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THE MULTIFUNCTIONALITY OF AGRICULTURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW MARKET DEMANDS

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Content

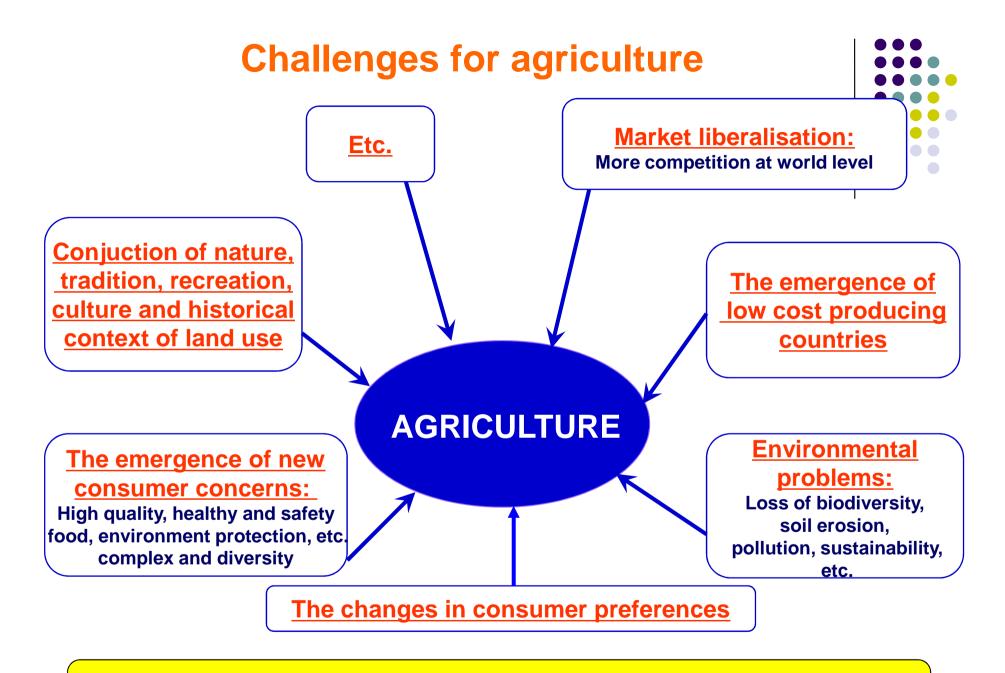


Introduction

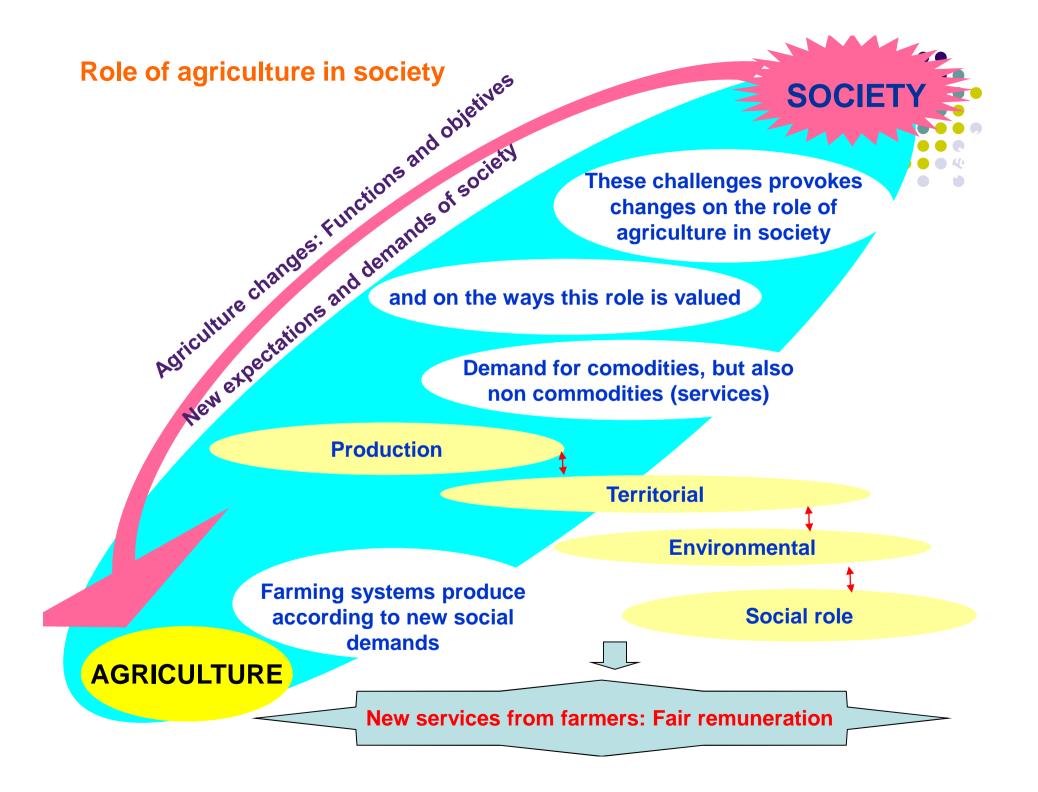
Multifunctionality of agriculture: relevance on society and market demands

Multifunctionality of organic (greenhouse) horticulture: examples and options

Conclusion



Rural areas: "Productive" and "Consumptive"



Multifunctionality of agriculture



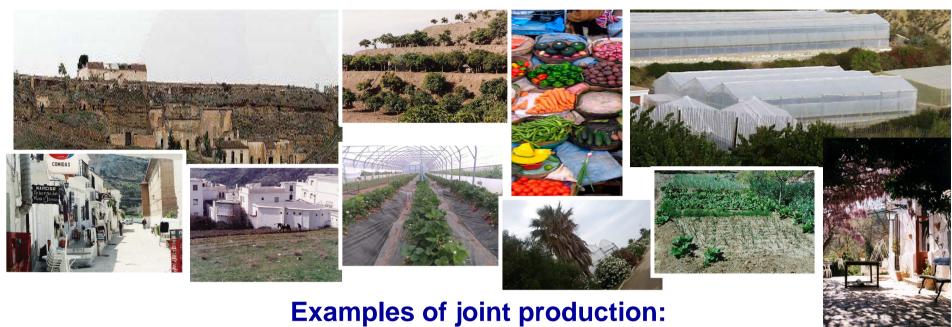
I. The existence of multiple outputs that are jointly produced:

Goods and services that can be sold in the existing market:

COMMODITY OUTPUTS (MARKETABLE)

Those that are supplied without any monetary compensation for farmers:

NON-COMMODITY OUTPUTS: (NON-MARKETABLE)



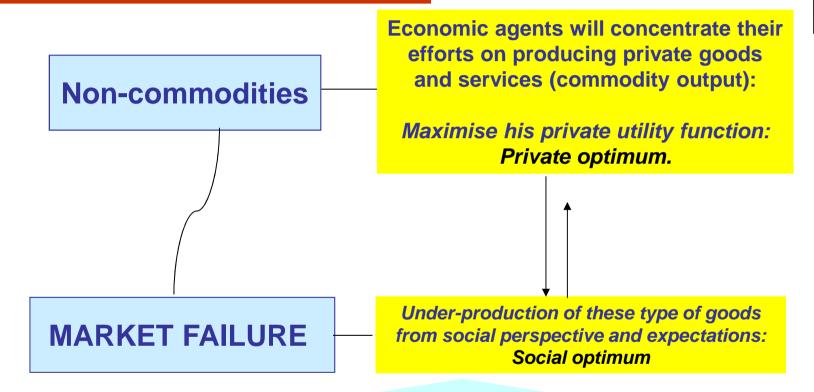
Commodities (e.g.: horticultural products) and non-commodities (e.g.: landscape: may depend on farming systems; biodiversity: may depend on level of fertilisation; environmental protection: e.g.: soil erosion protection; maintenance of rural population, local cultural and knowledge, patrimony; agro-tourism; etc.



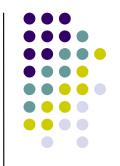
Multifunctionality of agriculture



II. The risk of *market failure*

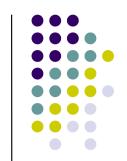


Although, these non-commodities do not have a monetary value and no compensation is paid for producing them, these nevertheless, have a strong significant impacts on the overall social welfare and clearly increases the welfare citizens.



Multifunctionality of organic (greenhouse) horticulture: examples and options

Functions generated by organic (greenhouse) horticulture for society



Economic function

O(G)H can adequately address, through its economic functions, consumer demands towards:

Examples:

- High quality organic horticultural products
- High nutritional values
- Safety and healthy products
- Supply organic horticultural products over a longer time period of the year. Therefore, consumer have the opportunities to eat healthy of season
- Allow some direct marketing initiatives and short commercial channels.
- Etc.

Functions generated by organic (greenhouse) horticulture for society

Environmental function

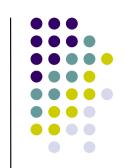
O(G)H has a clear environmental function and meets the expectations of society regarding:

Examples:

- Environmental protection
- Greater biodiversity
- Natural resources conservation
- Less soil and water pollution,
- Minimise impact in soil and water
- Maintain and improve soil fertility
- Higher soil biological activities
- Less carbon dioxide emissions
- Etc.

Functions generated by organic (greenhouse) horticulture for society

Socio-cultural function

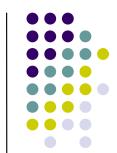


O(G)H is a potential contributor to local and regional economic growth and diversification:

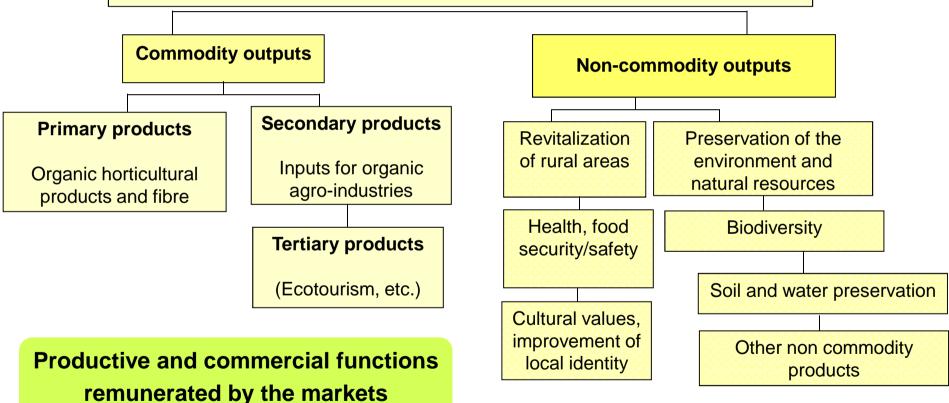
Examples:

- Revenue production
- Contribute by more and healthy employment
- Cultural production (lifestyle)
- Local knowledge
- Well-being of producers, consumers and rural communities
- Sustainable development without compromising long term sustainability and intergenerational equity
- Etc.

Jointness production of organic (greenhouse) horticulture



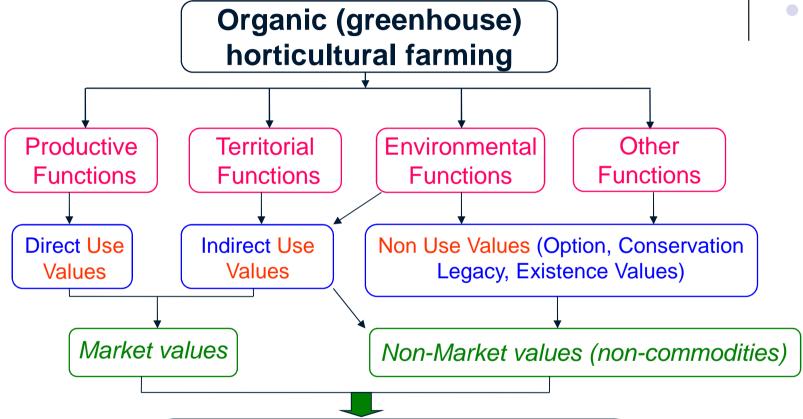
Examples of commodities and non-commodities of organic (greenhouse) horticultural farming



Goods and services produced without any direct monetary compensations

Values of organic horticultural farming and products





TOTAL QUALITY VALUE (TQV) OF O(G)H
PRODUCTS.
VALUES TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVE
ADVANTAGE AND ADDED VALUE

Opportunities for horticultural market value chain and marketing strategies

Differentiation of horticultural organic products



Segmentation of the market

Economic quality

attribute values

Better understanding of the market

Environmental quality attribute values

Consumer's Socio-demographic characteristics

Socio-cultural quality attribute values

To develop market demands and meet consumer's expectations

Lifestyle, preferences, perceptions, etc.

CONCLUSION



Organic (greenhouse) horticulture is a working model and essential tool of the multifunctional agriculture.

Multifunctional organic (greenhouse) horticulture enhances the quality and quantity of benefits provided by agriculture to society.

Organic (greenhouse) horticulture translate better new social demands and expectations into a fine balance of multiple functions providing, by joint production, different kind of goods and services and covering a wide range of society's demands towards agriculture and rural areas.

The social value of organic (greenhouse) horticulture is multidimensional. It has much broader significance for society than the provision of marketable organic products. It provides also other functions and values for society such as environmental and social, such as food healthy, safety and security, environmental protection, conservation of biodiversity, etc. that constitute the Total Quality Value of the organic horticultural products.

CONCLUSION



Those values are very interesting quality attributes to improve competitive advantage for organic horticultural products by differentiation and market segmentation to take full advantages of market opportunities, to satisfy new social demands and to increase farmer benefits.

Organic (greenhouse) horticultural farming is also a model of rural development that combines preservation of the environment, the natural resources and the protection of biodiversity, maintaining the productivity and competitiveness, without compromising long-term sustainability and intergenerational equity.

Therefore, multifunctionality of organic (greenhouse) horticulture is essential to keep society support or licence to produce (legitimacy).









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