
Session 2: Co-evolution of organic agriculture and agroecology

# Convergences, divergence and specificities between Agroecology and Organic Agriculture in Italy

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# Background

- Migliorini P, Compagnoni A, Minotou C, Montalbani S, Rocchi Simone, Compagnoni L. (2015) International conference “Agroecology for Organic agriculture”, IFOAM Agribiomediterraneo, Book of abstract, CC;
- Canali S., Bàrberi P., Ciaccia C., Migliorini P., Colombo L. (2017) Agroecologia e Agricoltura biologica. In: AAVV. (a cura di): Abitabile C, Marras F. Viganò L, BIOREPORT 2016. L'agricoltura biologica in Italia. p. 101-114;
- Osservatorio per l’Agroecologia (OPERA, June 2017);
- Migliorini P. and Wezel A. (in press) Converging and diverging principles and practices of organic agriculture regulations and agroecology. A review.



# Ecological Agriculture in Italy

- Girolamo Azzi in 1924 Perugia University first Ecology chair
- Alfonso Draghetti (1948) *Principi di fisiologia dell'azienda agraria*
- Francesco Garofalo (1969) founder of *Suolo e Salute*
- (1972 IFOAM)
- Coop. Alce Nero (Isola del Piano , 1977), Comune di Bagnaia (Siena, 1979), Coop. Valli Unite (Alessandria, 1980)
- End '80 and early '90 Fabio Caporali (La Tuscia University) and Concetta Vazzana (University of Florence)
- Ivo Totti, Bigallo Verde, Cos'è Biologico, CTPB, AIAB,..
- 2000-2005 Master in Ecological Agriculture (organic and biodynamic) at University of Florence

# Research question

What are convergence, divergence and specificity of Agroecology (AE) and Organic Agriculture (OA) in Italy?

A survey:

1. definitions of AE and OA
2. how AE and OA are placed in relation to other approaches/methods of agriculture and food systems
3. what are the practices (from soil to table)

# Materials & Methods

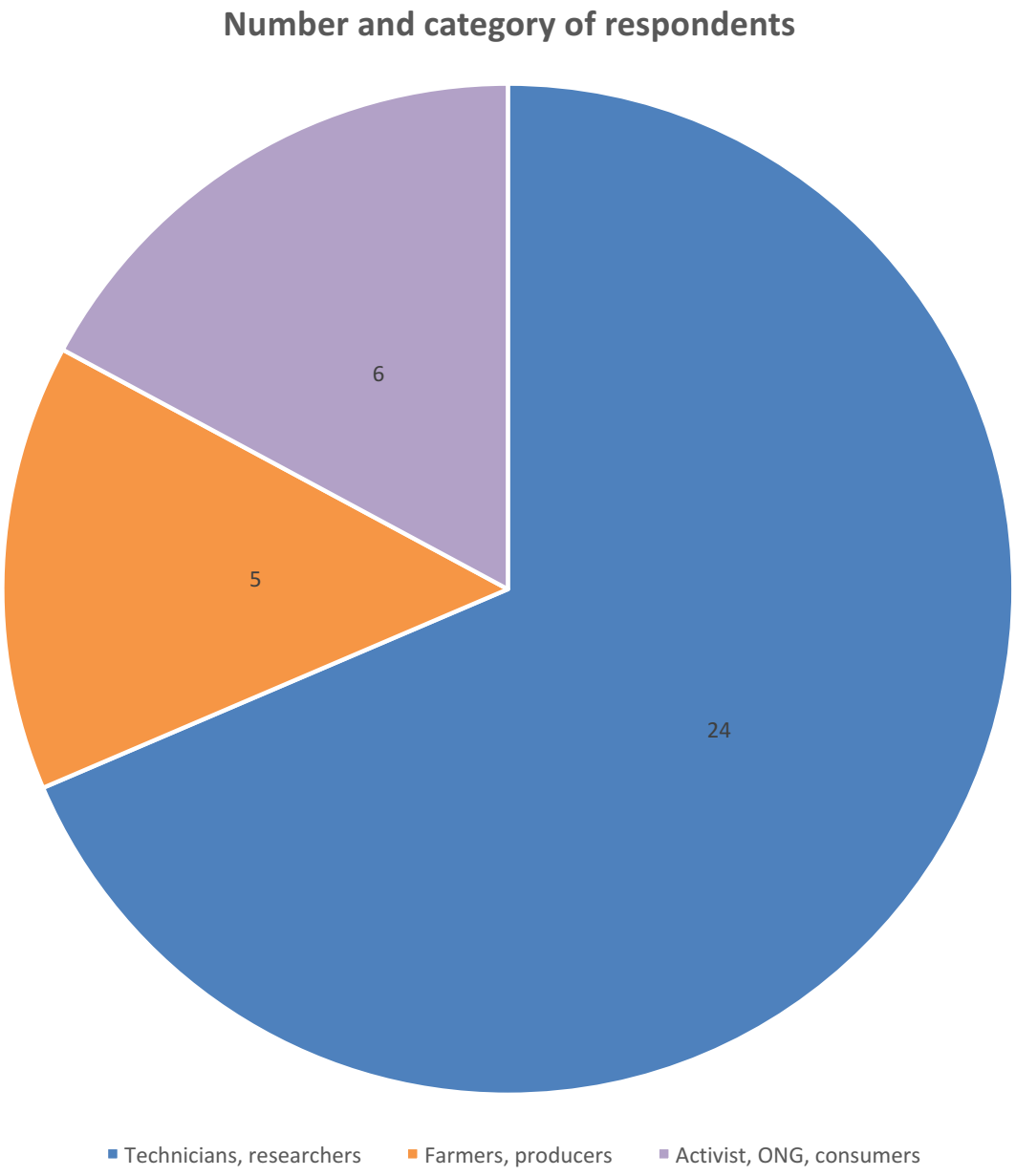
To gather the perception of (35/100):

- ✓ Technicians, researchers
- ✓ Farmers, producers
- ✓ Activist, NGO, consumers

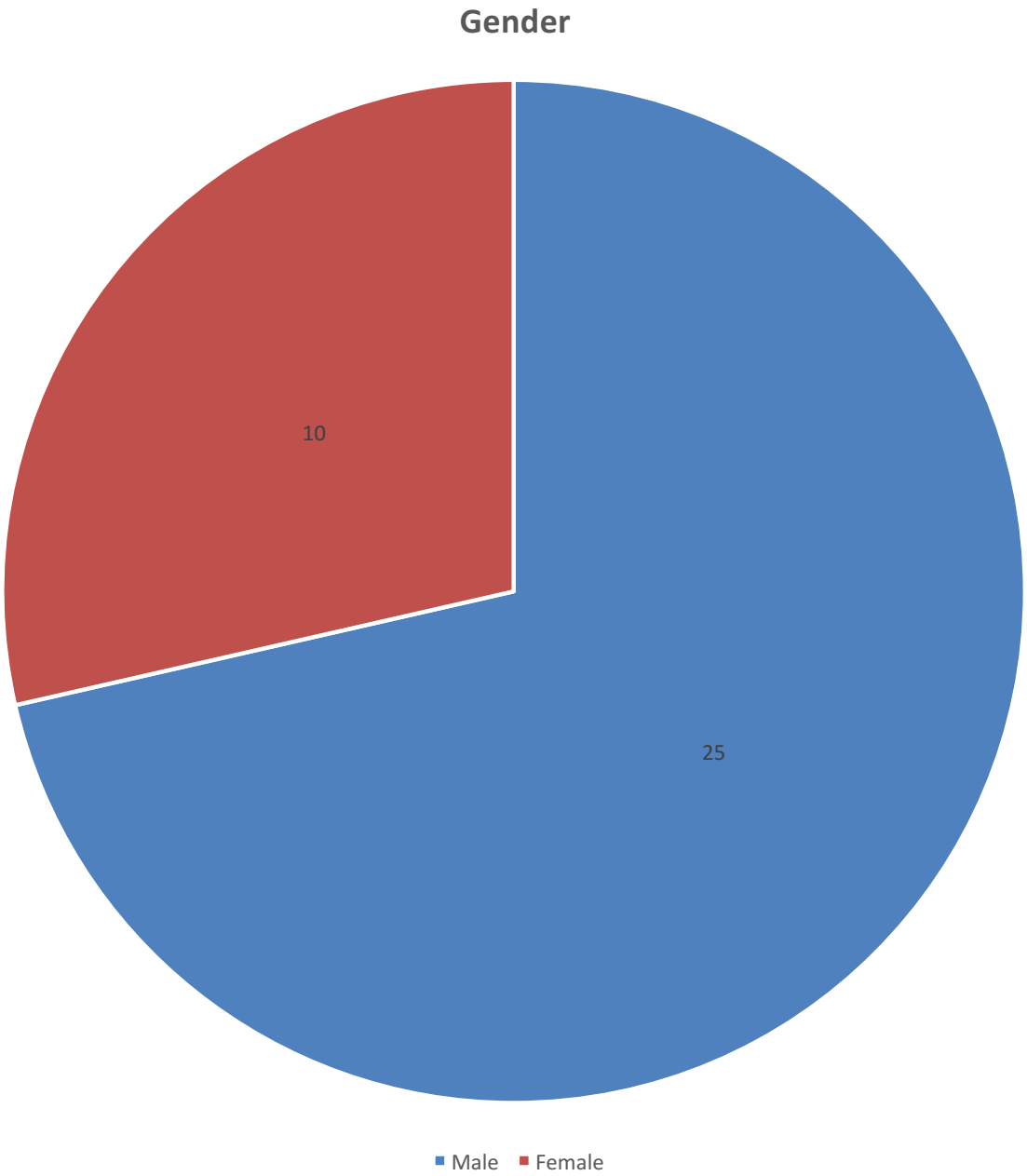
Interview with a structured questionnaire (27 Q) face-to-face and on-line:

1. Actual perception of AE and OA (Q1-Q7)
2. Comprehension (Q8) and personal approach (Q9-Q15)
3. Future expectations (Q16-Q22)
4. General information of respondents (Q23-Q27)

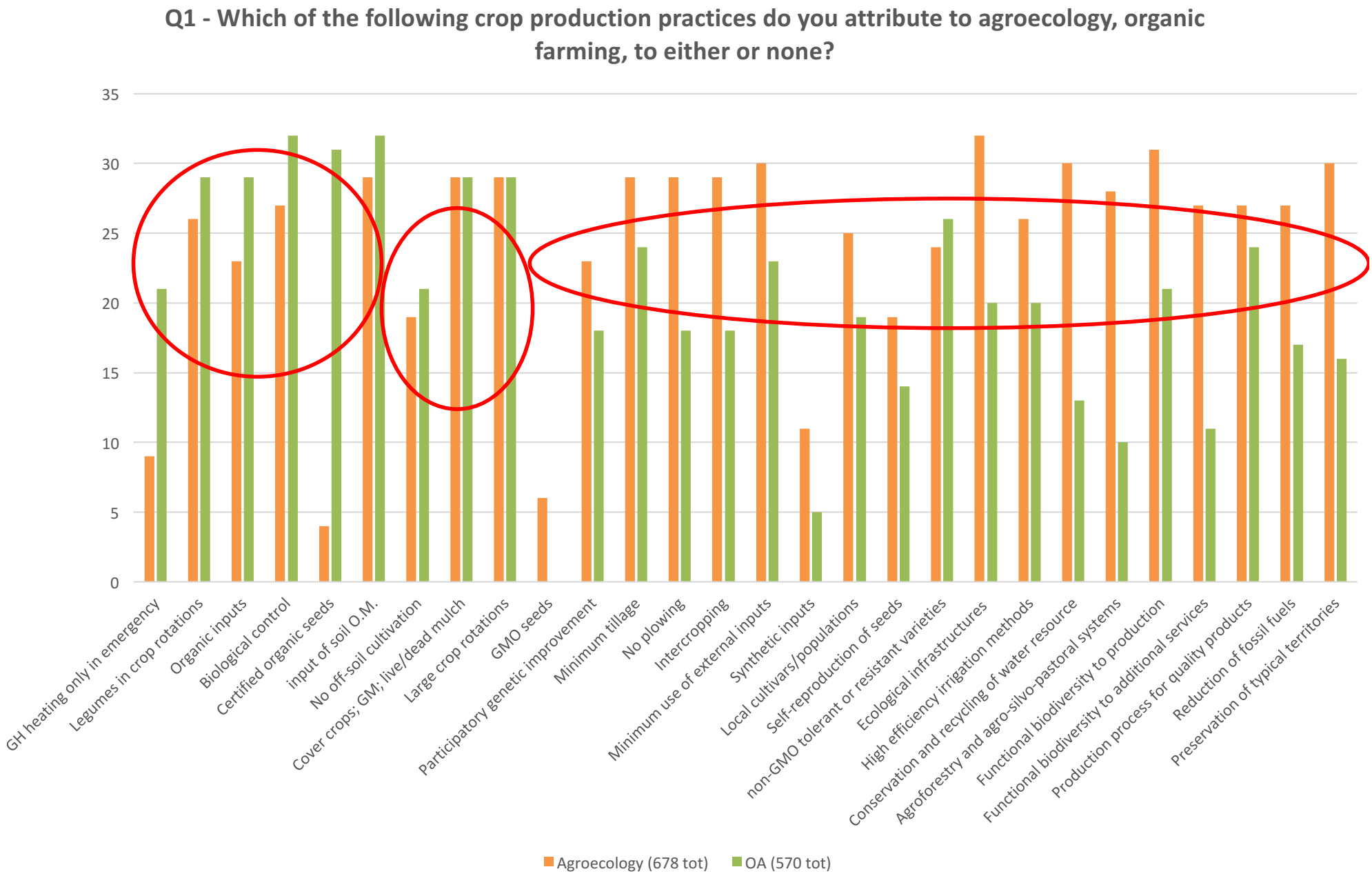
# Results 4: respondents



# Results 4: respondents



# Results 1: Perception



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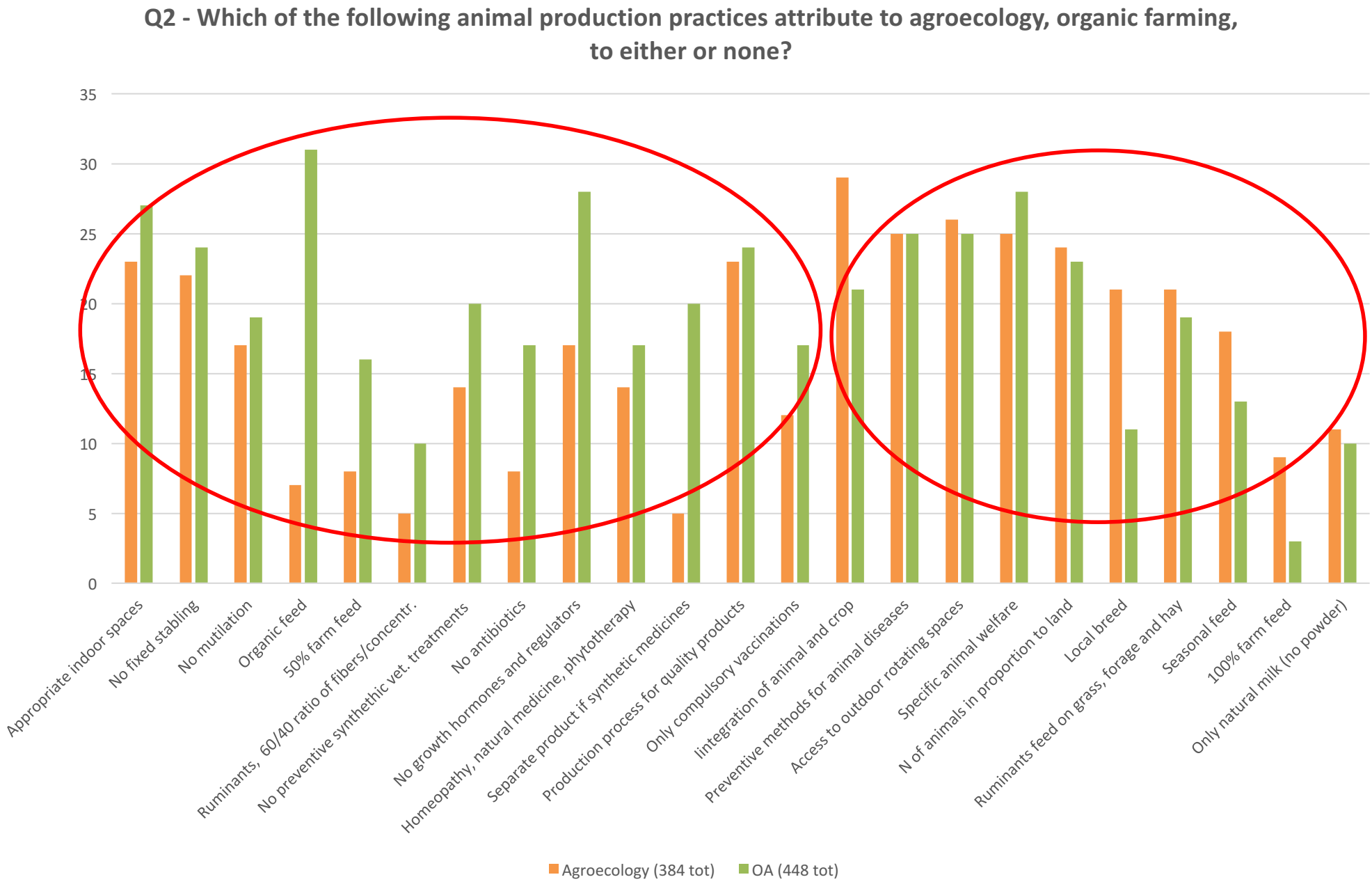

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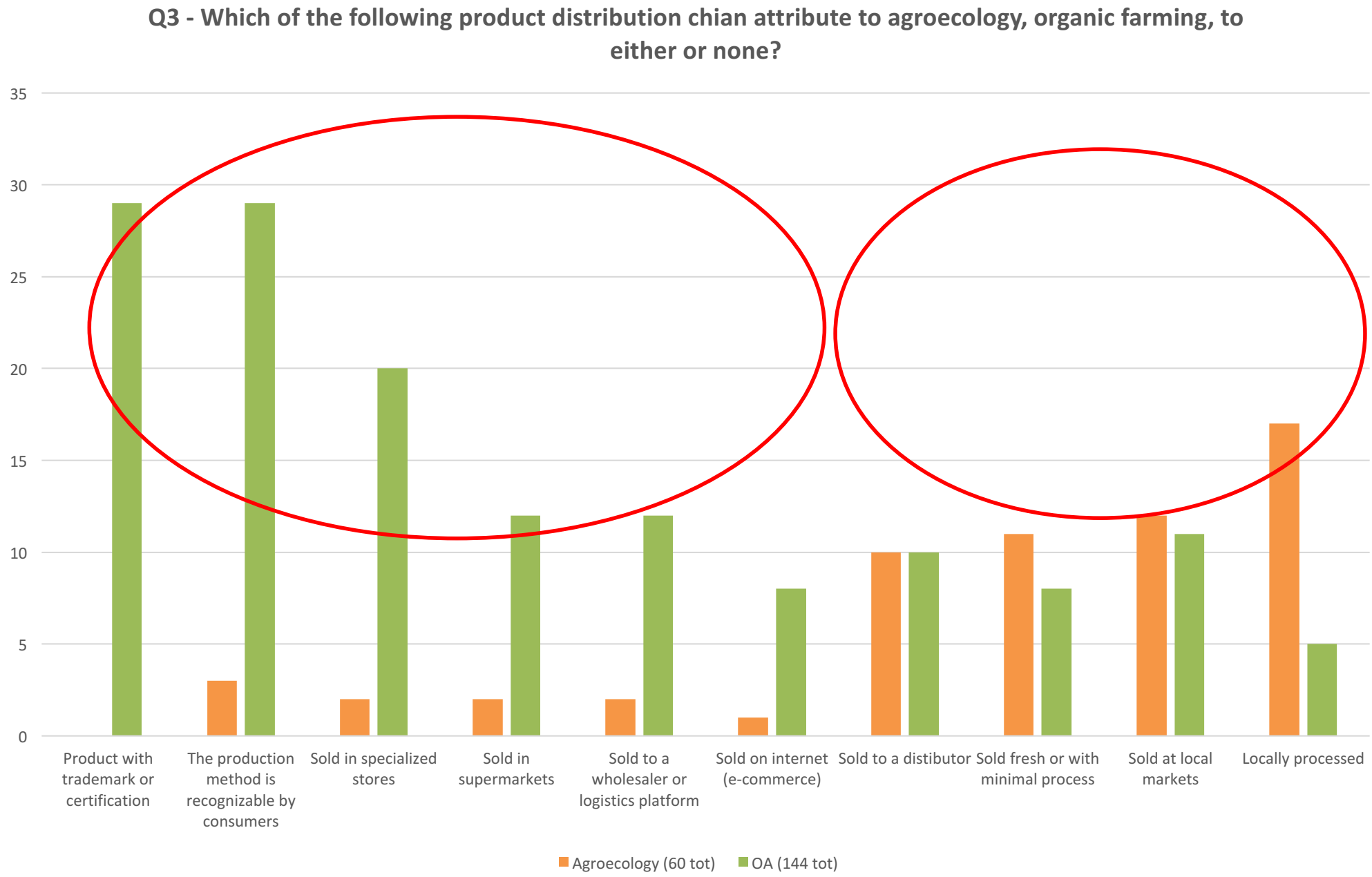


# Results 2: Definition

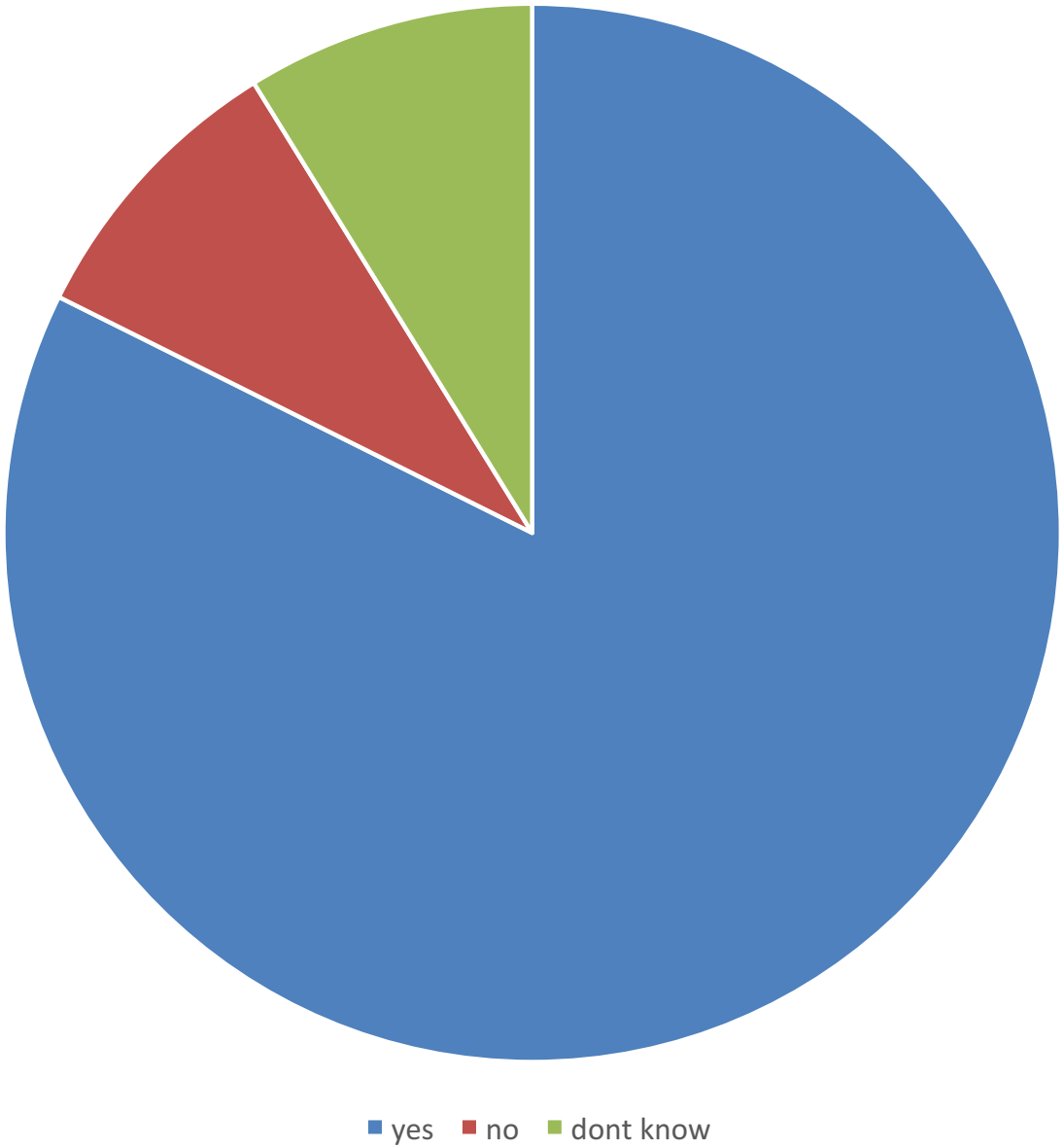
| Organic Agriculture | Agroecology |
|---|---|
| - EU Regulation<br>- IFOAM definition<br>- Minimal use of synthetic product<br>- Ecological sustainable<br>- Input substitution approach<br>- Sustainable production methods<br>- Transition to agroecology | - ??<br>- Include social & political aspects<br>- Ecological relationship<br>- System thinking approach<br>- Systemic vision<br>- Ecology of food systems<br>- Sustainable approach<br>- Food sovereignty<br>- Transformative food system approach |

# Results 3: Future expectations

| Organic Agriculture | Agroecology |
|---|---|
| - Agroecological approach (no input substitution)<br>- Include social aspects<br>- Support for conversion phase<br>- Less burocracy<br>- More secure control system<br>- More flexibility<br>- From control to guarantee system<br>- Only 100% organic land (no parallel conventional)<br>- Organic as mainstream<br>- More selection (niche)<br>- As biodynamic<br>- Training and education<br>- Participatory research | - ??<br>- More precisely defined<br>- Convert principles into practices<br>- More concrete<br>- Recognition for consumers<br>- Labels<br>- No just “another label”<br>- As Biodynamic<br>- No reductionism; no conventionalisation<br>- Cultural & political movement<br>- More networking<br>- Training and education<br>- More (participatory) research and scientific development |

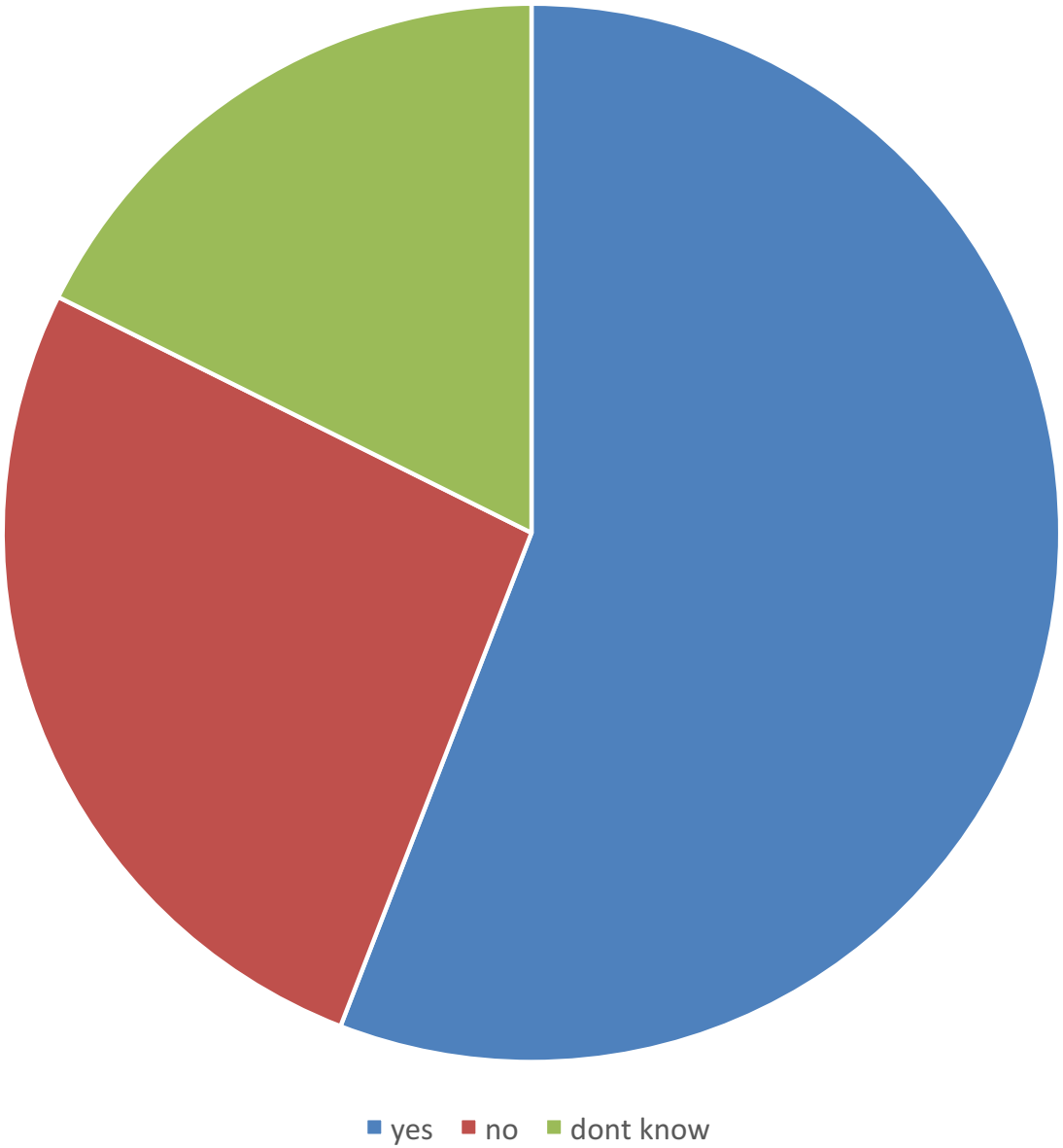
# Results 3: Future expectations

**Q17- Guarantee systems and labels in Organic Agriculture are useful?**



# Results 3: Future expectations

**Q16 - Agroecology has to be guarantee and recognized by the market?**



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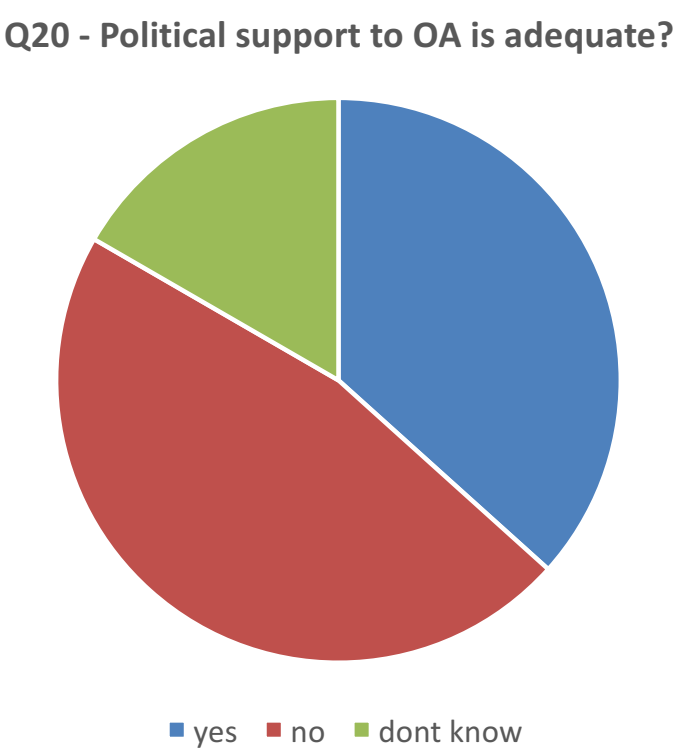
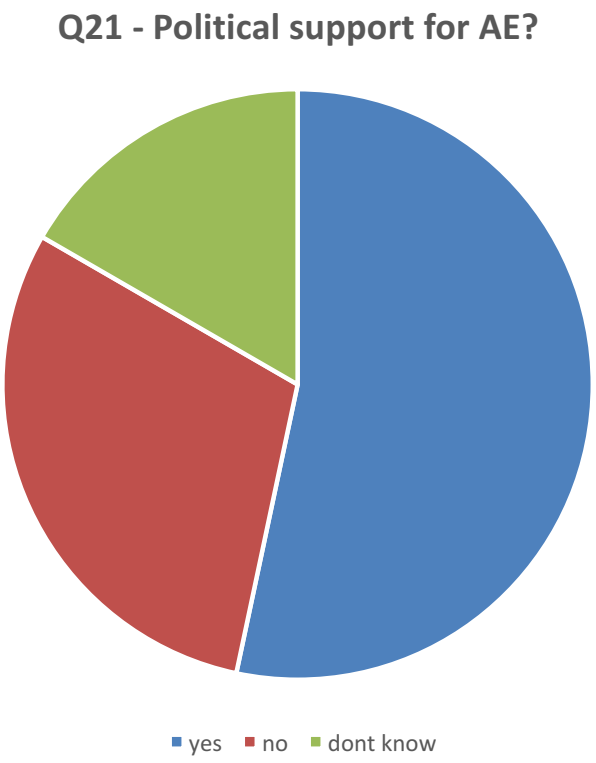


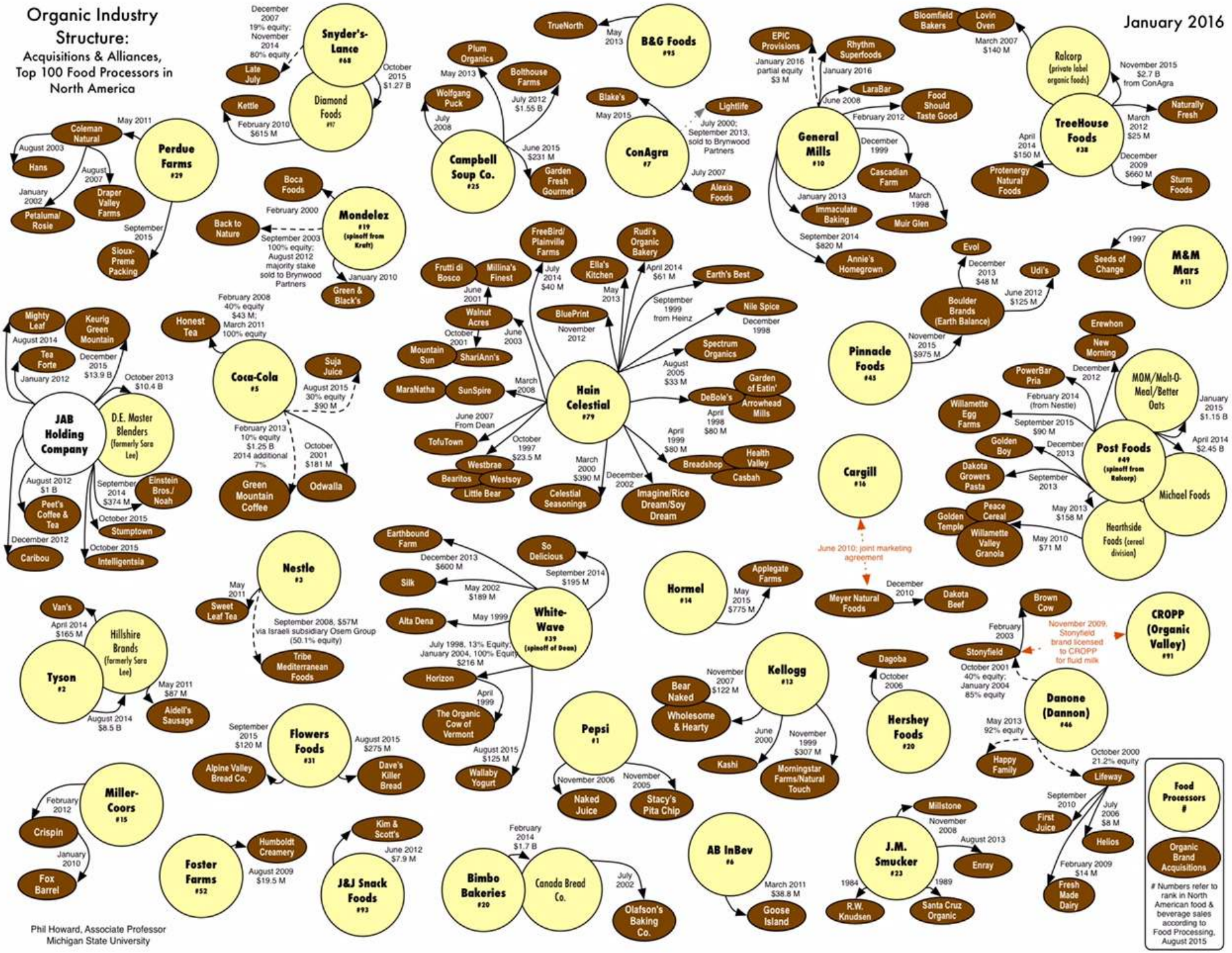
# REGULATIONS
# Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
# of 28 June 2007
# on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91

(1) Organic production is an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards and a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes. The organic production method thus plays a dual societal role, where it on the one hand provides for a specific market responding to a consumer demand for organic products, and on the other hand delivers public goods contributing to the protection of the environment and animal welfare, as well as to rural development.

# Organic Industry Structure:

## Acquisitions & Alliances, Top 100 Food Processors in North America

January 2016




Phil Howard, Associate Professor
Michigan State University

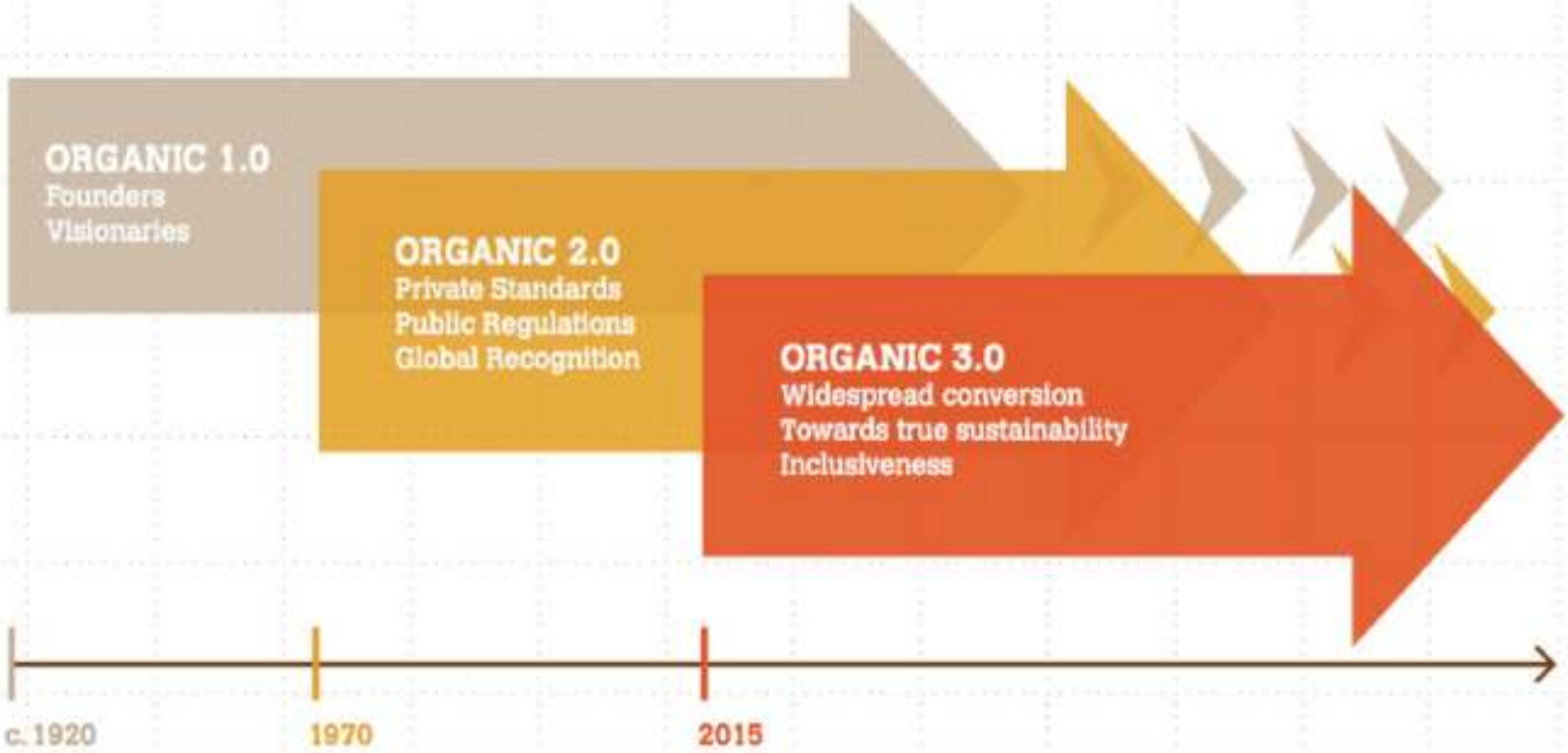
IFOAM

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

IFOAM definition:

"Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved."

# Organic development




1.0 **Organic 1.0** laid out how people can healthily nourish themselves whilst protecting the environment & biodiversity.

2.0 **Organic 2.0** enabled the market for certified organic products to develop and gain a significant foothold in many parts of the world.

3.0 **Organic 3.0** responds to the many challenges and opportunities that call for a fresh impetus. Organic 3.0 food and farming systems are more:

- ✓ Ecologically sound
- ✓ Economically viable
- ✓ Socially just
- ✓ Culturally diverse
- ✓ Transparently accountable

# Best Practice Guideline for Agriculture and Value Chains

***Societal:*** *People live in equality and equity.*

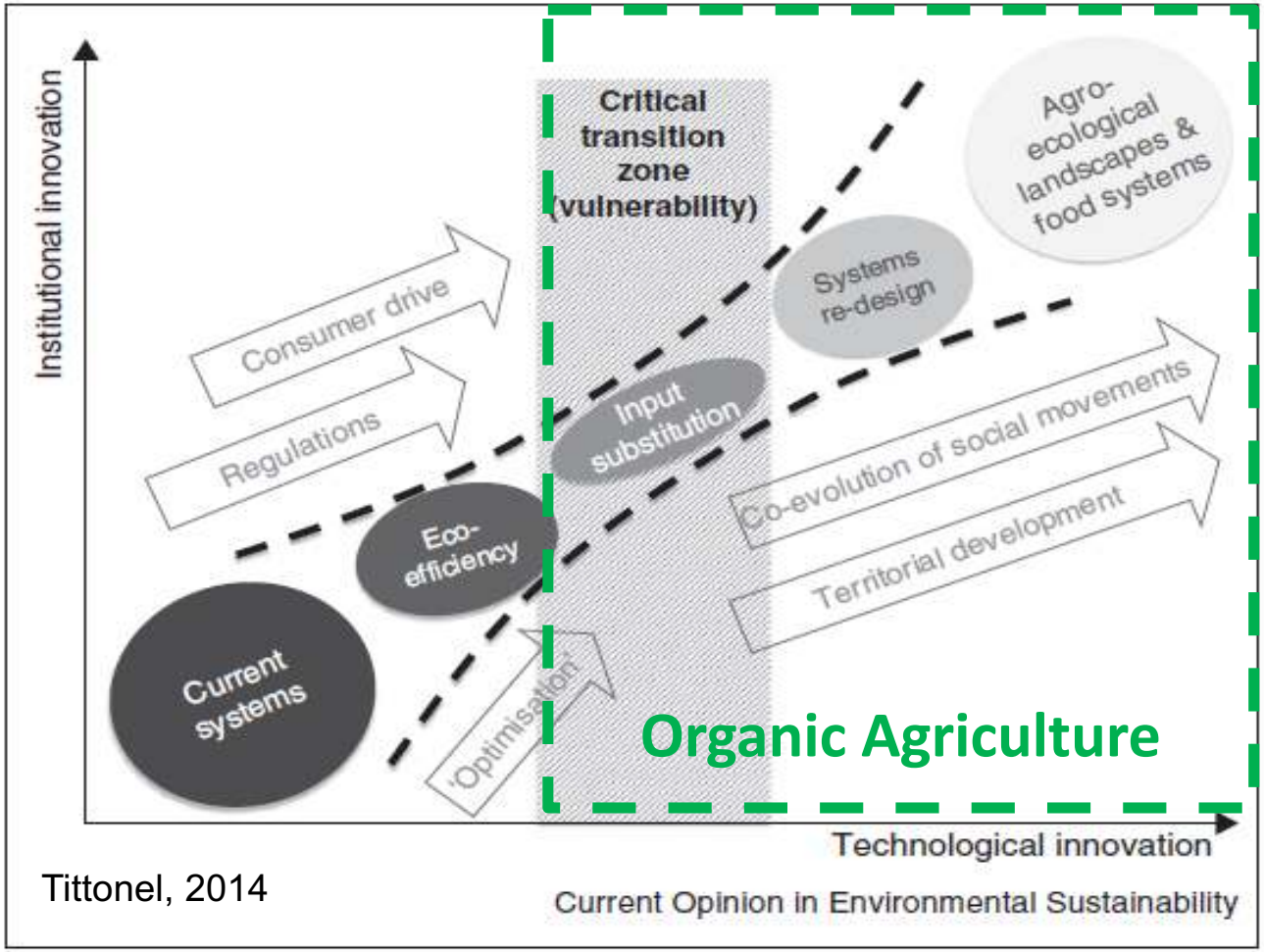
***Ecological:*** *Common resources are used sustainably.*

***Economic:*** *Trading leads to prosperity.*

***Cultural:*** *Inspiration, innovation, leadership, and altruism are enabled. Communities are stable and thrive.*

***Accountability:*** *People are accountable for their actions; actions are taken in a responsible manner; stakeholders are encouraged to participate.*

# Conclusion




Tittonel, 2014

Despite some real or supposed divergences, there is strong convergence between organic farming and agroecology and it is desirable that they work in synergy for the development of truly sustainable food systems contributing to the solution of societal challenges.