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Colloque "Nourrir les villes : une chance pour les  
agricultures familiales ?", vendredi 13 décembre 2013

# Pluriagri Family Farming in an Urbanized World

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## Structure of the presentation

- ✓ Family farming in the long run: adaptability, dominance, diversity
- ✓ Family farming: how to define it?
- ✓ Contributions of family farming to urban markets... and to sustainable development
- ✓ A chance for family farming? A question of collective choice, but a need for massive policies



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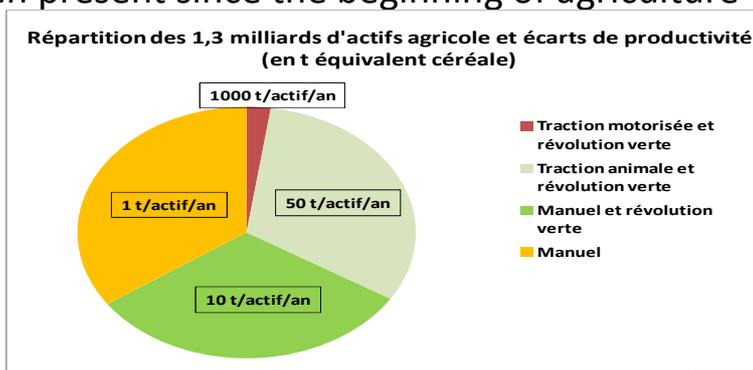


## Family farming in the long run: adaptability, dominance, diversity

Family farming has been present since the beginning of agriculture

Family farming has passed through technical revolutions

**A structural and deep asymmetry... for a long time?**



Source : FAO, auteurs inspirés par Mazoyer 2001



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## Family farming: how to define?

If family farming is a widespread way of organizing farming it is important to precisely identify it... now it is not possible

Our definition is an attempt to escape from:

- context dependant dimensions
- a too large definition putting all together too different farms
- the confusion between analytic and policy oriented definitions

A need to estimate numbers and possibly weigh contributions

➔ **Defining specific public policies and assessing their impacts**



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# Family farming: how to define?

	Corporate Agricultures		Family Agricultures
	Corporate Forms	Family Business (Patronal) Forms	Familial Forms
	Corporate Farms	Family Business (Patronal) Farms	Family Farms
Labor	Exclusively hired labor	Combining hired and family labor	Family labor, no permanent hired labor
Assets	Shareholders or familial association	Family or familial association	Family

Source : auteurs

**“Family farming can be defined as a form of agricultural operation where the domestic sphere and production activities share organic links, and which mobilizes only family workers, excluding permanent hired labor”**



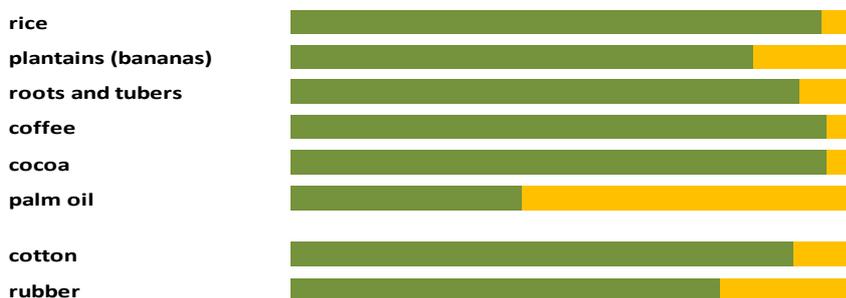
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## Family farming, urban markets... and sustainable development

### Local, national and international markets : a diversity of stakes

Family farming (in green) contribution to world production: significant examples



Source : auteurs

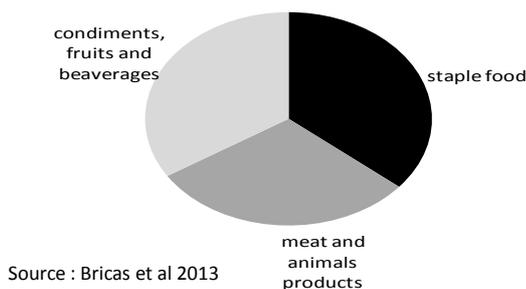


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## Family farming, urban markets... and sustainable development

### Lessons from surveys in West Africa: food spending



#### For staple food

- Imported cereals are dominant in big cities town
- but local production is dominant in small towns

#### Local productions for others 2 thirds

**A real contribution of family farming**

**A revival of local productions**

## Family farming, urban markets... and sustainable development

### Urban markets: threats and risks for people... and for family farms

A need to feed cities... But pay attention to the limits and negative impacts of current conventional agricultural models

Urban poverty and bad nutrition: structural limits of world food systems

New competitions, new challenges:

- vertical integration through supermarkets development
- private norms defined in arenas with asymmetric balance of powers
- production financialisation

## A question of collective choice, but a need for massive policies

### Strategies for family farmers and small scale processing units

- Keep more value added through farm or collective processing and collective shipping to markets
- Diversify production focus towards higher value crops
- Engage when possible in qualifying and differentiating the products
- Relying on local networks of small and medium scale food processing units close to producers
- In poor infrastructure situations investing in medium to long term preservations techniques is a way to reduce losses, to keep value, overcome seasonality and allow safe transportation

## A question of collective choice, but a need for massive policies

### Strategies for family farmers through urban markets' infrastructures and governance

- Modernize urban wholesale and retail food markets, in large but also in intermediate cities
- Promote and implement adapted rules and regulations regarding quality grades, standards, weights and measures, price visibility...
- Involvement of local authorities and official to implement these rules to assure the sustainability of the market place..
- Improve information on production, and its broadcast on markets and reinvest in prices policies
- Implementation of non market, socially embedded economic policies

A question of collective choice,  
but a need for massive policies



Merci de votre attention...

