
- **Belgian Open Rural Ecosystems and the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment**

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- Le Millenium Ecosystem Assessment
 - 1. a message
 - Global assessment
 - But emphasis on scaling
 - « rational utopia » : a global governance
 - By a common methodology

■ 2. la méthode

- Speaking the same language : ecosystems services
- Helpful to think about uncommensurable values
- Mainly because unqually equipped
- Risk of monetary valuation
- Economic tools / as a metaphor / as a valuation method / as mangement tools
- Regulation ans support services
- Non economic values

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- 3 research methods and impacts
 - No preference for on management regime (private, public, common pool). No privilege for one management tool (market, law, negotiation) .
 - Emphasis on the processes that allow for trade-offs rather than on decisions. Importance to give place to decision processes in the research.
 - A path to mobilisation.

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- Open rural spaces in Belgium

 - 1. MEA approach: « global trends and challenges»
 - Still increasing demand of agricultural products
 - Satisfied by extension of agricultural land and by intensification
 - Impacts : ecosystem deterioration, increasing nutrients flows, negative impacts on other ecosystems,

 - 2. biodiversity : four levels
 - Internal biodiversity
 - Biodiversity services for agriculture
 - Impact of agricultural ecosystems on wildlife
 - Impact of agricultural ecosystems on regional biodiversity

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- Relevant for Europe and Belgium ?
 - Very diversified and complex rural ecosystems
 - Different trends of evolution
 - Positive contributions and negative impacts

 - Socio-Eco Systems ?
 - What are the states of reference ?
 - Scales ?
 - Spaces for negotiation ?
 - But a relevant methodological framework

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- What are the trends and the driving forces ?
 - From highly intensive agricultural systems to low intensive farming : different evolution and driving forces
 - The role of agricultural policy
 - Rural amenities are to be evaluated
 - Technological innovations as a contribution

What are the good scales to evaluate and to manage ?

Sub regional scales seem appropriate

Valuation : combining negotiation, market and law.

Explore new tools of management

■ Applications en Belgique

- 1. to make an evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystems services, it is necessary to define the objectives first and then to evaluate
- 2. it is crucial to analyse the sectorial policies and their interrelated impacts
- 3. MEA framework could contribute to a rural policy
- 4. it might be important to evaluate the impacts of our agro food systems (production and consumption) on developing countries (and their ecosystems)

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- Decision and management processes
 - MEA emphasizes the role of institutions in the decision making and in the management processes
 - Valuation : it is more important to identify « holders » and to give them « empowerment » / ecological services and beneficiaries
 - Dialog through scales
 - Looking for dynamic trade-off

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- Conclusion A belgian assessment ?

 - Risks...
 - To collect again the same data
 - To continue with sectorial approaches
 - And Opportunities
 - Objectives and
 - Scales to be defined
 - Organisation gathering scientists, administration, users
 - A methodological framework to be adapted to local