



# FarmPath

## Farming Transitions: Pathways Towards Regional Sustainability of Agriculture in Europe

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# History

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- Call: FP7-KBBE-2010-4 (2009)
- Assessment of transition pathways to sustainable agriculture and social and technological innovation needs
- March 2011 – February 2014
- Total Budget: ~€2 million

# Consortium Members

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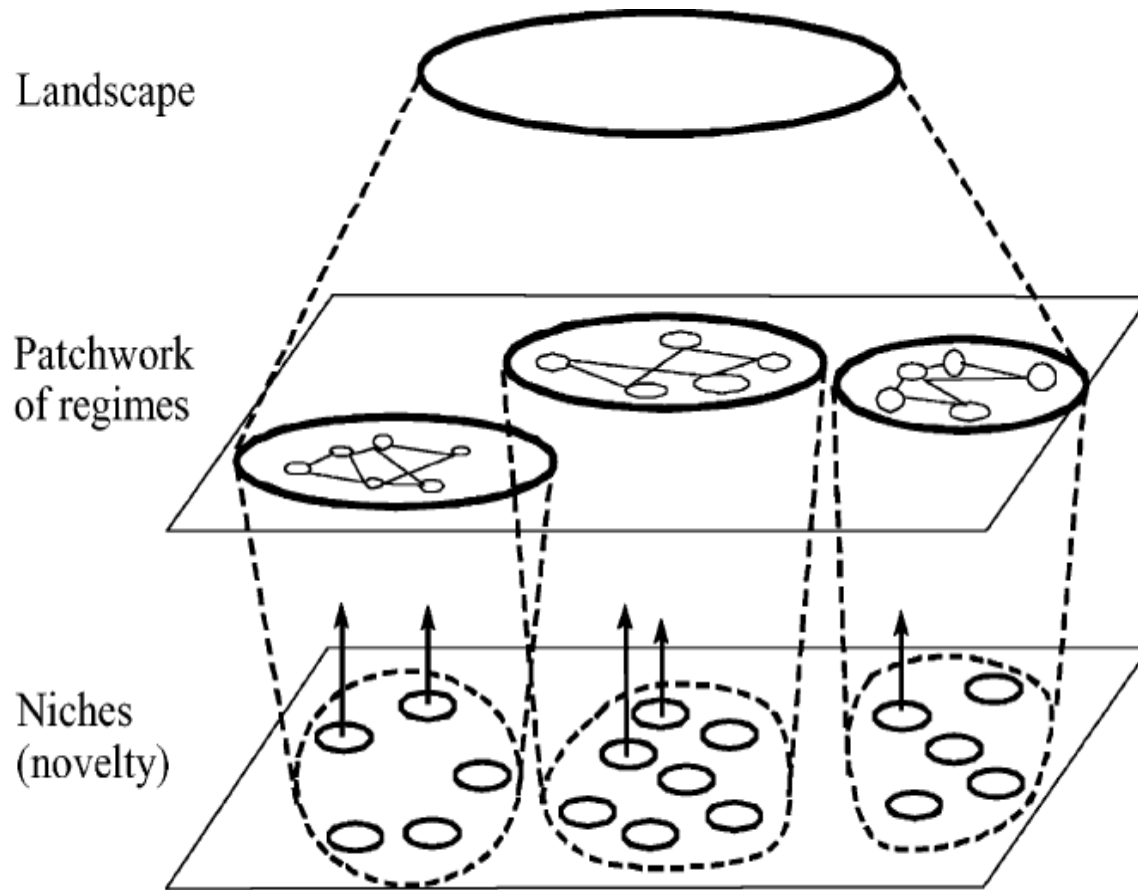
- Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Scotland, UK
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna
- Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
- University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria
- Institute for Rural Development Research, Germany
- Czech Agricultural University of Prague, Czech Republic
- University of Evora, Portugal
- Institute for Life, Food and Horticultural Sciences and Landscaping, Rennes, France
- University of Plymouth, UK

# The FarmPath Concept

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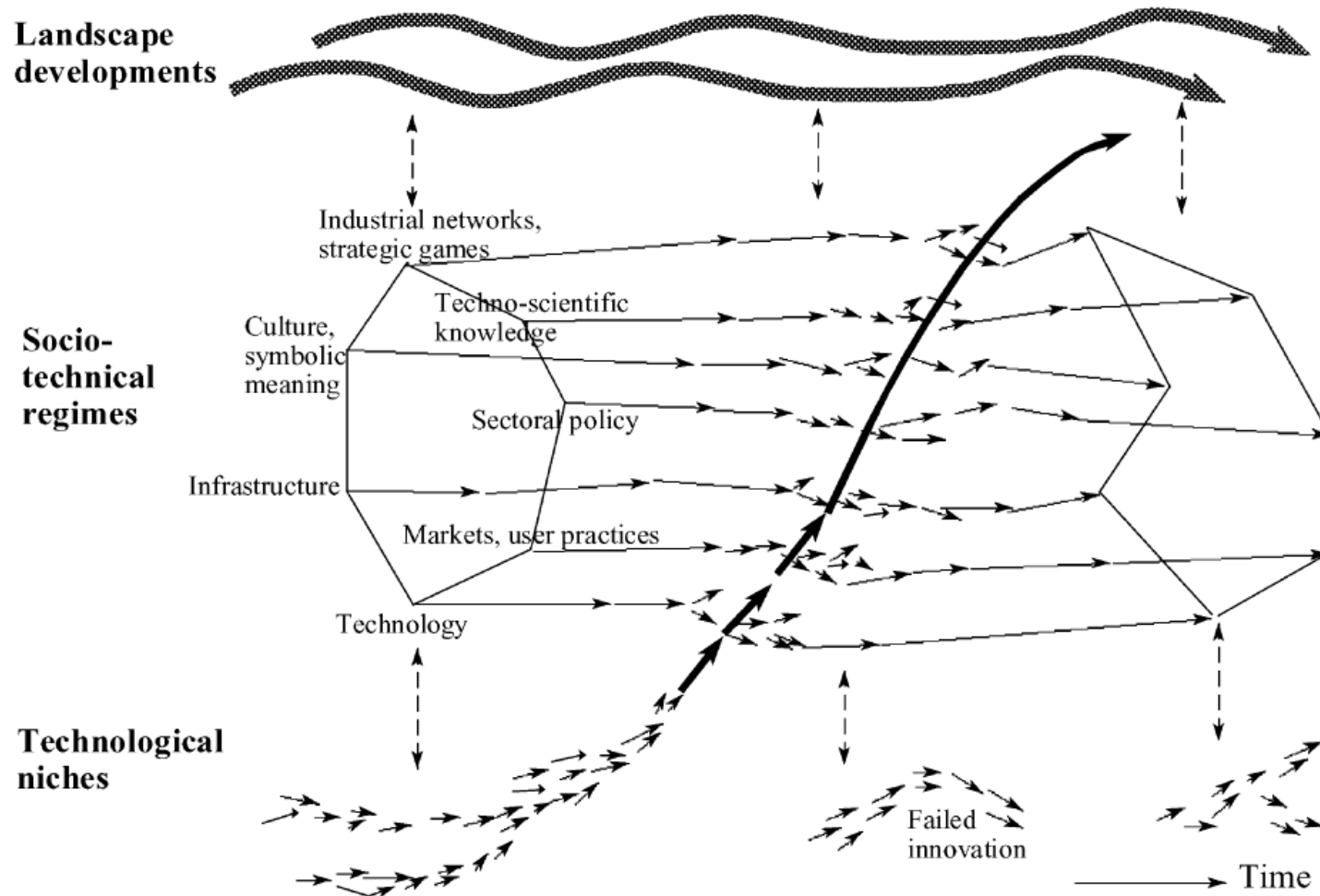
In FarmPath, we propose that increasing **sustainability** of agriculture is best addressed by enabling flexible combinations of farming models, which vary to reflect the specific opportunity sets embedded in **regional** culture, agricultural capability, diversification potential, ecology and historic ownership and governance structures.

# Multi-level: functional scales



(Source: Geels, 2002:1261)

# Multi-phase change



(Source: Geels, 2002:1263)

# Aim and Objectives

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The overall goal of FarmPath is to identify and assess future transition pathways towards regional sustainability of agriculture in Europe, and the social and technological innovation needs required to initiate and progress along these pathways.

- 1) To improve our understanding of transition processes in European agriculture
  - *Integrating transition management literature with agri-food regimes, farming systems and farm-level transition studies*

# Objectives (continued)

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- 2) To provide an in-depth analysis of 7 to 10 types of farming models and initiatives, through 21 case studies in 7 European states
  - *selected with stakeholders and an international advisory group*
  - *Must be having an impact at regional level*
  
- 3) To assess future transition pathways for sustainable agriculture through the development and operationalisation of the concept of 'regional sustainability of agriculture'.
  - *Through scenario development exercises in 14 regions*



# Objectives (continued)

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- 4) To identify mechanisms to provide viable models for young farmers, through an analysis of the engagement of young people in initiatives, evaluating the issues, preferences and challenges (including gender) facing young people in agriculture at local, regional, national and European levels.
  - *Specific sub-focus on young people and their issues*
- 5) To develop evidence-based policy recommendations at farming system, regional, national and EU levels for identifying and pursuing future transition pathways and social and technological innovation needs.

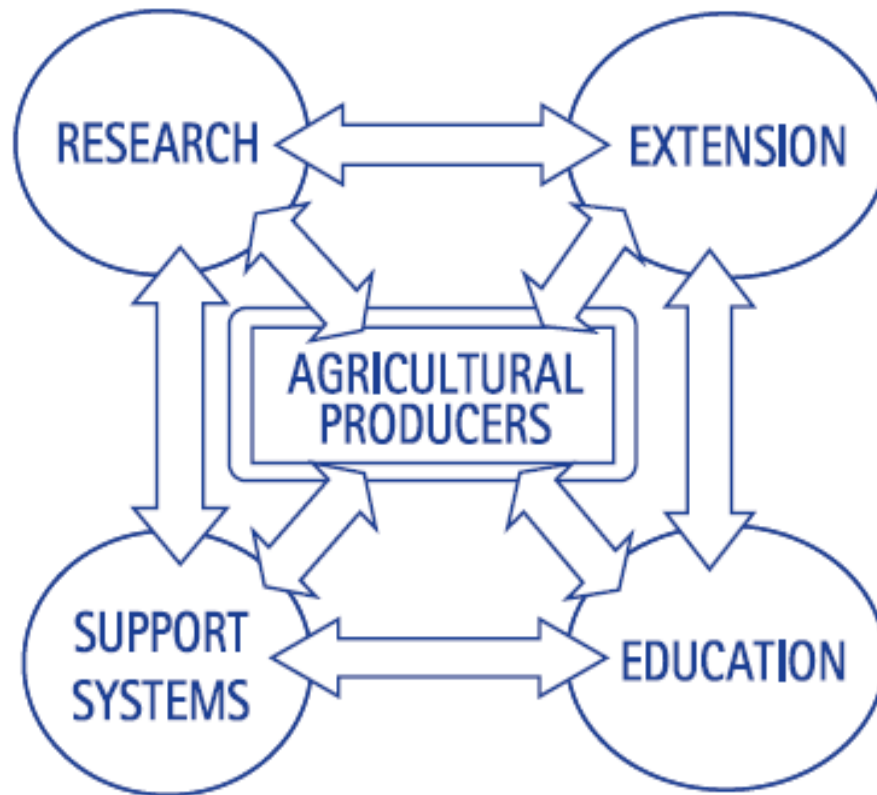
# Objectives (continued)

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- 6) To initiate a network of regional level stakeholders and organizations involved in transition processes in agriculture and to further equip, enable and consolidate it.
  - *transdisciplinary research approach*
  
- 7) To provide resources for policymakers, academics and other stakeholders in order to develop their understanding and enable pursuit of transition towards regional sustainability of agriculture in their own efforts and organisations.
  - *concrete resources: handbook and academic book*

# Implications for AKIS

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# Transdisciplinary Research in AKIS

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- Mode 2 science is still at ‘niche innovation’ phase
  - Institutionalisation of Mode 1 science in academia
    - Funding transdisciplinary research
    - Publications and establishing standards
    - Reskilling and re-culturing scientists
  - Relevance for ‘stakeholders’
    - Working along the production and consumption chains
    - Disconnect with extensionists
    - Science policy link

# FarmPath issues and AKIS

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- Regional knowledge systems?
  - Facilitated through this type of process?
  - Orienting research regionally?
  - Skilling extensionists in that region's priorities?
  - How do you equip for resilience?
- What will our 'initiatives' tell us?
  - Integrating 'alternative' with mainstream agricultural trajectories
  - Trade-offs

# FarmPath issues and AKIS

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Young people and knowledge systems?

- Green or machine?
- The network society

What will our scenarios tell us?

Potential for regional policy development?

Follow our progress on [www.farmpath.eu](http://www.farmpath.eu)

# Reference

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- Geels, Frank. (2002). Technological transitions as evolutionary reconfiguration processes: A multi-level perspective and a case-study. *Research Policy* 31(8-9): 1257-1274.
- Dockès, Anne-Charlotte, Talis Tisenkopfs, Bettina Bock. 2010. WP1 : Reflection paper on AKIS . Collaborative Working Group Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems.