

Enabling transition

Practical approach and issues from a “boundary worker” point of view

Anne-Charlotte Dockès

idele.fr





1- Where do I speak from ?



SOLINSA
Support of Learning and Innovation
Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

idele.fr



The French Livestock Institute : A boundary R&D farmer organisation : *Networking for knowledge and innovation*



idele.fr



SOLINSA

Support of Learning and Innovation
Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

Agricultural Knowledge Systems In Transition :
Towards a more effective and efficient support of Learning
and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

AKS

**Agricultural
Knowledge
System**

LINSA

**Learning and
Innovation
Networks for
Sustainable
Agriculture**

Ideas to make AKS
more supportive to
Linsas and more
innovative

To **understand** what
they are and how they
work : ***Linsas as drivers
to new models***

To identify barriers to
their development and
how to **support** them



2- Some elements for oppening the discussion

idele.fr



Boundary spanning for a challenged led model of innovation

- ▶ **The challenge of a transition to a green economy ... or to “green” farming and food chain systems**
 - ▶ Widely accepted and present in every discourse : political, scientific, advisory ...
 - ▶ ... But behind the shared discourse, still different views, different pathways



Two networks (LINSAs)



- ▶ Shared challenge : rebuild trust after the mad cow disease

100 000 farmers involved, to :

- ❖ Promote the quality of the profession and practices of cattle farmers
- ❖ Fulfill the general society expectations/ communicate
- ❖ Facilitate **incremental changes** in the practices of **most of the French farmers** through a set of requirements

- ▶ Shared challenge : find ecological alternative to mainstream farming models

2000 farmers in 32 groups

Each group builds its program to :

- ❖ *Promote **alternative economic and ecological farming (and food chain) systems***
- ❖ Share knowledge and experience
- ❖ Maintain the balance between social equity, economic efficiency and protection of the environment



Two views of Sustainable Agriculture ?

European and « ecologically intensive » :

- ❖ High level of production and competitiveness
- ❖ Hygiene, animal welfare and environment standards
- ❖ Supported by:
 - Mainstream farmer organisations
 - Consumer associations
 - Main food chain

- **Alternative and green**
 - ❖ Lower level of production
 - ❖ High quality schemes (DPO ...)
 - ❖ Extensive and low input systems
 - ❖ Free range and grassland systems
 - ❖ Direct or local food chains
 - ❖ Supported by :
 - Alternative farmer organisations
 - Citizen NGOs
 - Local food chains



Two pathways towards, "Sustainable Agriculture"

Intensity of change



idele.fr

*The radical pathway:
A niche which challenges the regime*



Alternative Sustainable Agriculture

Eco-Intensive Sustainable Agriculture

*The Incremental pathway:
Progressively adapt the regime*



Nb of farmers



Two hidden strategies ???

A way to avoid
real changes
??

A way to
remain
different
??



Consequences for boundary workers or “system integrators”

- ▶ Support and facilitate innovation in each kind of networks on its own pathway and logic ?
- ▶ Chose and promote a pathway ?
- ▶ Facilitate boundary spanning an “cross fertilisation” between networks and views.
- ▶ Need of new hybrid institutions? More of new skills and activities in existing institutions.



Thanks for listening!



idele

