WDR 2008 : « Agriculture pour le Développement » - Atelier de Paris
Les organisations paysannes et rurales pour un développement durable en faveur des pauvres

Theme n°4

RPOs, decentralization and valorization of local products from territories

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Private and public organizations

• **RPOs**
  - Production of private goods (access to credit, inputs..)
  - Linkages between production of these private goods and production of public one (literacy, infrastructures, social services...)
  - National and supranational federative movements : 1990’s and 2000’s

• **Decentralization process**
  - Production of local public goods with political legitimacy through polls

• **Issues**
  Production and access to local public goods with contributions of private stakeholders (RPOs) with a different legitimacy …
RPOs respond to social needs

• State withdrawal or « State failures » lead to lack of basic public services, without local governments

• Most of village associations are multisectorial and provide services that could be under local governments responsibility (Africa, Latin America…)

• How to adjust when local governments take over?
Local governments as a stake for RPOs

• Agriculture (broad sense) requires land and natural resource management

• Agriculture has to share territories with other activities

• Agriculture needs infrastructures and services

• Agriculture needs social public goods to be efficient
Local governments and broader agendas

- Democratization of public debate and public life

- Strong linkages between cultural and political dimensions with specific focus in agriculture: land and natural resources linked to identity

- Implications for agricultural development
  - Insure food autonomy / security of farming systems
  - Balance risks linked to export and integration by firms
  - Promote alternative technical models (lack in research)
  - Pay more attention to sustainable management of natural resources
Local development and decentralization

• Key role for local governments in local development planning and implementation
  – Animation and priority setting
  – Provision of basic public services: health, education, domestic water…
  – Provision of infrastructures linked (or not) to economic activities

• Within this framework
  - Specific role for RPOs in their domains
  - Specific attention to donors and support agencies
Specific quality products linked to territories

- Local agrifood systems:
  - Local concentrations of production systems and small scale enterprises for food processing
  - Widespread in western Europe
  - Emerging process in tropical countries
    - From local initiatives
    - From States initiatives facing global markets with standard qualities
Three questions to shape the debate

• To what extent should RPOs be involved in the decentralization processes?

• Do decentralization policies and the interest in local development dynamics challenge the need for public policies designed at other territorial levels? Which role for RPOs?

• Under what conditions can territorial resource valorization strategies induce sustainable local development? Which role for RPOs?