

C13. Dairy development models and their role in local development

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In many regions of the world, local development policies refer on different models that are often debated, and opposed. By focusing on the concept of "model", we emphasize the plurality of the visions worn by actors about dairy development. We identify these patterns in the "discourse" stated by scientists, journalists, policy deciders, development agents, but also by the actors themselves. In the field of milk production, two models are underlined: one of large "intensive" specialized farms, and the other of small, often "pluri-active" family farms. For dairy value chain or sub-sectors, the literature emphasizes the opposition between "centralized models" managed by a single industrial dairy firm, and "polynuclear models" structured around several small cottage industries. We analyze the technical dimension of those models, as well as their institutional structure, and we underline the role of economic organization. From a broader perspective, these debates between different models for the future of the dairy sector reflect a conflict between several visions of development of the agricultural sector as a whole. On the one hand, "conventional" agriculture refers to the evolution of the sector towards intensive farming. On the other hand, advocates of "alternative" or "sustainable" agriculture give an important place to family farming and environment protection. Case studies taken in West Africa and Asia illustrate the emergence of these models in specific territories or communities. In the reality, there is a great diversity of productive forms that appear to be resulting from compromises between several models. In this respect, national and local dairy policies can be viewed as a mean to guide the transformation of the sector towards one or several particular models.