Sustainable agricultural-urban systems: a scientific project in the Mediterranean

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A concept to address how agriculture and urban development could be articulated in the long run:

- Focus on the interactions between urban and agricultural actors, activities and places, which contribute to integrate agriculture in a sustainable urban development.

- A concept to address how agriculture and urban development could be articulated in the long run:
  - In the practices of the farmers, consumers, citizens
  - In the formal or informal local organizations
  - In the political projects
The DAUME project: Sustainability of Urban Agricultures in the Mediterranean

- An **academic** research project to describe the agricultural-urban (Agri-Urban) dynamics
- A **comparative** project between 5 city regions located in Maghreb and southern European countries
- A **multi-disciplinary** project crossing agricultural, rural and urban planning studies
- An **participatory** project linking researchers and local stakeholders of the rural-urban interface

**DAUME**

- Funded by ANR
- 5 city regions
- 50 researchers from 10 labs
- 4 years: 2011-2014
Partnerships: integration of local & scientific knowledge, for scenario planning

Step 1. Perception of sustainable development by actors (documents, surveys)

Step 2. Practical tasks: space and landscape patterns, land tenures, farming systems, public policies, projects…

Step 3. Participatory approaches towards sustainable development

Local diagnoses: AU stakes, development models
State of the art: concepts of sustainable cities / UA
Projects: focus on projects relating agriculture & cities

Dynamics: preliminary comparative studies

Partnerships: integration of local & scientific knowledge, for scenario planning

In each study area: a multi-scale approach

City regions

Agri-urban projects

Farms

How to integrate farmland within urban planning?

How to coordinate stakeholders, land uses, practices…?

How to increase adaptability of peri-urban farmers?
AUS 1: knowing the diversity of agricultural-urban systems in a city region (eg. Montpellier)

Which combinations?

AUS 2: considering the diversity of agri-urban projects in a city region (eg. Pisa)

Which synergy?
AUS 3: comparing the agri-urban dynamics in 5 Mediterranean cities

• Similarities:
  – **Urban sprawl / farmland receding.** And also the main role of the global trends affecting agriculture, environment, and the national and European policies.
  – **Water issue:** irrigation, flood, wetlands, conflicts between urban and agricultural uses, threat on the water resource
  – **High diversity of farming systems,** farmland tenures, social styles of farmers, but everywhere only few multifunctional farms

• Differences:
  – **Integration of UA in public policies:** Montpellier-Pisa >> Lisbon >> Meknes >> Constantine (but weak efficiency in all cases)
  – **Environmental stakes:** water waste (Meknes), industrial pollution (Constantine), risk of forest fire (Montpellier), natural reserve (Pisa, Lisbon)
  – **Social farming:** emerging in Montpellier and Lisbon, ignored else where

First synthesis: elaboration of AUS’ models (work in progress...)

- Integrating farmland in the urban project
- Commodity production
- Multifunctional agriculture
- Farms maintained for production & open space
- Multifunctional farms responding to urban expectations
- Large competitive flexible farms
- Small farms declining or closing
- Farmland = land reserve for developing housings/activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meknès</th>
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<td>Lisbon</td>
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Conclusion: the agricultural-urban system, concept or approach?

- AUS is not yet a concrete reality, but rather a constructivist approach in order to consider a wide diversity of dynamics regarding agriculture in urban settings.

- AUS is a useful approach in order to combine comprehensive descriptions and systemic schemes of agro-urban development models.

Welcome to the DAUME project website!
http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/daume/

Thank you for your attention