

Peasants Movements and Agricultural Transition Non-Conference.

From Social Demand to Collective Action In Montpellier, France

Federico Andreotti^a; Alexandre Guichardaz^b

^aFarming Systems Ecology Group, Wageningen University & Research, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands

^bSupAgro, 2 Place Pierre Viala, 34060 Montpellier, France

OVERVIEW

Participative reflection is needed for facing society challenges by discussing and sharing individual involvement for collective actions enhancing movements networking. Several actors as peasants, researchers, local NGO and farmers' organization, conventional farmers, cooperatives, alternatives food market, citizens, students and local food enterprises were invited in an open debate - non



conference - using the fish bowl method in Montpellier, France. The fish bowl were driven by two animators towards the following questions: legitimatization of personal involvement in transition processes, construction of collective knowledges and practices, mobilization of collective actions by personal involvement, peasants values and movements towards transformation in agricultural world.

NON CONFERENCE DEFINITION

The non-conference concept has been imagined to create a place where people feel free to express their opinion on a subject. Fighting auto-censorship and liberating the speech. Construction of his opinion in his involvement is key to permit to students to think about responsibilities and posture of engineers in the society.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the non-conference was to reclaim peasants' collective movements towards identity and scopes acknowledgement, re-appropriate farmers and peasants' functional and decisional tools for food production and market and valorize interactions between agronomists and peasants generating new and legitimated knowledges and practices developing transdisciplinary concepts. A mind map and a video were realized in order to spread the results of the non-conference enhancing collective actions and movements towards society's needs in food production and market, valorizing actual actions and networking movements

STUDY CASE

Students in agronomy are more and more raising questions about which posture agronomists should have when intervening and changing agricultural practices

We believe that getting involved in transdisciplinary approaches with research and peasants is necessary to propose innovative tools in order to face food sovereignty. A better understanding of the complexity of reality can't be reach with the reductionist vision of agronomical sciences as was already done during the green revolution. New systemic approach is needed to face new challenges. It involves to develop new competences to create new profession for the agronomist of tomorrow. Animation is one of this competence, providing tools and creating a media through which a diverse panel of actors can meet, build bridges creating trust between actors.

METHODS

Preparing a non-conference required time and energy. Calling and inviting the stakeholders, having a discussion with them before the event to shape the discussion that will take part during the event. Commercial are needed. For the non-conference organized in Montpellier was done commercial using different media, internet, social network, radio, poster and flyers.

The event was set in the late afternoon during the week in SupAgro. The event was recorded and picture were made during the all session. The event started with an energizer and a short presentation to introduce



the topic of the discussion. 80 people took part at the event.

Three groups were randomly selected for discussing three different topics: i) interactions between researchers and peasants, the peasants' movement and the sustainable food production initiative in Montpellier, France.

Three Fish Bowls were realized and during the sessions three animators were driving the discussion taking notes of what the discussions were rising. There were collected positive, negative and ahah (astonishment) statement during the all discussion.

NON CONFERENCE

Participatory Events Entertainers

NON CONFERENCE

PARTICIPATORY EVENTS ENTERTAINERS

<https://nonconference.wixsite.com/nonconference>

+33618318612

RESULTS

The poster resuming the all discussion were presented to the all participants and a moment of de-breathing were realized in which different actors could exchange contacts. The Outputs of different



fish bowl (New knowledge developed in the process) were collected by creating new network and sharing new ideas for food sovereignty in Montpellier. Further a video was realized in order to remind the main finds of the discussion and organize a new non-conference with which go deeper in the discussion and also sharing the event with new actors.

CONCLUSIONS

Non-conference, is an animation-project with which rise transdisciplinary knowledge with multi-diverse actors enhancing discussion and networking between different stakeholders. The methodology developed could be used in several contest where discussion between actors and new knowledge development is needed.

“Knowledge is the only thing that grows when you share it”