AGROECOLOGY EUROPE
FORUM 2023 IN HUNGARY
CONVERGING MOVEMENTS
FOR **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS**
16-18 November 2023
Gyöngyös, Hungary

Challenges and opportunities in self-organized local food provisioning systems

Investigating Scale, Balance, Energy and Solidarity in Food Communities

Workshop 4

Logan Strenchock

Matthew Hayes

José Luis Vicente-Vicente

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Self-organized agroecology-based networks

Insights from experiences in Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany)

José Luis Vicente-Vicente
Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
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FoodSHIFT2030 project

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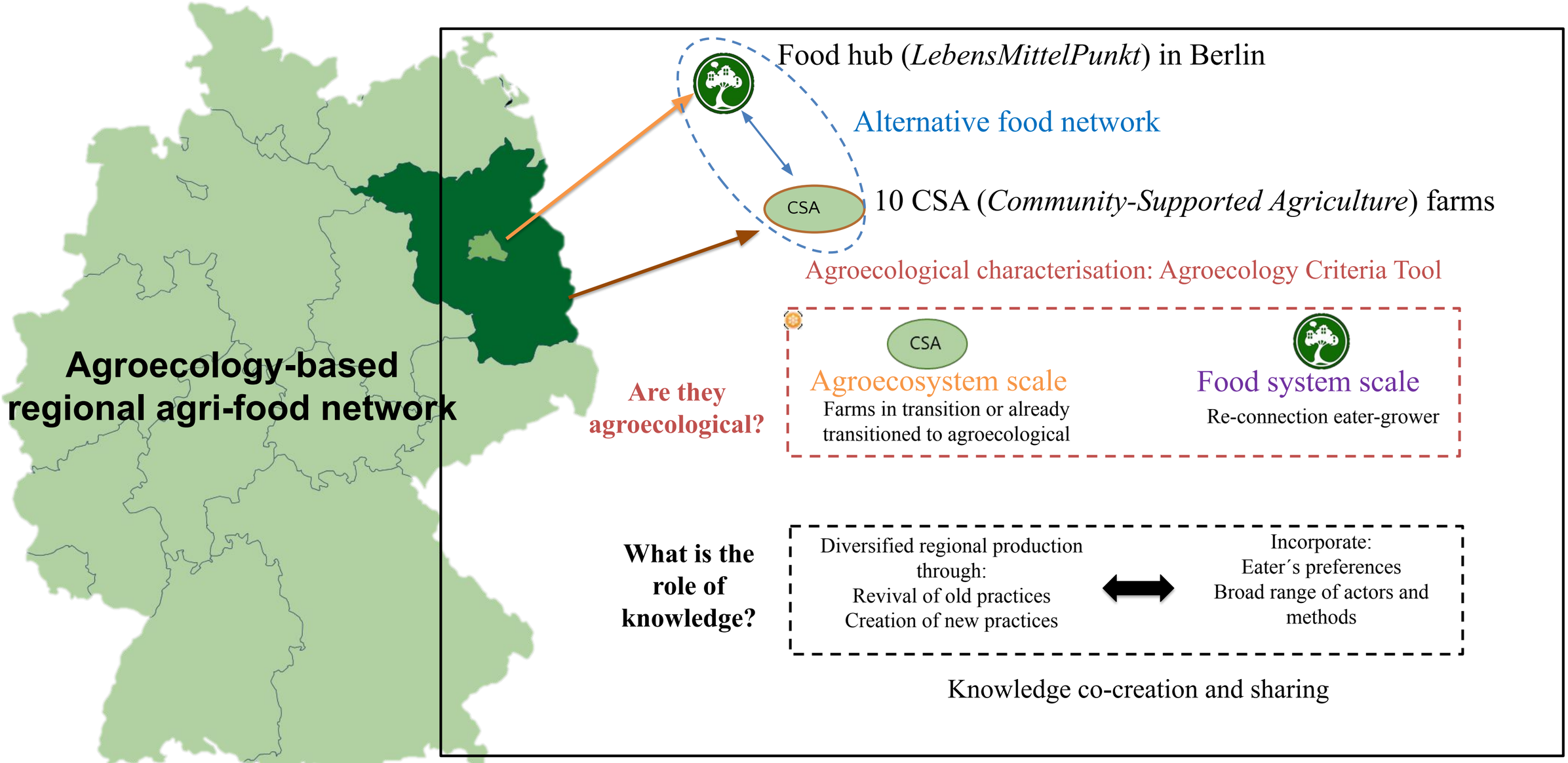
Case study: AFN between a food hub and CSA farms



Degree of self-organization

CSA farms

- Farmer-CSA members (**strong**):
  - Financial security (payments in advance)
  - Fosters diversification and innovations (retro-innovations and new farming practices)
  - Re-connection growers-eaters (“prosumers”)

- Farmer-to-farmer (**weak**):
  - Not so much knowledge exchange.
  - Mostly informal
  - Exception: farms working together to increase diversity of products

AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2023.2187003
Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group
Check for updates

Scaling agroecology for food system transformation in metropolitan areas: Agroecological characterization and role of knowledge in community-supported agriculture farms connected to a food hub in Berlin, Germany

José Luis Vicente-Vicente[a], Julius Borderieux[a], Katrin Martens[a], Manuel González-Rosado[b], and Beatrice Walthall[a,c]

Karolinengarte
Inh.: P. Olschewski
DU WOHNST IN DER NÄHE (REGION) UNSERER ABHOLSTATIONEN
DU HAST LUST REGELMÄßIG REGIONALES & SAISONALES GEMÜSE
VON UNS ZU BEKOMMEN.... WERDE ERNTEANTEILHABER/IN
mehr infos: karolinengarten.de/ernte@karolinengarten.de

SAISONKALENDER
Wann kannst du mit welchem Gemüse rechnen? Saisonalität möchte auch gelernt werden. Und gerade am Anfang ist es gar nicht so selbsterklärend, wann welches Gemüse geerntet wird. Daher hier ein grober Überblick über unsere Hauptkulturen und die jeweilige Ernte – bzw. Lieferperiode.
Januar
Februar
März
April
Mai
Juni
Juli
August
September
Oktober
November
Aubergine / Paprika
Salat, Kopf
Blumenkohl
Bohnen
Brokkoli
Dill / Koriander
Fenchel
Feldsalat / Postelein
Gurken
Johannisbeeren
Kartoffeln
Kohlrabi
Kohl, Rot-, Weiß,- Wirsing
Kürbis
Lauchzwiebeln
Mangold
Möhren
Pastinaken
Petersilienwurzel
Porree, Lauch
Radieschen
Rhabarber
Rote Bete
Rübe
Sauerampfer
Schwarzkohl
Spinat
Tomaten
Zucchini
Zwiebeln

Degree of self-organization

Food hub

- Eaters-activists in the food hubs (**strong**):
  - Through the activities: spaces for picking up the shares from the CSAs, community-dinners, food sharing, workshops, movie screenings…
  - Still a “white” space (not addressing vulnerable people)

- CSA-food hubs (**weak**):
  - The food hub is just a “depot” for the CSA farms.
  - A very urban space. So much room for improvement (e.g. using the food hubs as spaces for farmers to meet, for farmes to find new CSA members, for farmers to discuss with actual CSA members…).
  - Strengthening the CSA-food hub network is key for scaling

Scali

work

d hubs in
in. city

ustainable food
An optimal spatial
dy of food hubs
ne 15-min city
case of
Punkte in Berlin

Walthall[1,2] and

Research (ZALF), Müncheberg, Germany, [2]Division of
of Agricultural Economics, Albrecht Daniel Thaer Institute
Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

neighbourhoods with regional food from
a promising concept for a sustainable food
r, their operationalization and scaling are still
odological approach that, for the first time,
(Berlin) based on a 15-min walking distance
ub-districts as underlying spatial units. We
y and the distance to organic groceries, public
to estimate their most suitable locations. The
tion of 231 FHs covering 91% of the city's
r than 1 km and almost the entire city within
approach to be a meaningful way to plan
from an integrative perspective and to adopt
e local specificities of each neighbourhood.
-based regional FHs in Berlin allows for the
gion food system that increases the resilience
nment. We generally propose a participative
r to realise this process.

lab, regional food system, urban-rural, urban
l suitability

Thank you very much!

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Let's discuss!

3 breakout groups (30 min):

- **Better research to support AFNs (José Luis)**
- **Farmer-to-farmer networks (Logan)**
- **Barriers and challenges of agroecology-based initiatives (Matthew)**

Wrap-up and discussion: How can we consolidate existing agroecology-based AFNs and scale (up, out, deep) them? (30 min)

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Better research to support AFN: Ideas for discussion

- **Role of scientists in the agroecological transition? (overcoming main barriers in scaling the initiatives** (up, out, deep), escape from the „academic system“)
  - Fostering access to knowledge: agro-etnography, platforms and other systems for knowledge exchange, combination of traditional and new available knowledge…
  - Provide evidence on the positive impacts of agroecology-based AFNs

- **Methods, methodologies and approaches: Collaboration between scientists-farmers and other food system‘s actors**
  - Systemic approach
  - Transdisciplinary science
  - Participatory
  - Solution-oriented
  - Inductive
  - Living labs
  - Dialogue of knowledges, etnography, horizontal approach
  - Science(-policy-)society interface