

洋春氏（本学経済学部教授）からは、「市場の自由化と農業 - TPP をめぐる問題と日本農業」というテーマで日本の農業を巡る状況について報告してもらった。

当日は主催者の予想を上回る参加者が来場し、活発な議論が展開された。

本稿では、紙面の関係からメインスピーカーの Pierre Marie Bosc 氏と Jean Michel Sourisseau 氏の講演録を掲載する。

Insights from the HLPE Report "Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security"

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Before presenting some elements of the Report, we will introduce HLPE. HLPE stands for High Level Panel of Experts. It is a recent body within the complex international governance of food security that was created as a product of the 2009 UN World Committee on Food Security (CFS) reform. Here, two points need to be underlined.

First, the reform opened the CFS to civil society: representatives of farmers' organizations, NGOs as well as to private sector representatives now are part of the discussions that before were restricted to representatives of the UN member countries. The discussions held within CFS include now participation of civil society organizations and private sector.

Second point, the reform set up a mechanism to produce up to date reports on controversial issues on agriculture and food security having in mind the growing importance of such mechanisms as IPCC to produce an "independent" expertise. This mechanism is the HLPE organized through three levels:

A steering committee of internationally recognized scientists chosen by an international working group

A secretariat coordinates the Reports "life cycle" starting right from the demands of CFS up to their formal presentation during the CFS meetings mid October. During this week, a text based of the Reports' recommendations is published and endorsed by CFS.

International teams of experts, covering a wide range of disciplines dealing with the issue under scrutiny, are selected every year to prepare the Reports (two per year).

Several points to mention here, that give a specific flavor and originality to these reports.

Experts in the steering committee or within the expert teams do not represent their institution, they are free to express their views, provided these views are solidly grounded in up to date research or expertise works.

The scope of the studies as well as a preliminary version are subject to contributions and open review through the web, by all stakeholders willing to and not only the CFS members.

Reports are based on a “state of the art” of scientific achievements but are clearly “policy oriented” and the target is “food and nutrition security”. These reports help the CFS to produce recommendations that governments and stakeholders are to use to feed their policy discussions and decisions.

Then, last feature is the collective nature of these reports endorsed by “HLPE” as the product of a collective process, open to civil society, and not by the individual members of HLPE, neither from the Steering Committee nor by the team members.

Eight reports have been produced since HLPE started working late 2010 / 2011 and two are currently being prepared. They are freely available under the sixth languages of UN. And this specific report is also available in Japanese thanks to the implication of several colleagues among which Mrs Kae Sekine, a member of the expert team¹⁾.

CFS request

Now, let's present some key points from our Report, starting with elements from the CFS request to HLPE:

“Constraints to smallholder investment in agriculture in different contexts with policy options for addressing these constraints.

Comparative assessment of strategies for linking smallholders to food value chains in national and regional markets.

What can be learned from different experiences, as well as an assessment of the impacts on smallholders of public-private as well as farmer cooperative-private and private-private partnerships?”

1) Our team represents a diversity of disciplines, expertise and geographical origins, with Mrs Linxiu Zhang from China, Mrs Kae Sekine from Japan together with Mamadou Goita from Mali, Jan Douwe van der Ploeg from the Netherlands, Julio Berdegue from Chile and Pierre Marie Bosc from France.

The objective was to come up with policy recommendations to achieve food and nutrition security regarding the constraints faced by smallholders to invest in agriculture taking into account the issue of “market” integration within the current debate of public private partnerships.

Our collective choices

We had two team meetings and our first step was to define a common understanding of the issue to frame collective choices to address it in our case we had five: (i) the family nature of smallholder agriculture and a specific consideration of labor (ii) the market issues (iii) the risks and (iv) other levels of investments to be considered as key levers to boost agricultural investments at farm level. The fifth one is different since it refers to the geographical scope of the study: we unanimously decided that the issue was a worldwide issue and not restricted to developing countries. The future of smallholder agriculture regarding the achievement of food and nutrition security is also a concern for “developed countries”. These choices challenge the conventional vision on agricultural transformation.

The family nature of smallholding agriculture

Considering family farming has two main implications:

The domestic side of the farm is the basic support of the economic activities of the farm which are not only those oriented to the market

The area farmed is not the sole asset social and human capital also play a key role as well as the set of income generating activities that can be developed outside the farm

In fact the smallholders themselves are the main investors in agriculture and they do it mostly by relying on their family labor and cooperation with other smallholders [see SOFA (FAO, 2012)]. And this is especially true all over the world when considering management of natural resource and the increase in productivity that comes from a better management of water in the landscapes.

The markets issue

On markets, we adopted the following positions. Smallholders are clearly part of the market economy and no need to linking them to markets: they already heavily contribute to local, regional and international markets. The issue here is more on how to improve the poor conditions in which they participate to those markets, including the labor market.

We also considered that “non market production” is also a strategic element, for

instance self provision of food and informal exchanges are key advantages for smallholder agriculture and the society considered globally. The “non market production” is not a “backward” behavior when food and nutrition security is the target. Historically, self provision of food and market integration have always been intimately linked and specialization is a strategy that refers only to a minority of smallholder and family farmers around the world.

And finally, we highlight the importance of diversifying domestic markets and reinforcing self provision of food as strategic complementary options for smallholder agriculture.

The risk issue

Investment in agriculture by smallholders is limited for two main reasons:

Limited access to affordable credit to increase productive assets

High level of risk that affect both the domestic and the productive sides of the farm.

The inter related risks can be considered as systemic (production, marketing, and domestic), so any impact on the domestic budget (health expenses, social obligations,) will reduce the capacity to invest in agriculture.

Investing beyond the farm level

The conditions for smallholders to invest also require investments outside the farm and outside agriculture:

Individual investments are made possible through organizations, institutions and policies. These policies are not limited to agriculture: for instance **the provision of basic public goods including social protection [see (HLPE, 2012)] or support to diversification activities ;**

Individual investments are made possible if farmers are correctly rewarded from their efforts and hence **if markets function in an efficient way** : markets also need investments.

The national level as the adequate policy level

As HLPE reports are policy oriented, we came up with recommendations to address the adequate policy level which is the national level. Due to the diversity of patterns regarding agricultural transformation, solutions and policies need to be tailored and defined at national level small farms are part of an evolving landscape and there is no reason to consider that their sole future should be to disappear.

The following charts [Graphic 1] illustrate the diversity of evolutionary

patterns:

The bars represent the number of holdings

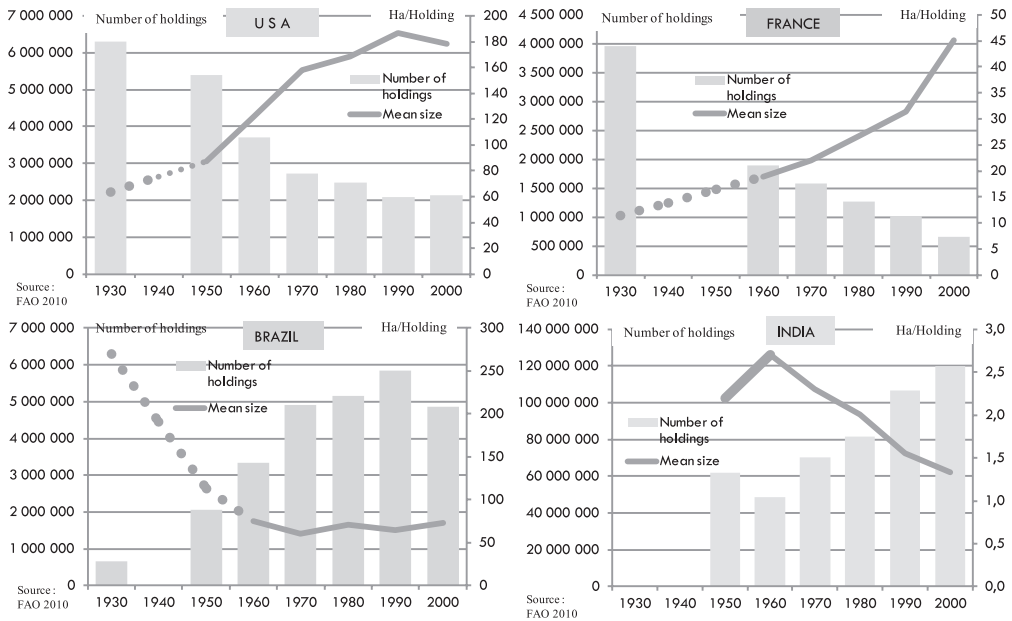
The curves represent the average size of holdings

There is not a single pathway and contrasted patterns is the norm

Comparing France and the USA: the reduction in the number of farms has been sharper in France than in the USA

India is an example for the decline in holding size as well as in the capacity of these holding to implement agricultural “revolutions”: for cereals, for oil seeds (the yellow one) and for the milk (the white one).

There is no obstacle for smallholders farms to be part of these changes.



Graphic 1 : Evolution patterns of the number of agricultural holdings and average holding sizes in four major agricultural countries (HLPE, 2013).

This is important as at world level small size is the norm: 85% of holdings are below 2 ha and 95% are below 5 ha and the vast majority of them are in Asia. But, this is also true for EU where small farms below 10ha account for 80% of the number of farms: what should be their future? Leave agriculture or should we find the adequate policies for these farmers to be part of diversified territorial dynamics?

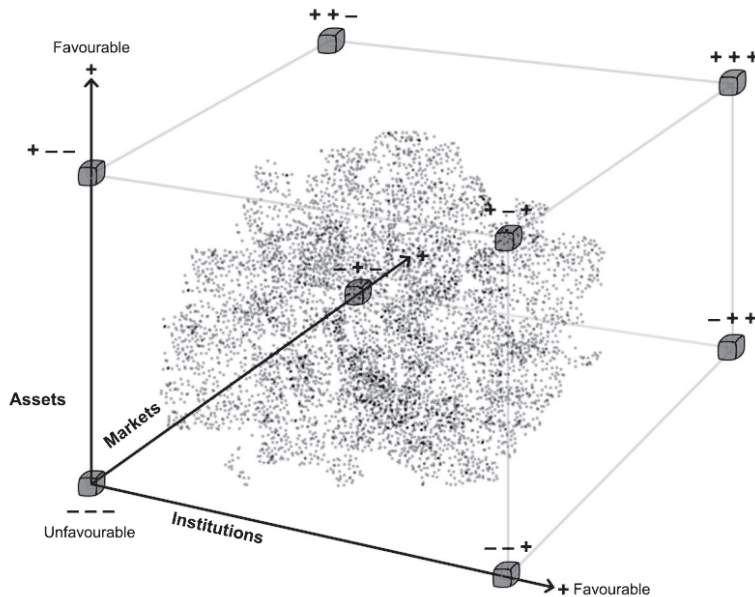
We argue in the report that these smallholder farms have a strong significance and a potential for inclusive growth, employment and food security, they play a social role as safety nets and they are fully parts of territorial dynamics.

Regarding the issue of risks we made an attempt to represent 'the universe of the risks' faced by smallholder farmers along three lines that put emphasis on the role of institutions and policies:

The combination of risks threatens the level of assets of the farms ranging from poor to high;

Poorly functioning markets limit reward to farmers and hence limit investment capacity;

Poor institutions reduce the capacity to withstand the risks, limit access to assets and can induce specific risks.



Graphic 2: Representing the complex universe of risks faced by smallholders

This representation allows us to focus on **the “institution” dimension** in which we include policies, challenging the conventional wisdom of a deterministic view on smallholder farms that should necessarily disappear.

Policies shape the transformation process, and if we can imagine alternative policies there is no need to necessarily eliminate smallholder farming.

We will just summarize how we structured our recommendations (for more details, one can refer to the report) :

Investment in the different types of assets is key: not only the size of the farm matter

Investing in collective action support, in rules and regulations, in development

strategies building is key to improve the level of investment at farm level.

When it comes to market, we argue to invest jointly and in a coordinated way along three lines:

Infrastructure to improve market access;

Improving market agents efficiency;

Setting up rules and regulations and strengthening smallholder collective action for their enforcement.

Due to the family nature of smallholder agriculture and given the linkages between productive assets, family patrimony and labor as the main asset, we consider that all public investment that reduce the pressure on the domestic budget is an incentive for smallholder to invest.

We stress that smallholder agriculture is clearly part of the solution to achieve food security both at regional and world levels

This requires policies which key words are: coordination of multi sectoral policies, rights and citizenships since in many countries smallholders are not even part of the society as citizens.

And I would conclude with the words of Pr Swaminathan, the former chair of HLPE Steering committee who calls in the preface of our report for a New Deal for smallholder farmers:

“To sum up, the report calls for a new deal for smallholders. Smallholders constitute the majority of farm families in the world and their contributions to household, national and global food security are monumental. 2014 has been declared by the UN as the International Year of Family Farming. I should emphasize that a smallholding offers great opportunities for sustainable intensification. To reveal the potential of smallholdings, we must enable small farmers to overcome constraints to investments. I hope this report will be helpful for every nation to extend to smallholders a new deal comprising the following five components:

conservation and enhancement of soil health ;

sustainable management of all water sources and launching a “more crop and income per drop of water” movement ;

extending appropriate technologies and inputs

providing the needed credit and insurance

ensuring assured and remunerative marketing opportunities.

All these programmes should be engendered, in order to ensure that the support systems that women farmers need, such as creches and day care centres, as well as access to credit, insurance, technology and market, are provided”.

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A Future Strategy for Sustainability of Family Farming Lessons from Cirad reviews

Jean Michel Sourisseau, Jean François Belieres, Philippe Bonnal, Bruno Losch, Jacques Marzin (Cirad ES, ART Dev) and Pierre Marie Bosc (Cirad ES, MOISA)

First of all, I would like to thank Kae Sekine and all the people in charge of the organization of this event. It's an honor and a pleasure to be here and I hope this is the beginning of an interesting collaboration.

Cirad, my institution, works in tropical developing countries. This will be the focus of my presentation, even if most of the time, it concerns FF from a global point of view.

The conventional development pathway

Mainstream thought about development documents and promotes a quite unique and historical development pathway, assuming the link between agriculture modernization and development.

It looks like a caricature, but it's the way it is presented in recent publications from institutions like IFPRI and in the last issue of “World Development” revue. For a lot of researchers and decision makers' development is a process that can be summarized in 6 points:

1. A diversification of national economies, from a primary sector based economy to a structurally diversified economy