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Agri-food Sustainability Transitions and Inclusion: an Analysis of Portuguese Experience

Iván Tartaruga (University of Porto) - Portugal,

Fernanda Sperotto (Centre of Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning (CEGOT), University of Porto (FLUP)) - Portugal

The direction of the new development models is based on the concept of sustainability and, therefore, is directly associated with the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. One of the key points for the success of these new proposals is to address issues of inclusion/exclusion for vulnerable people and peripheral regions in transition processes. This study provides an early attempt to understand the sustainability transitions in agri-food systems in Portugal, a country that suffers both issues – sustainability and social exclusion. As transitions refer to essential changes necessary to move towards sustainability in this sector, we use the socio-technical configuration analysis from the geography of transitions approach. This approach attempts to assess and plot socio-technical processes in space and time. In terms of space, it is central the place's specificity and multi-scalar arrangements (local/regional, national and global relationships). Using data from policy and project documents (national government) and bibliographic data (academic journals) in the last ten years, we observed that transitions in agri-food sector is very much a work in process of the emergence of new trajectories, with some inclusion in innovation niches (inclusive innovations). Moreover, we found a strong linkage and dependence with European policies (European Commission), which is important and positive. However, we identified a certain lack of adaptation of these policies to Portuguese reality (e.g., the role of family production is disregarded). Despite some variegations, the analysis confirms the important role of national government in setting the support, via European Union, within which the transition projects can arise.



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Thursday, June 15, 2023, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM CEST

Climate Change, Energy & Environmental Sustainability 3: Agriculture and Food (</Sessions/Details/1800628>)

Room P-109 (Ground Floor)

Session Type: Workshop

Related Speakers



Iván Tartaruga

Researcher and professor

University of Porto, Portugal

(</Speakers/Details/1826587>)