

Analysis of a sample of strategies for sustainable development in arable crops

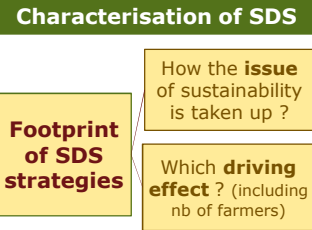
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OBJECTIVE

How do some traders & cooperatives to develop strategies for sustainable development (SDS) aiming at driving progress towards more sustainable arable cropping systems? Which elements enable a success?



Storage companies such as farmers' cooperatives have a key role in the value chains and territory development.

MATERIEL & METHODS

1. Qualitative analysis of each case

16 semi-open interviews including 13 face to face interviews in 2015 with coordinators of different strategies, with a standard grid adapted for "strategic & proactive" or "tactical and reactive" SDS.

13 SD strategies under analysis



2. Transversal analysis

- (i) Analyse the types of processes & instruments
- (ii) Identify criteria for success

RESULTS & DISCUSSION : SDS components and quantitative & qualitative footprint

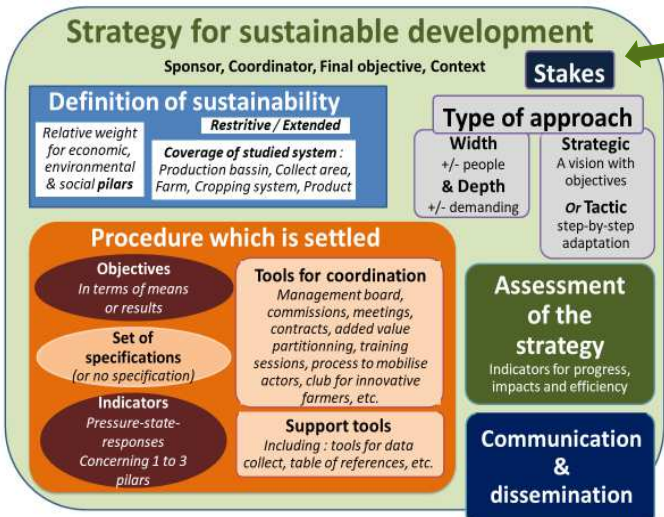


Fig 1. Components to characterize a sustainable development strategy hold by agricultural actors in order to target more sustainable agriculture. A. Schneider, M-B. Magrini, E. Montrone.

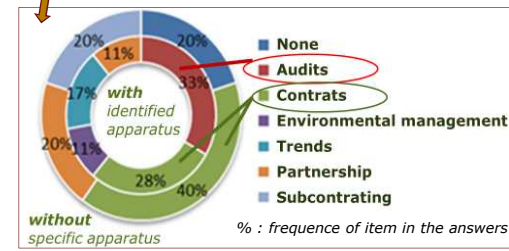
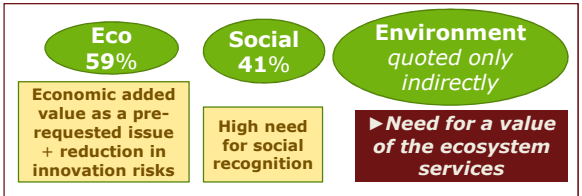


Fig 2. The coordination instruments used, when there is an identified mechanism to implement the SD approach (inner circle) or not (outer circle).

Fig 3. Incentives proposed by coordinators for making people being involved in the proposed SDS

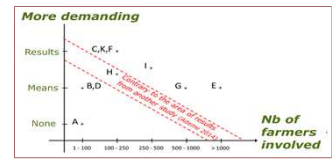


To convince= the difficulty the most frequently quoted

(frequency of 70% in coordinators' answers to « which difficulties have you encountered? »)

« beside the evaluation tools, mobilising people is the key issue ! »

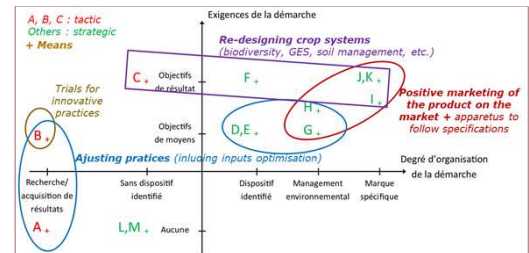
Fig 4. How to assess the driving effect? No clear correlation between the two dimensions 'more demanding' SDS and "less people involved" (contrary to possible assumption).



CONCLUSIONS

1. An analysis grid for SDS key components
2. Coordination costs = key difficulty + key prerequisite for convincing and giving a sense to individual action
3. Key elements for driving, sharing & assessing
 - ✓ Processus to mobilise people & type of proposed way to progress
 - ✓ Means to share skillness & knowledge (re-design crop systems)
 - ✓ Tools to better estimate effective effects in the real life.

Fig 5. SDS (A to M for each case) with its types of instruments according to dimensions: whether it is more or less organised and more or less demanding



(1) Montrone E. 2015. Étude des démarches des organismes stockeurs visant une agriculture, MFE AgroCampusOuest, Ed Terres Inovia.

(2) ADEME, 2014. Analyse des démarches mises en place par les filières agro-alimentaires en vue de réduire l'impact environnemental de la production agricole, 30 p.

Thanks to all the interviewed people whose contribution enabled this transversal analysis to be done.