



Family Farming and development pathways: a global perspective

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Development models and pathways: the “conventional” perspective

An historical development pathway, assuming the close link between agriculture modernization and development

Development still means nowadays:

1. A diversification of national economies, from a primary sector based economy to a structurally diversified economy
2. A drastic rise of labor productivity in agriculture, in order to align agriculture incomes and tertiary sector incomes.
3. A massive exit of workers from agriculture to other sectors and cities
4. A need for larger, motorized and specialized farmers
5. A need for a more market connected, short term focused, capital intensive and professionalized agriculture and farmers
6. An industrialization of upstream and downstream food systems segments; and later of agriculture itself



Public strategies based on an explicit categorization

A mere and simplistic vision of farmers diversity... and future

1. Farmers already professionals, specialized, market oriented, organized, etc.
2. Those potentially professionals, specialized, market oriented, organized, etc.
3. The others... unable to face global competition and for whom two options remain :
 - A radical one (dominant): they have to leave and find decent jobs in cities
 - A softer one (emerging): participating in territorial development, through tourism, short distance and quality based markets, landscape, biodiversity and local knowledge management, etc.



But the whole story is much more complex

First, this story is not finished yet... It's more and more difficult to contest the conventional development pathway's limits

Environmental limits and threats:

- Conventional technical models and food systems are vulnerable, because based on fossil energy, mineral inputs, etc.
- Pollutions and sanitary threats are now proved (water, soils, and biodiversity)
- A lack of resilience and adaptability to global changes

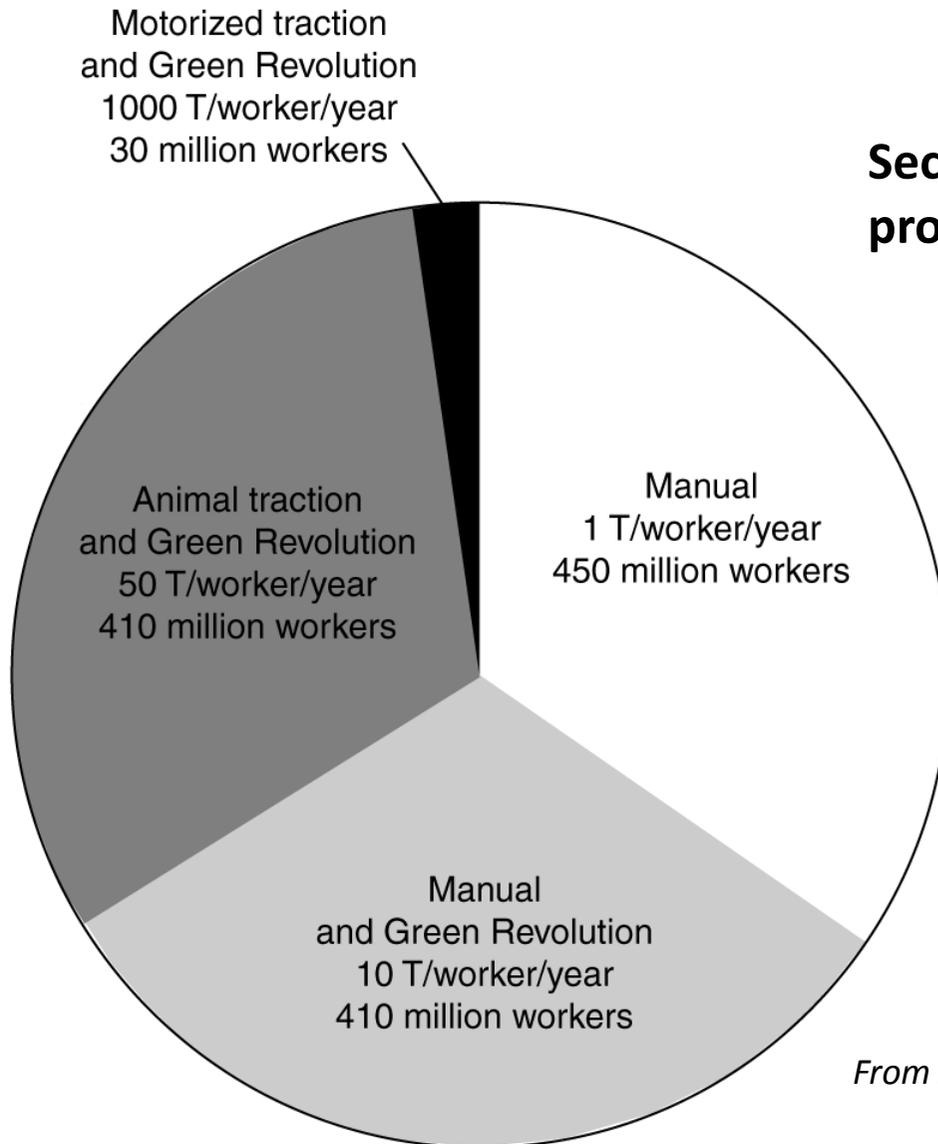
Economical superiority and sustainability of conventional modernization is questioned:

- The controversy about economies of scale remains
- A preoccupant phenomenon of indebtedness (in Northern countries as well as in southern countries), with dramatic consequences

Social malaise and farmers marginalization:

- A growing contestation of conventional intensification
- Diverse and context-dependent, but real ruptures between farmers and their society

But the whole story is much more complex

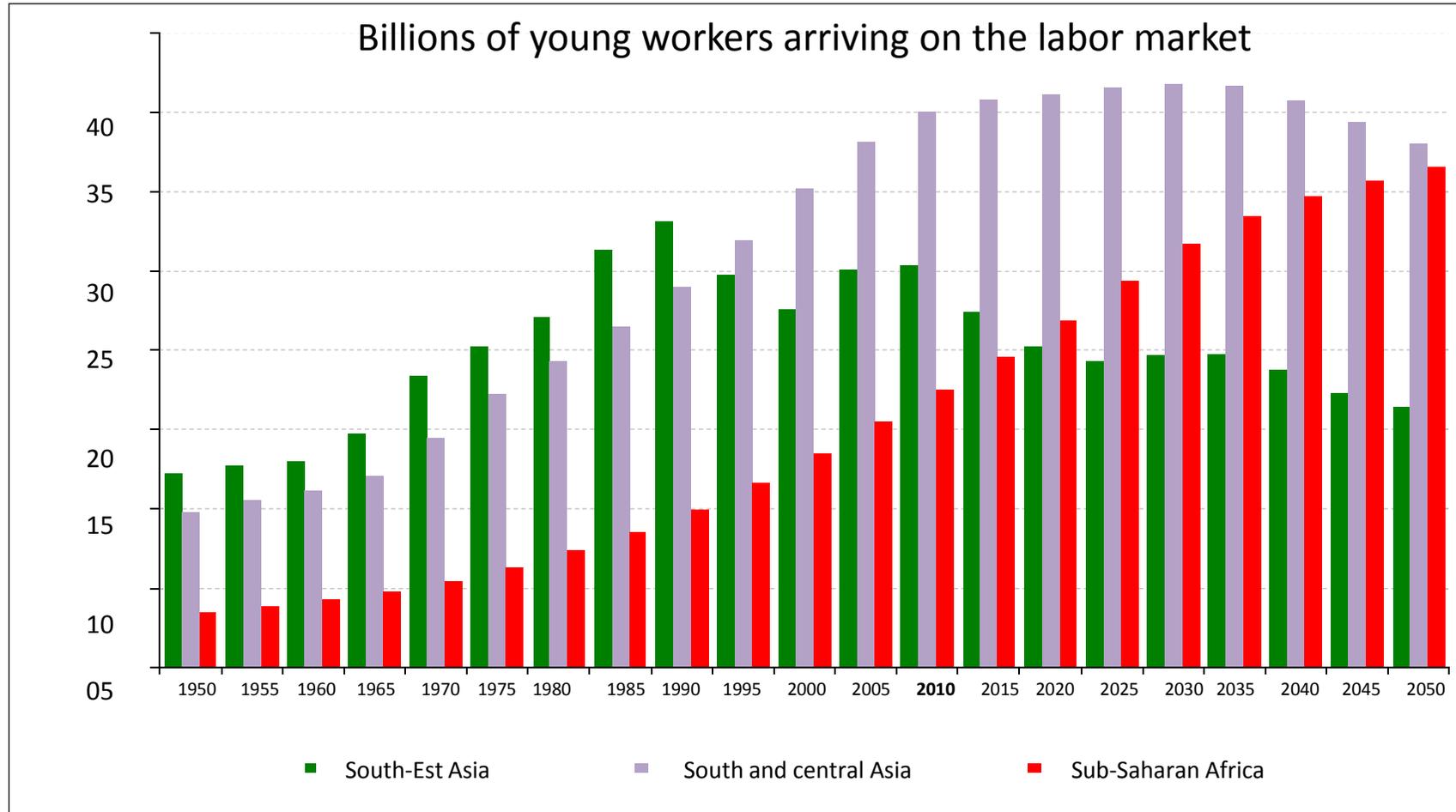


Second, a pathway leading to prohibitive productivity gaps?

From Mazoyer, 2001

But the whole story is much more complex

Third, the employment challenge is huge, specially in SSA and South Asia



Source: our treatment from UN data, World Population Prospects, 2010 Revision





A need to shift from a paradigm to another...

In most developing countries, the replication of the conventional development pathway is obviously unlikely

In industrialized countries, the conventional pathway has come to a dead-end

We are celebrating the IYFF, but do FF offer perspectives for a shift, both in developing and in developed countries?



We believe that FF is a relevant and operational concept to address this challenge

Family Farming is a more operational concept in **the international debate** than

- small agriculture (too context dependent and implicitly engaging in conventional modernization)
- subsistence agriculture (weak in sense and pessimistic)
- peasant agriculture (ideological, very polemic and somehow restrictive)

But... a paradox: as the world is celebrating the international year of family farming, family farming is not a stabilized category, is not statistically defined.

Therefore, it is not possible to weigh precisely its contribution to development

➔ **A definition both comprehensive and that makes sense for statistics**

A global definition and typology consistent with census and with national strategies

	Corporate agriculture		Family agriculture
	Entrepreneurial forms of farming	Family business forms	Family forms
Labour	Hired only	Mixed, existence of full time hired labour	Mostly family, no full time hired labour
Capital	Shareholders	Family or family association	Family
Management	Technical	Family /technical	Family
Consumption	Not applicable	Residual	Partial to dominant on-farm consumption
Legal status	Limited company or other type of company	Farmer status, associative forms	Informal or farmer status
Land holding	Ownership or formal tenant farming	Ownership, or formal or informal tenant farming	

Source : auteurs

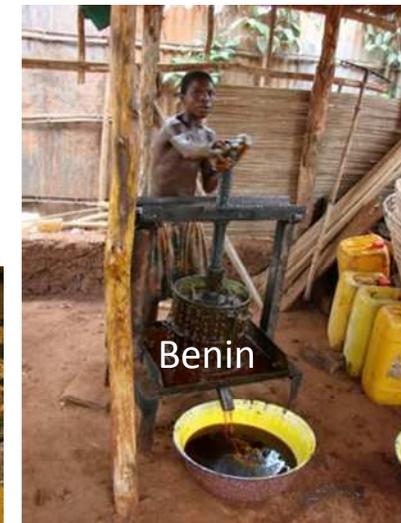
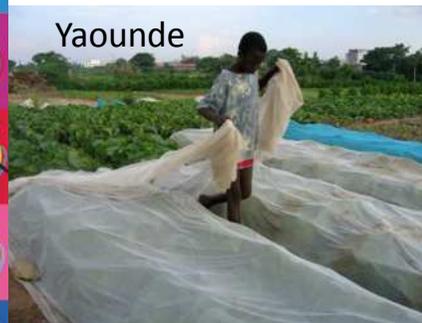
“Family farming can be defined as a form of agricultural operation where the domestic sphere and production activities share organic links, and which mobilizes only family workers, excluding permanent hired labor”

A massive but diverse reality



Family farming:

- spreads across all continents and ecologies
- is based on a wide range of technical knowledge
- is connected to markets through all types of channels



Family farming supply markets

Family farming (in green) contribution to world production: significant examples



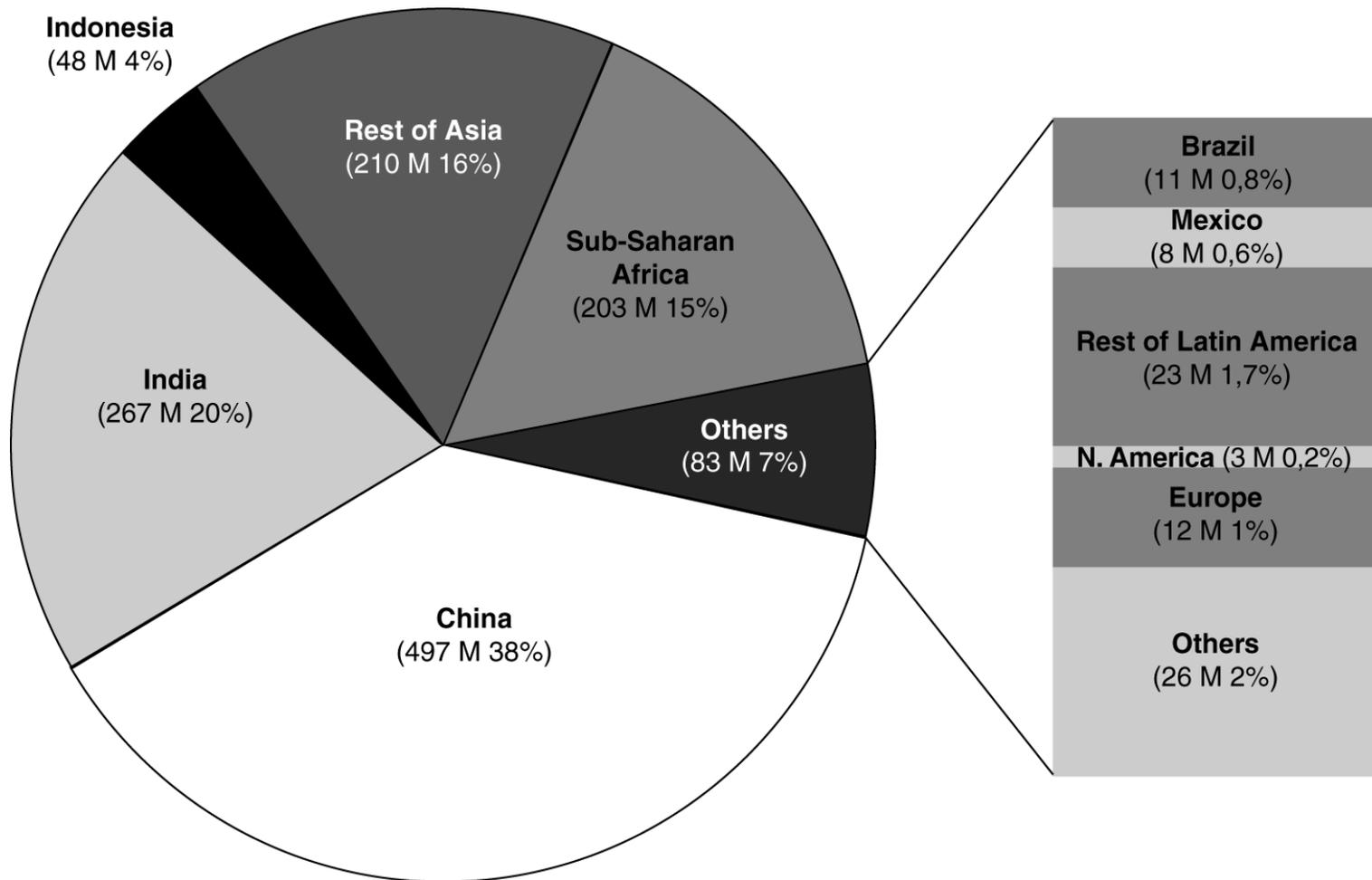
Source : auteurs





Family farming provide employment and is labor inclusive

1.3 billion workers (40% of total workers in the world): a special stake for SSA and Asia



Relevant synergies with non farm activities

Family farming supports solidarities



Intra-familial solidarity ties reinforce social cohesion
Social link through FF is crucial for local development and rural identity
Family solidarities play as safety nets in case of crisis

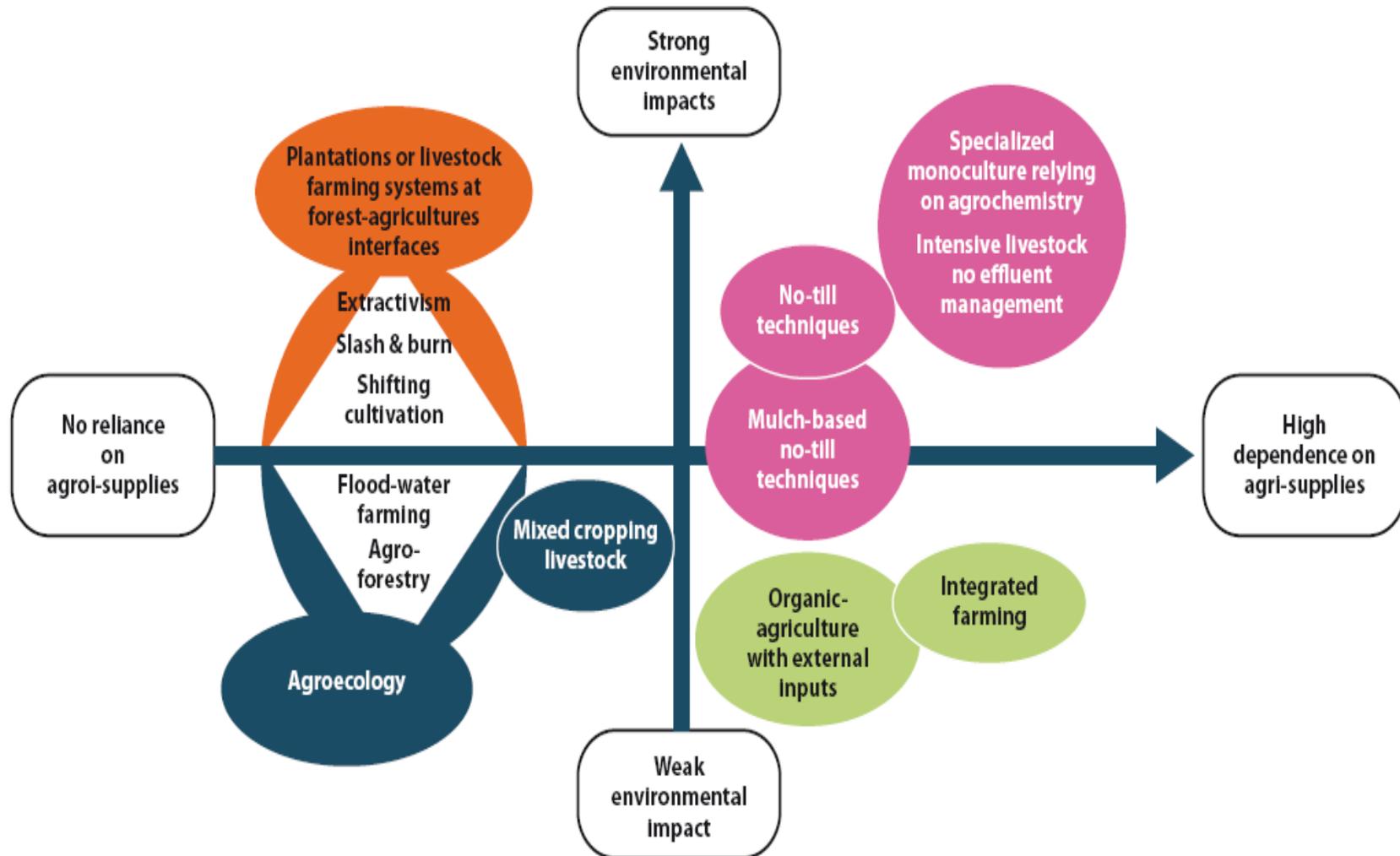
But... social relationship inside family farms can also be problematic
Intergeneration and gender relationships are a wide field of evolution





Family farming and natural resources management

No evidence of FF good practices, but specific knowledge





Changing the vision: promoting Family Farming is a credible option

Some ideas, both for developing and developed countries

First: revisiting the autonomy dimension of “peasant economy”, in a broader sense:

- autonomy from upstream actors of food systems (inputs providers)
- autonomy to experiment alternative technical systems
- autonomy from financial actors and strength
- autonomy from downstream actors and markets' private norms
- autonomy in composing with farm and of farm activities

From a narrow conventional pathway based on modernization to heterogeneous, territorial and open alternative models... promoting familial organization

Adapted from Van der Ploeg 2013



Changing the vision: promoting Family Farming is a credible option

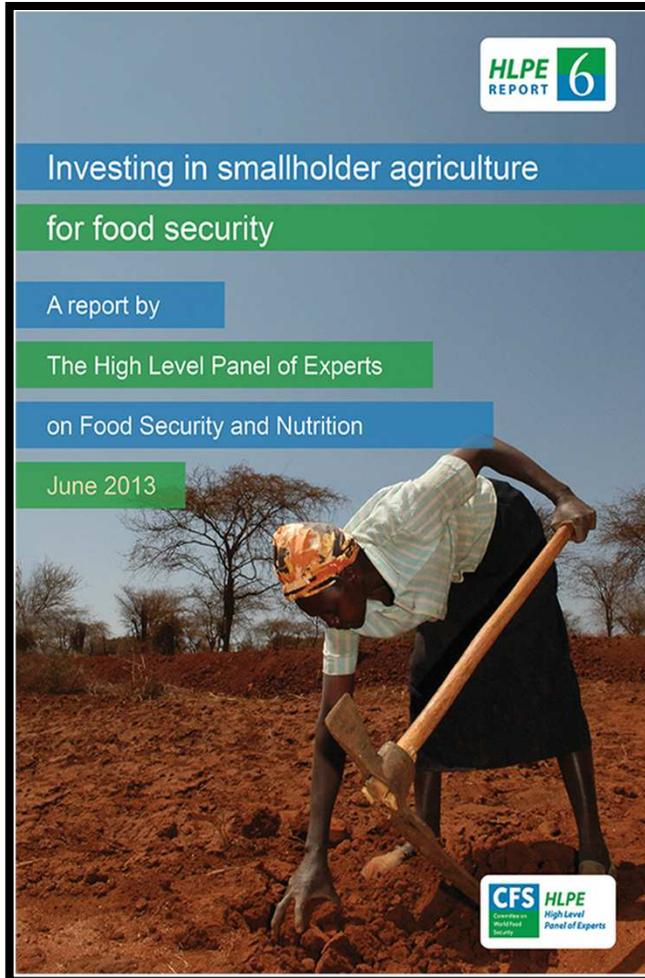
Second: experiencing policy mixes, to reinforce the role of family agriculture

- taking into account the diversity of FF
- supporting all the functions (material and non material) and activities of FF
- reinforcing land governance
- taking into account the diversity of food systems
- paying attention to public goods and infrastructures
- supporting the role and the political weight of FF organizations within the territories
- protecting FF in their unequal competition with agro-industries (from inside or abroad), but without excluding virtuous articulations
- re-thinking social relationships inside the family (women and young's status)

Specialy in developing countries

- promoting labor intensive production and food systems (promoting “the others” category)
- supporting linkages between rural, agricultural and social policies, designed for FF (Fome Zero, Prohuerta, universal allocations in India, etc.)
- supporting the right to a sustainable alimentation

A bit of advertising



A bit of advertising

