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
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, authors inspired by Mazoyer 2001

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
Family farming: how to define?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporate Farms</th>
<th>Family Business (Patronal) Farms</th>
<th>Familial Forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Exclusively hired labor</td>
<td>Family labor, no permanent hired labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>Shareholders or familial association</td>
<td>Family association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“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”

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

- rice
- plantains (bananas)
- roots and tubers
- coffee
- cocoa
- palm oil
- cotton
- rubber

Source: auteurs

Pluriagri
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

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 preservation techniques is a way to reduce losses, to keep value, overcome seasonality and allow safe transportation

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...