

Organic agriculture and food security in Cameroon

1- Context

In a context of renewed stakes on food security, the environment, the depletion of natural resources, the capacity of agriculture to innovate to respond to the development challenges of the countries of the South is being debated.

Organic farming is a possible trajectory but little explored in its potential and constraints in intertropical Africa.

2- Objective

We evaluate how different types of **organic farming** address food security issues in **Cameroon**.

3- Conceptual Framework

We use the theory of transitions (Geels and Schot, 2007) to characterize the process of development of organic farming in Cameroon and the discussion of causalities with food security.

4- Assumption

The recognition of the different forms of organic farming is conditioned by their impact on Cameroon's food security with respect to economic (productivity), social (employment, health) and environmental (natural resources) issues.

5- Research Method

- ✓ Two surveys: semi-directional interviews in the regions of the Center and the Littoral Cameroon with the actors of the sectors involved in organic farming: producers, certifiers, companies, researchers.
- ✓ Two participatory workshops (Douala and Yaounde) with three communities of knowledge : research, actors of the sectors, and support services for innovation. Application of evaluation analysis grids in reflection workshops mobilizing the actor system involved in the organic farming.

7- Conclusion

- ✓ The capacity of Cameroon's agricultural and food sector to meet the needs of its future population is a major concern.
- ✓ We analyzed the contributions of organic farming to each of the dimensions of food security based on the knowledge of the actors involved in organic agri-chains.
- ✓ The proposed typology calls for identifying the bottlenecks to a better recognition of the contributions of organic agriculture to development.

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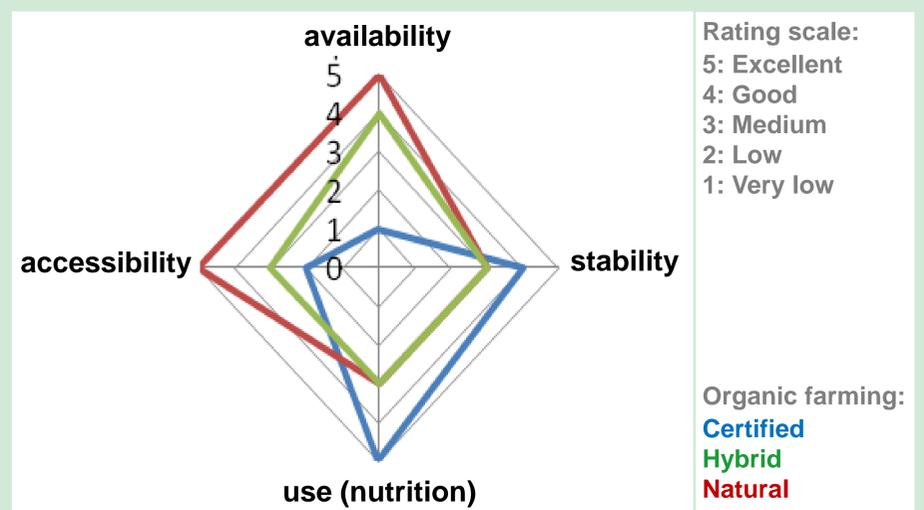
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6- Results

Relationship between Organic farming types and food security in Cameroon.

Data from the participatory workshops, 40 actors.
(ABASS Project, GloFoodS Metaprogramme)



Certified organic farming type and food security

- ✓ More or less strong consequences with stability and use
- ✓ Low relationship intensity for accessibility and availability

Hybrid organic farming type and food security

- ✓ High influence on the four dimensions of food security
- ✓ Stability and nutrition: to a smallest extent, close to natural organic farming

Natural organic farming type and food security

- ✓ Influence on accessibility and availability
- ✓ Low influence on nutrition and medium stability

References

Geels, F-W., Schot J., 2007. Typology of Sociotechnical Transition Pathways. *Research Policy* 36 (3): pp 399-417.
Temple, L., Nesme T., Mathe S., Bayiha G. de la Paix, Kwa M., 2016. Agriculture biologique et sécurité alimentaire en Afrique Sub-saharienne. Rapport Cameroun, Yaoundé, CIRAD, INRA.