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The social dimension of sustainability in agriculture

A system-based conception

by Judith Janker

11th April 2018, New Orleans

Outline

- Introduction
- Previous research
- The conception
  - «Social systems»
  - «Social farming system»
  - «Sustainable social farming system»
- Conclusions

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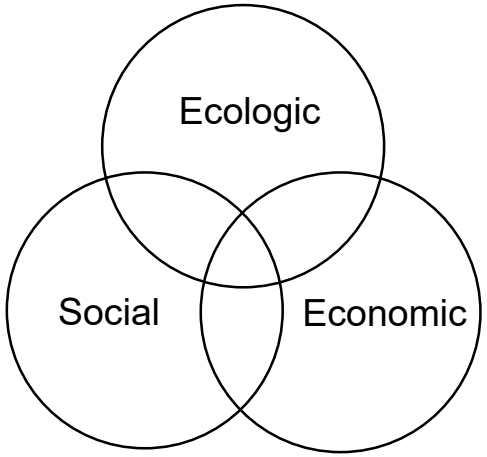
Social dimension of sustainability in agriculture

- Three dimensions of sustainability

→ changing importance of the pillars

(e.g. COLANTONIO 2007)



- In agriculture, the social dimension of sustainability often has been neglected

(SLÄTMO ET AL. 2017, GAVIGLIO ET AL. 2016, VAN CALKER ET AL. 2007)

Previous research

Sustainability tools in agriculture

- Qualitative content analysis of 87 sustainability assessment tools on farm level

➢ Social dimension hardly defined / framed by conceptualizations
➢ Operationalizations (structure & indicators) vary strongly

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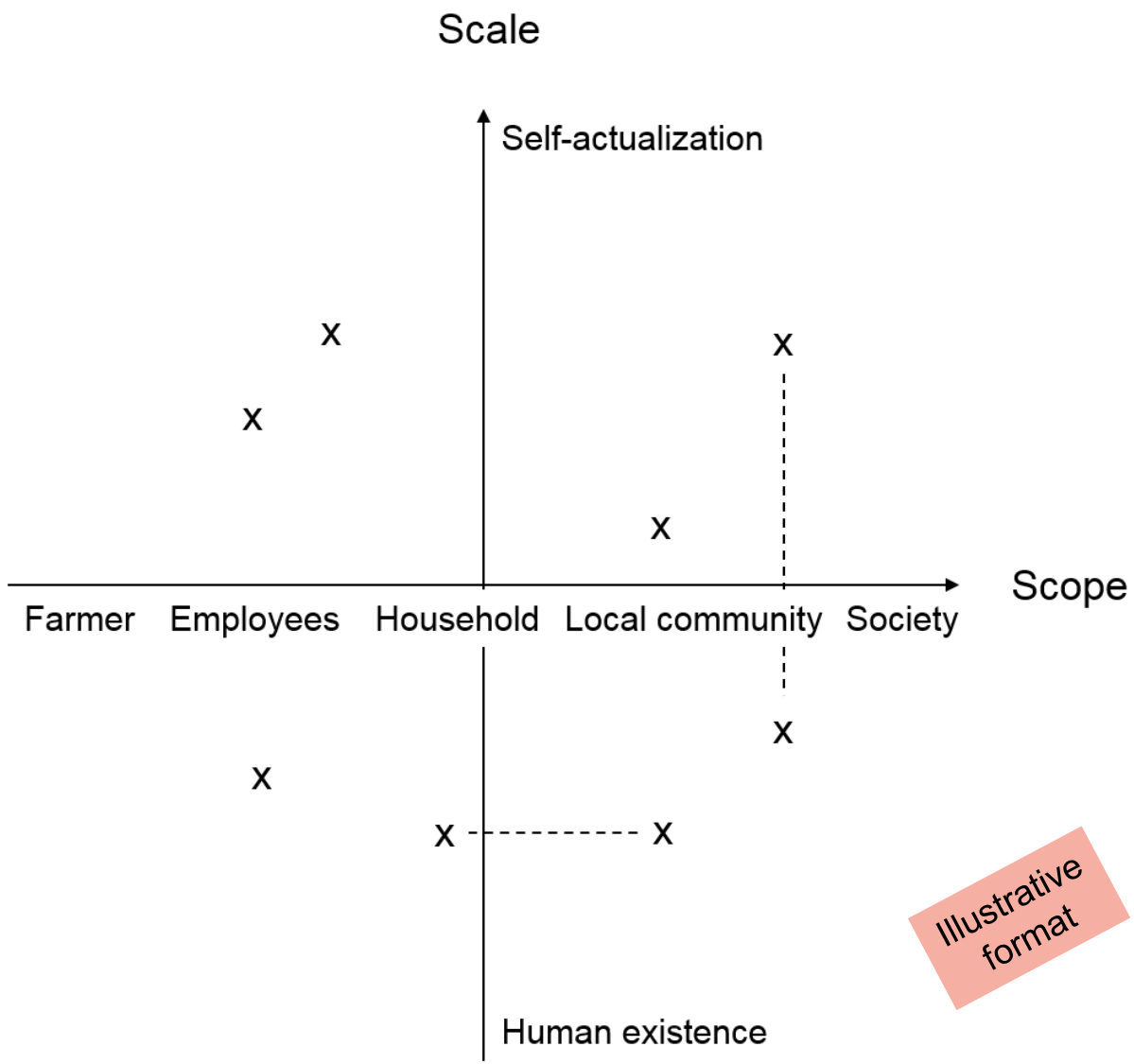
Sustainability tools

- Qualitative content analysis
- Issues of
  SCALE & SCOPE



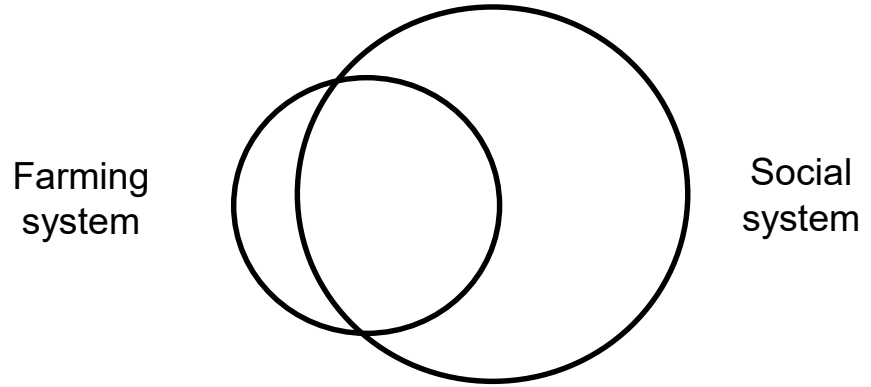
The conception

«Social system» approach (1)

Research question:
Which scope / scale is adequate for assessing the social dimension of sustainability in agriculture?

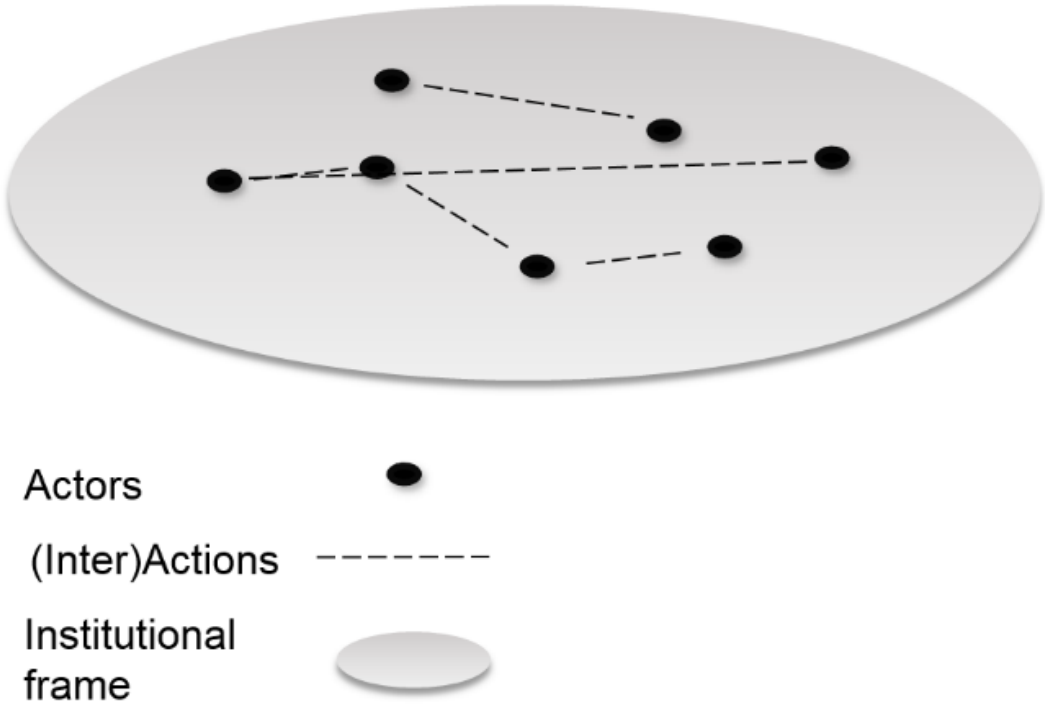
- Conceptual frame needed that can integrate all perspectives
- «Farming systems» (PANNELL 1999) as holistic concept to depict the complexity of elements and structures of agriculture

- «Social dimension» as sub-system and independent system reaching beyond farm(ing) processes



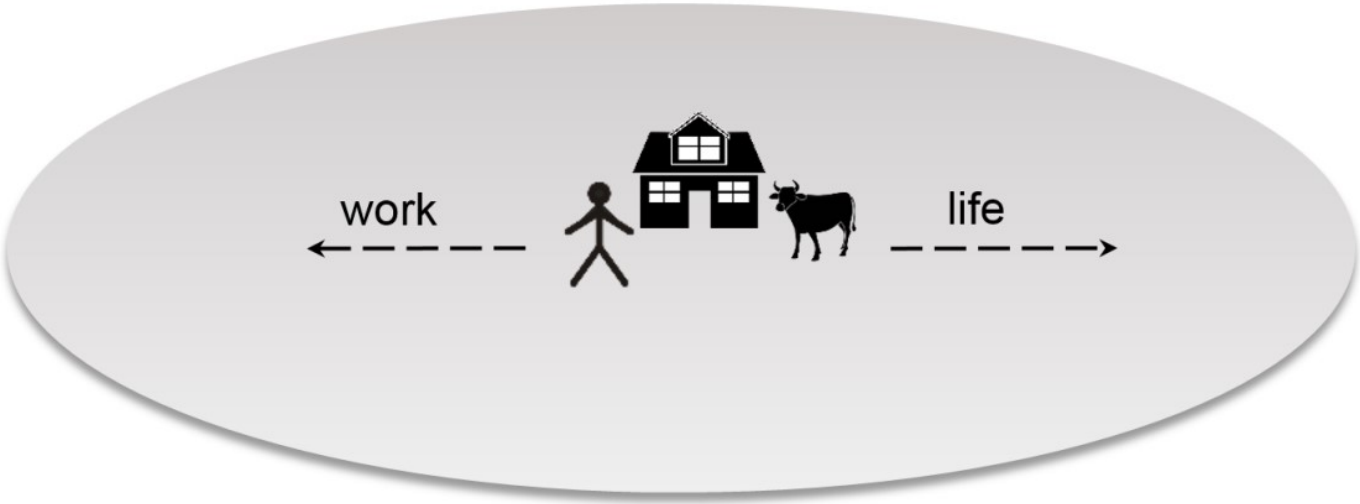
«Social system» approach (2)

- Parsons «social system of change» (PARSONS 1991)



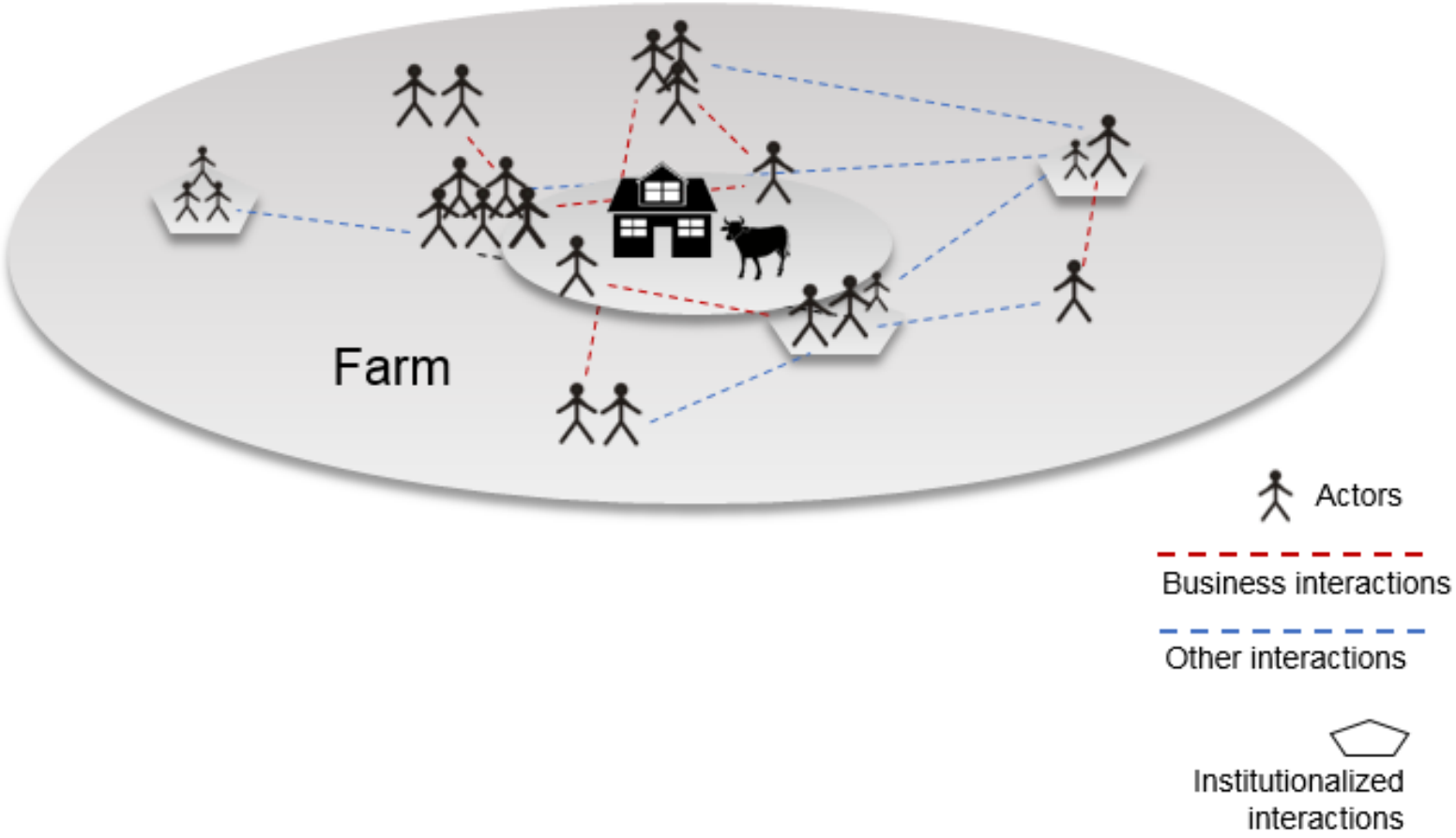
«Social farming system» (1)

- SCOPE



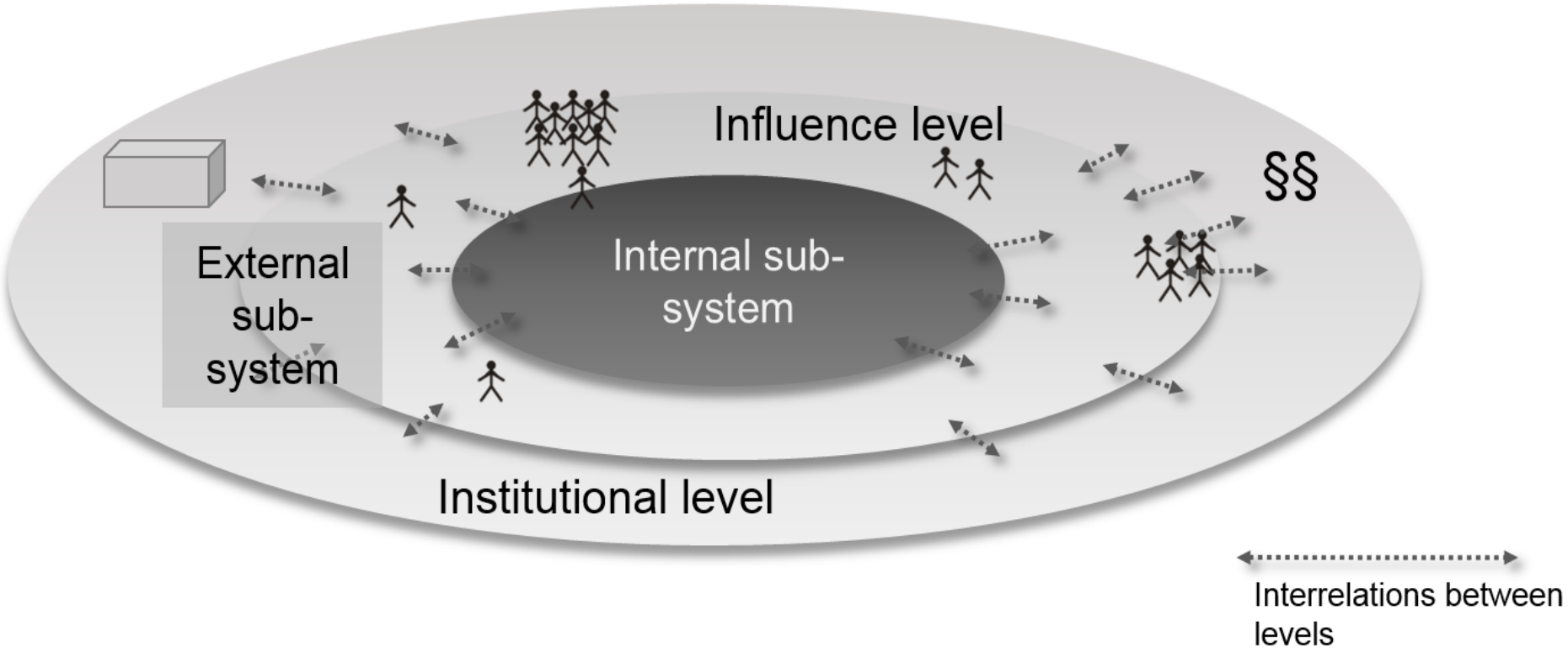
«Social farming system» (2)

- SCOPE



«Social farming system» (3)

- SCOPE



«Sustainable social farming system» (1)

- SCALE

> "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the **needs of the present** without compromising the ability of **future generations to meet their own needs**." (WCED 1987: 24f.)

➢ Concept of «needs», according to MASLOW (1943):
Self-actualization needs, Esteem needs, Social needs, Security needs, Physiological needs

➢ But: «needs» subjectively & culturally influenced (e.g. TAY & DIENER 2011)

«Sustainable social farming system» (2)

- SCALE: «Needs-and-rights»-approach
  - ➢ Human rights / work rights as bottom-threshold (UN 1948, 1966a&b, ILO 1998)
  - ➢ Needs (qualitatively) assessed to capture subjective and culturally influenced needs, e.g. life satisfaction, subjective and psychological well-being (e.g. CONIGLIARO 2017; WOLSKO ET AL. 2016)

- SCOPE: «Social farming system»
  - ➢ Stakeholders directly and indirectly influencing the social farming system
  - ➢ Institutional analysis to monitor societal changes / needs

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Social dimension seems difficult to assess
- Life and work aspects are specific for agriculture
- Scope and scale always to be adapted to the local and cultural conditions

- Self-reflection …
  - Rough conceptual frame
  - Depending on choice of methodical access, time-intensive data acquisition and analysis
  - Subjectivity and normativity difficult to assess
  - Anticipating needs of the future?

- Next steps …
  - Choice of methodical access of «needs»
  - Comparability of indicators
  - Integration with other dimensions, potential conflicts between dimensions
















Thank you for your attention.

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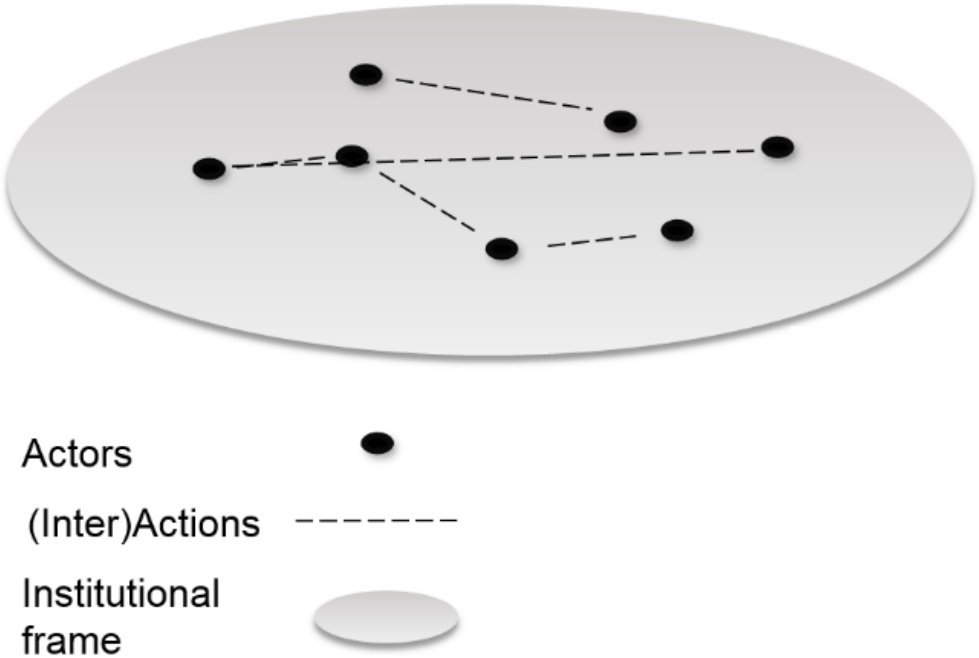
Parsons «social system of change» (Parsons 1991)



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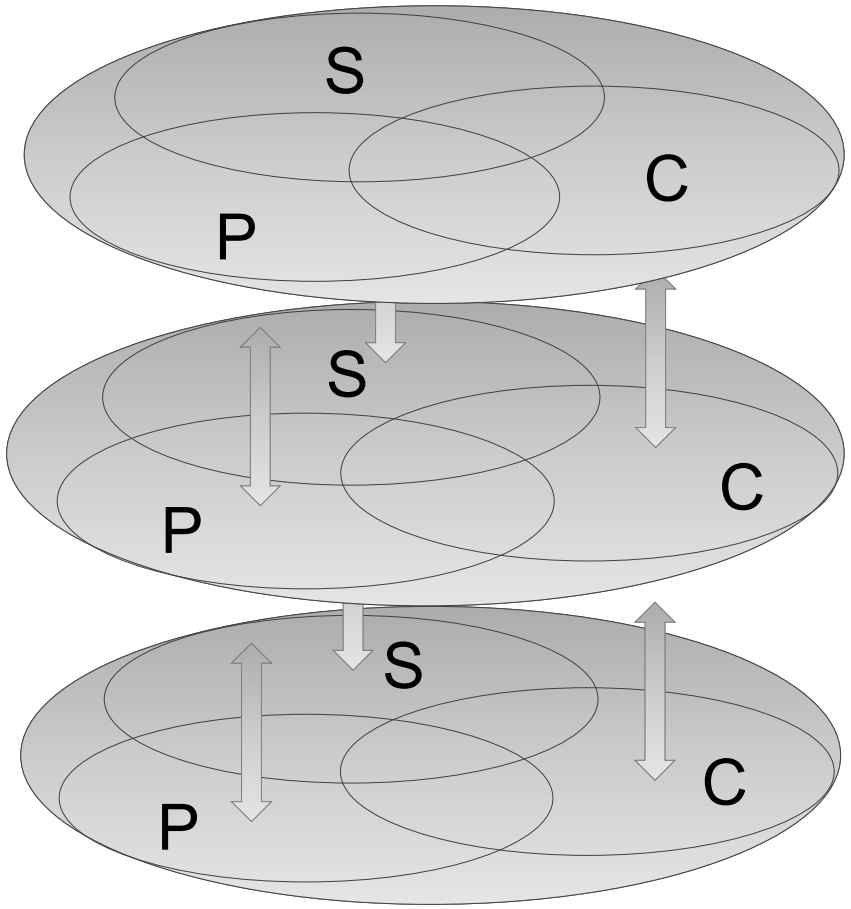
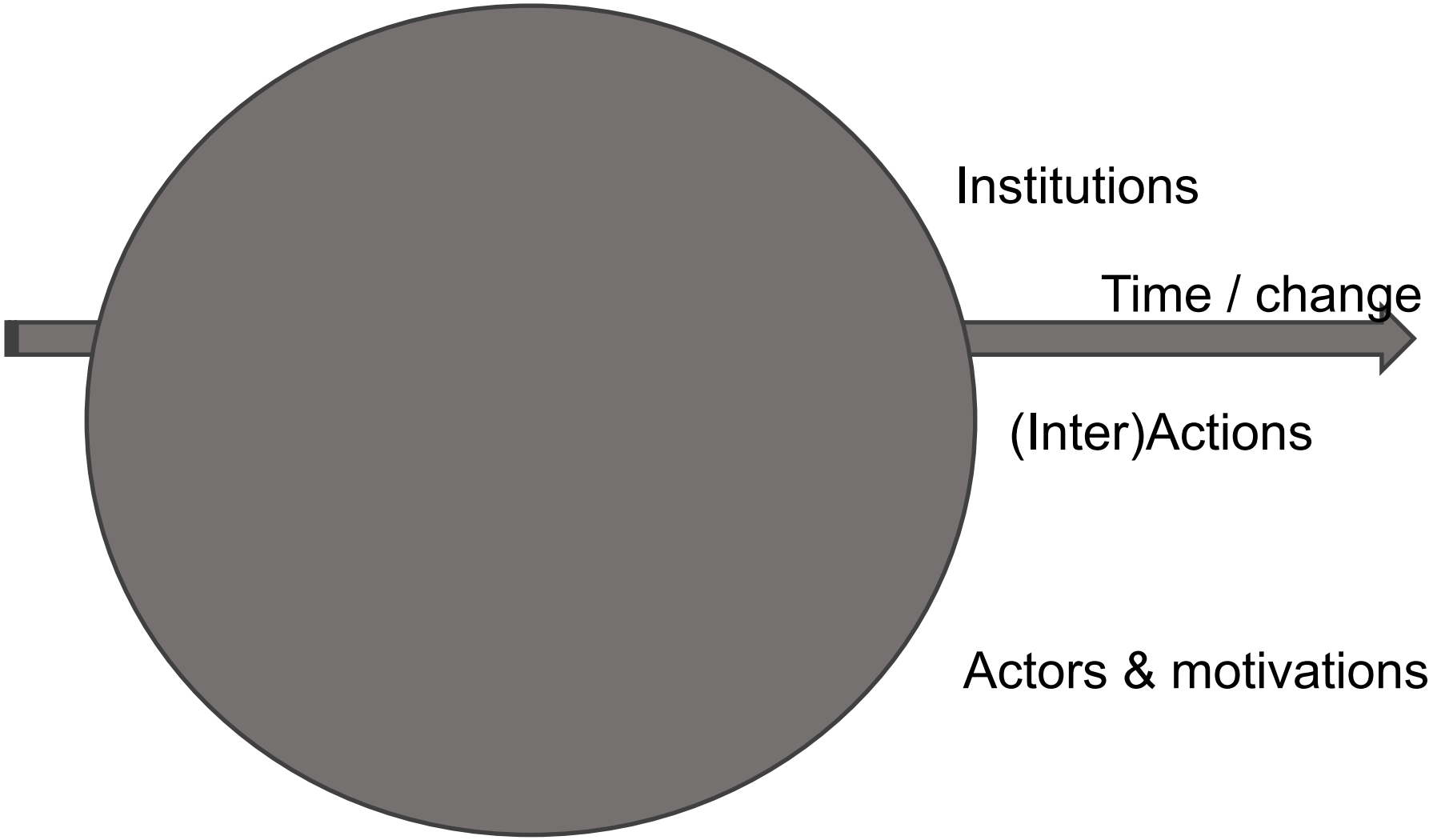


Institutions

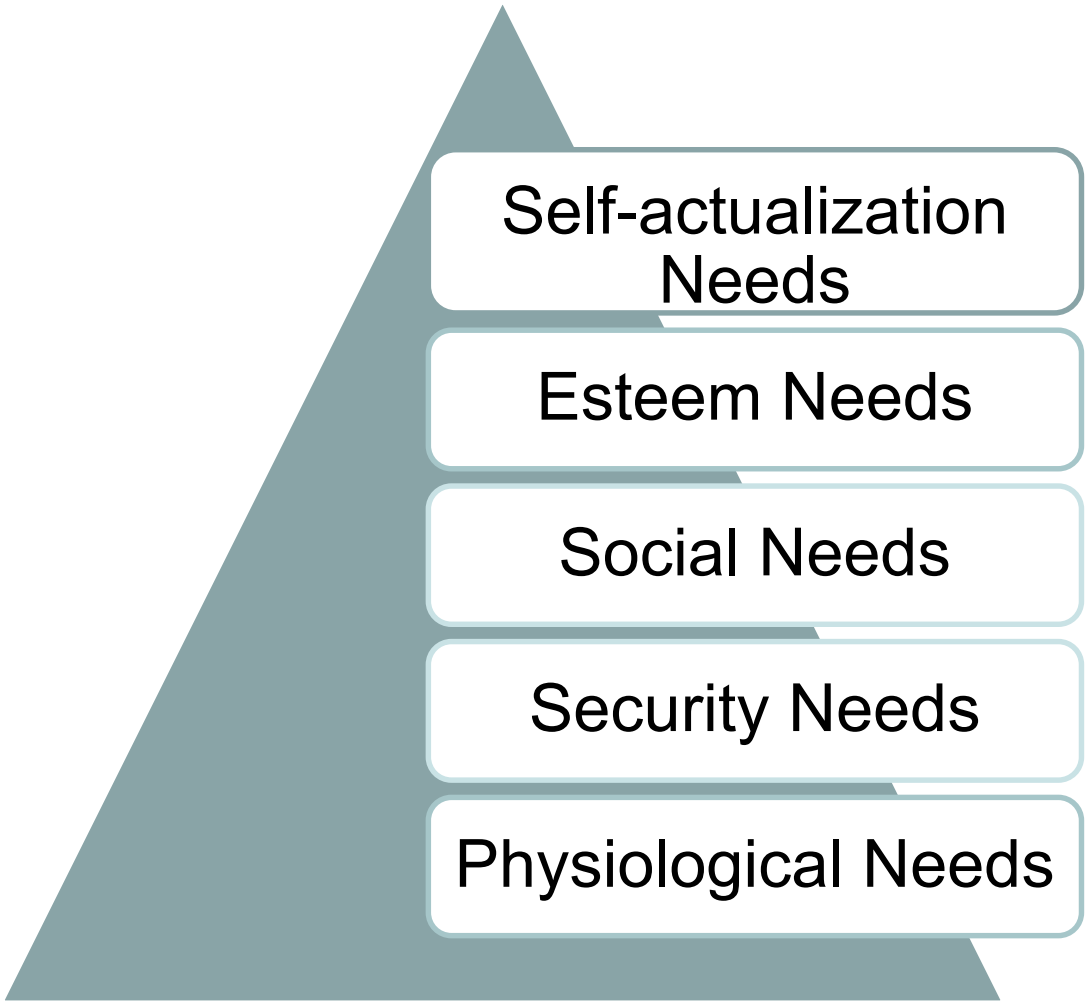
(Inter)Actions

Actors & motivations

Parsons «social system of change» (Parsons 1991)



Maslow's (1943) pyramid of needs



Abbreviation name tool	*Name tool*	*Organizations*
AESIS	Agro-Environmental Sustainability Information Systems	University of Florence, Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Science
ANSI	American National Standard for Sustainable Agriculture	Leonardo Academy Inc. / American National Standards Institute (ANSI) / SCS Global Services (audits)
Avibio	AVIculture BIOlogique	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry France (finances), ITAVI, INRI, ACTA, ITAB, SYNALAF and other (research)
n.a.	Barometer of Sustainability	World Conservation Unit IUCN/IDRC
SOAAN guidelines	Best practice guideline for agriculture & value chain (Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network)	Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN) / IFOAM
BCI	Better Cotton Initiative	Better Cotton Iniatiative (ownership), WWF, supported by European retailers & NGOs (e.g. Gap, H&M, IKEA, Oxfam) (development)
Bonsucro	Bonsucro Production Standard	Bonsucro Ltd., Standard Revision Committee (SRC, development)
n.a.	Canadian Field Print Calculator	Candian Field Print Initiative, Pulse Canada (development), Serecon (implementation) in cooperation with Agri-Trend, Farmers Edge, and Agri-Data Solutions
CCSW	Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing (California Code of Sustainable Winegrowing)	California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, initiated by the Wine Institute & the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG)
CSPO	Certified Sustainable Palm Oil	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SAGP	Coca-Cola Company Sustainable Agriculture Guiding Principles and Criteria (SAGP)	The Coca Cola Company
C.A.F.E.	Coffee and Farm Equity Practices	Starbucks, Conservation International (development & assessment)
COSA	Committee on Sustainability Assessment	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), today COSA is a NGO
4C Code of Conduct	Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C)	
CmiA	Cotton made in Africa	Aid by Trade Foundation, ATAKORA Fördergesellschaft GmbH (coordination by Competitive African Cotton Initiative (COMPACI)); major donors also BMGF, BMZ, Walmart
DSI	Dairyman Sustainability Index	European Regional Development Fund (funding)
n.a.	Defra methodology for assessing the environmental, economic and social characteristics of (organic and non-organic) farming systems	University of Warwick (development) & Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Defra (funding)
DEXiPM	DEXi decision support system with Integrated pest management	INRA (development)
DAESE	Diagnostic Agri-Environnemental Social et Economique	Chambre d'agriculture de Picardie, development by several French research institutes
RAD	Diagnostic de durabilité	Réseau del'Agriculture Durable
DLG	DLG-Nachhaltigkeitsstandard	Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft e.V. (DLG), developed by German Agricultural Society in cooperation with the Technical University Munich, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Institute for sustainable agriculture Halle
EISA	EISA Integrated Farming Framework	European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA e.V.)
InSPiA	European Index for Sustainable Productive Agriculture	European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF), European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), l'Institute de l'Agriculture Durable (IAD)
EDAMA	Evaluation de la durabilité pour l'accompagnement des ménages agricoles	SPD-Terppa, Supagro (implementation), PSDR-Intersama (cooperation & development)
(ANR) EVAD	Evaluation of aquaculture system sustainability	CIRAD
n.a.	Farm Smart™	Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, Dairy Sustainability Alliance