

A decorative graphic of yellow stars of varying sizes, arranged in a semi-circular pattern on the left side of the slide.

Overview of the FarmPath Project

A small icon of a brown tractor with a green wheel.

Lee-Ann Sutherland
FarmPath Project Co-ordinator



Overview



- The FarmPath team
- Project Overview
 - ➔ Multi-level perspective on transition
 - ➔ Project activities
- Project findings
 - ➔ Introduction to the posters
 - ➔ Introduction to the parallel sessions
- What impact can policy have?
- Further information



Wind farm under construction.
David C. Smith

The FarmPath Team

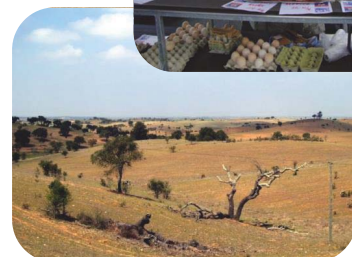


3

History



- Call: FP7-KBBE-2010-4 (2009)
- Assessment of transition pathways to sustainable agriculture and social and technological innovation needs
- 'sister' project to Solinsa
- March 2011 to May 2014
- 9 partners from across Europe
- Total Budget: ~€2 million



4

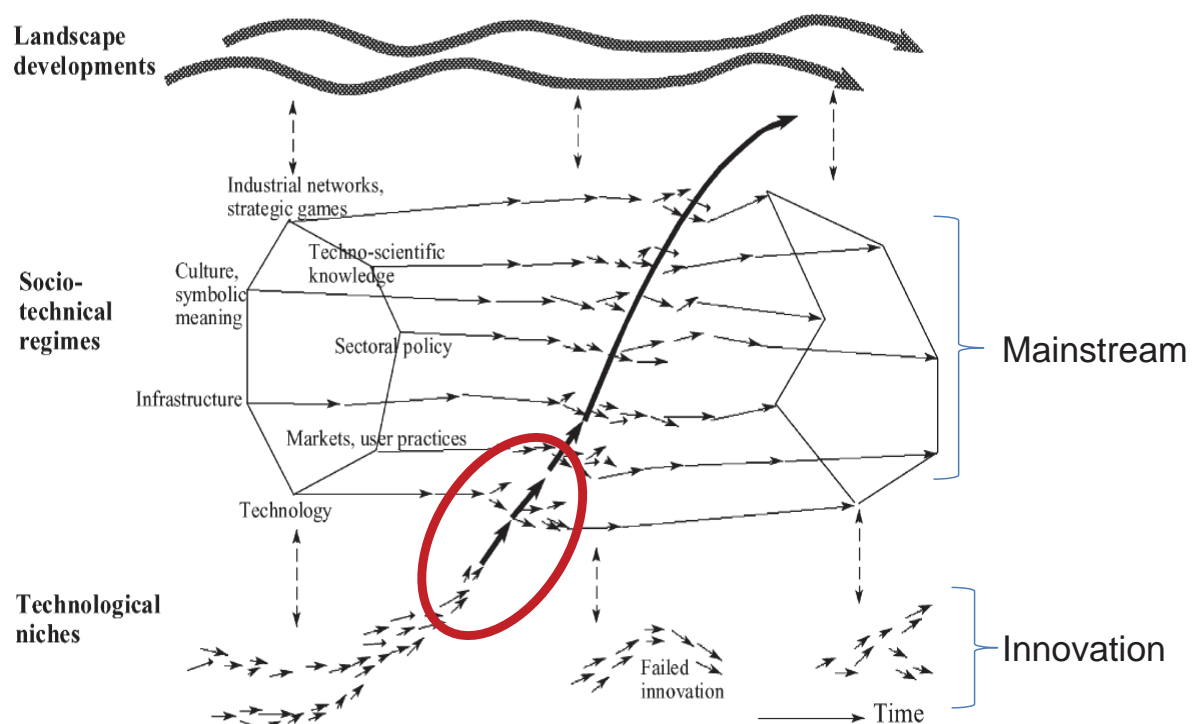
FarmPath Overview



- In **FarmPath**, we propose that increasing **sustainability** of agriculture is best addressed by enabling flexible combinations of farming models, which vary to reflect the specific opportunity sets embedded in **regional** culture, agricultural capability, diversification potential, ecology and historic ownership and governance structures.
- Major activities:
 - ➔ study of 21 regional sustainability case studies
 - ➔ co-construction regional transition pathways
- Sub-focus on **new entrants and young farmers**

5

Multi-phase change



(Source: Geels, 2002:1263)

On-Farm Renewable Energy



- Cases: German, Czech and UK cases
 - ➔ Opportunity for farm diversification and rural development
 - ➔ Substantial policy supports
 - ➔ Creates competition with commercial companies for agricultural resources
 - ➔ Public protest
- Need 'joined up' **agri-renewables strategies**



Biogas plant on Sasov Farm, Czechia

P2

Alternative Agri-food Networks



- Cases: France, Czechia, Greece
- Multiple sources of innovation
 - ➔ Initiated by consumers, producers and wine makers
- Importance of networks
- Active young people
- Aim to remain alternative
 - ➔ Not to scale up
 - ➔ Importance of autonomy



Pilsen, Czechia

P4

Collaboration in Farming



- Cases: Germany, Portugal, Scotland (UK)
- Collaboration as foundational to innovation
- Different 'types' of collaboration at different phases:
 - ➔ 'team' interpersonal collaboration at the start of niche development
 - ➔ vertical collaboration to anchor and mainstream the niche innovation
- Social capital – transaction costs



P9

Lifestyle farming



- Cases: Bulgaria, Portugal, Scotland (UK)
- A form of 'countryside consumption' by landowners
- Can perform important rural functions
 - ➔ Environmental objectives
 - ➔ Addressing land abandonment
 - ➔ Rare breed preservation
- 'Unseen farmers'
 - ➔ Limited policy recognition
 - ➔ New entrants - innovation
 - ➔ Disconnected from AKIS



Highland cow on a lifestyle property in Aberdeenshire

P10

Local Certification Schemes



- Cases: Czechia, Bulgaria, Greece
- 'Retro-innovations' and 'smart specialisation' at local and regional level
 - ➔ Benefit from 'outside' stakeholder assistance
- Networking and governance support can help
 - ➔ 5 to 10 years before governance changes show results



Local products in Czechia (above) and Greece (below)



11

P12

Environmental Public Goods



- Cases Greece, Bulgaria, Portugal, France Germany
- Environmental initiatives including High Nature Value Farming
- Top down versus bottom up
 - ➔ Success dependent on integration between levels
- Young people as important actors



Besparskari Hills, Bulgaria



Montado landscape, Portugal

P13

12

FarmPath Regional Visioning



- Identification of regional visions:
 - ➔ Production and productivism
 - ➔ Landscape and environment
 - ➔ Rural values and lifestyle
- Three primary pathways:
 - ➔ Innovation in farming
 - ➔ Maintenance or re-emergence of farming activities
 - ➔ New concepts of farming, farmers and rural areas
- Very different ways of achieving these aims



Stakeholders in Bulgaria

Session and P6

13

Young farmers and new entrants



- Challenge of assessing using available statistics
 - ➔ Recent Eurostat analysis of young and elder farmers in member states
- Young farmers = new entrants?
- Relative engagement of YF and NE in innovations
- Visions of and for young farmers
- Policies to support YF and NE



Session

14

Policy needs



- Policy can have a big impact on **anchoring** of innovations
 - ➔ Price supports and LEADER
 - ➔ Leadership development
 - ➔ Horizontal and vertical networking skill development
 - But:
 - ➔ Need for cross-sectoral policies
 - ➔ Scaling up isn't always the goal
 - ➔ Innovation isn't always from the young
 - ➔ New entrants disconnected from AKIS
 - ➔ Draw on regional level distinctiveness
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15

Further information



- www.farmpath.eu
 - Information available today
 - ➔ Policy Brief
 - ➔ Regional Sustainability of Agriculture Handbook
 - ➔ 7 information notes in 7 languages
 - ➔ Posters and parallel sessions
 - Forthcoming book: “Transition Pathways Towards Sustainability in Agriculture: Case Studies from Europe (CABI, 2014)
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16