opportunity for direct contacts between producers and consumers

Societal component: a collaborative economy model

Entrepreneurs are given the chance to develop viable micro-farms on the Estate

These micro-farms collaborate with each other and with the Estate

This style of collaborative economy looks to optimise synergies: nutrient cycling, production, marketing and definition of strategies for instance

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These techniques and ideas are in place or about to be implemented