Characterize and support Sustainable Adaptations in Territorial Forestry systems

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**Context** — The forestry sector, as well as most western European rural areas, is currently undergoing significant transformations due to a combination of political, environmental, economic and societal upheavals. Facing these original circumstances, the various actors and stakeholders organize themselves to tackle new challenges. Those adaptations should take into account the imperative of sustainability and be in conjunction with the demand for re-localization of development tools (circular economy and endogenous development renewal).

**Objectives** — The SATIsFor project is intended as a way to develop an integrated approach drawing on several disciplines, such as geography, economics and engineering science. It aims at understanding how the forestry sector copes with its functional restructuring and adaptation processes, with the two-fold objective of insuring forestry-wood businesses relocation and local sustainable development.

**Approach** — We develop an interdisciplinary framework to analyze the reorganization of economic, social and institutional practices. Our approach is drawn upon a multiscale perspective (from national to individual scales) though we choose to focus on the territorial level, considered as the most relevant scale to study actors’ interrelations and sense of space. This work takes place in both north-eastern France and western Switzerland and will provide the research group with qualitative data. During the first part of the project we conducted an extensive series of interviews and took part in participant observation situations with the forestry sector professionals and territorial projects leaders, both at territorial and national levels. The collected data bring new elements that facilitates a better...
understanding of the forestry sector as part of a territorial system. Furthermore, part of the results are now used in other knowledge transfer projects such as TIGA “Des Hommes et des Arbres, les racines de demain”.

Key results —

- Our results demonstrate the relevance at enriching the traditional functionalist approach to the forestry sector with evidences as to the importance of actors’ structuring networks and proximities.
- As shown in previous studies conducted within the field of resources economics and by the economists of the GREMI, we highlight new forms of forest and wood resources dynamics, mainly focused on territorial value-chains and circular economy.
- We design an analytical framework to study the forestry sector-territory socio-spatial forms of combination. We show that those territorial forestry systems are privileged places for action, innovation and private and public sectors synergies.
- We analyse the joint processes of territorialisation and greening within the forestry sector and more specifically the way they interact and the questions it rises.

Main conclusions including key points of discussion — Through the diversity of adaptations and innovations analysed in our study cases, we show that the forests and the timber they produce are a vector for the expression of territorial and ecological values (products origin, traditions, landscapes, knowledge, sustainability). On that basis, an adequate association of stakeholders is a prerequisite to make territories assets relevant factors for forest and wood resources valorisation. Those alternative and innovative production systems may lay the foundations to initiate further local and ecological transitions. In the end the question is not whether the alternative systems will become increasingly widespread, but to what extent they will be subject to rejection or integration by the dominant model.

Future perspectives — The Territories of innovation program “Des Hommes et des Arbres, les racines de demain”, backed by Grand Nancy Métropole, will allow putting into operation part of our results through collaborations with UMR Beta and Epinal local authorities. In the same time, the whole SATISFOR project will continue to be valorized through publication in peer-reviewed journals, participation in international conferences and the defense of a PhD thesis in 2020 (Jonathan Lenglet). The SATIsFor project also initiated a positive dynamic within the UMR Silva which today leads its participants towards new projects, deepening the approach developed over the last two years (Ademe S’EnTET project, Ademe public policy “AMI Dynamic Bois” assessment).

Valorisation —

Article


Book chapter

Lenglet, J. « Dépasser le clivage filière-territoire dans le secteur forestier : une analyse par les dynamiques des ressources et des proximités », in Houdart, M., Lardon, S., Diversité des applications de l’itinéraire méthodologique de recherche (à paraître).
Conference


Lenglet, J. (2018), « Rethinking the forestry sector through territorial dynamics. Transition pathways to innovation in mid-mountain regions (Vosges, Jura) », LabEx ITEM 3rd International Winter School, Monte Carasso, 6 avril 2018.


Seminar


Diffusion


Lenglet, J. Interview pour le bureau d’étude Wood’Up, 18 juin 2018. En ligne : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsM6ma39128


Enseignements. Participation et organisation de divers enseignements de niveau master et ingénieur en relation avec le projet SATIsFor (AgroParisTech, Université de Lorraine, Université Paris 1).