

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



The role of European small farms in sustainable Food and Nutrition Security



Results from the SALSA project

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SALSA: “Small farms, small food businesses and sustainable food and nutrition security”

April 2016 – July 2020

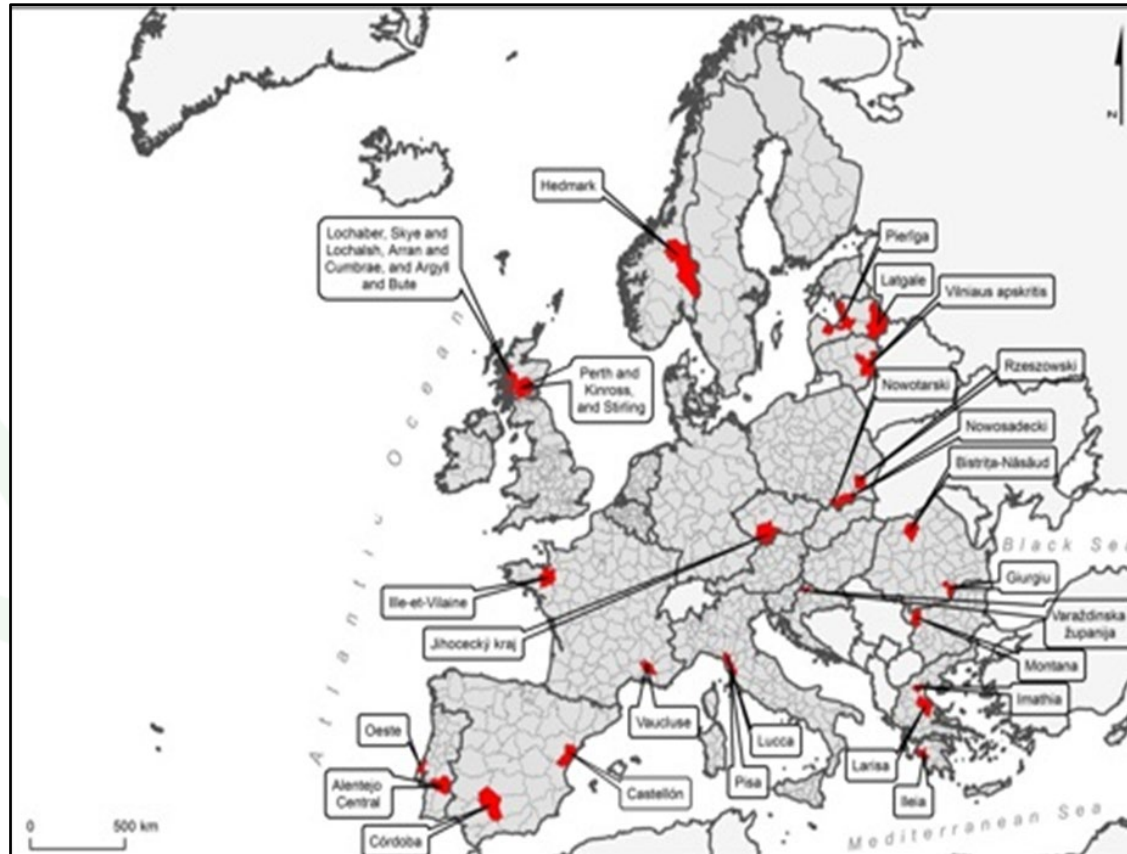
Coordinator



UNIVERSIDADE
DE ÉVORA

16 partners in Europe and Africa

Europe: 25 regions in 14 countries



SALSA APPROACH

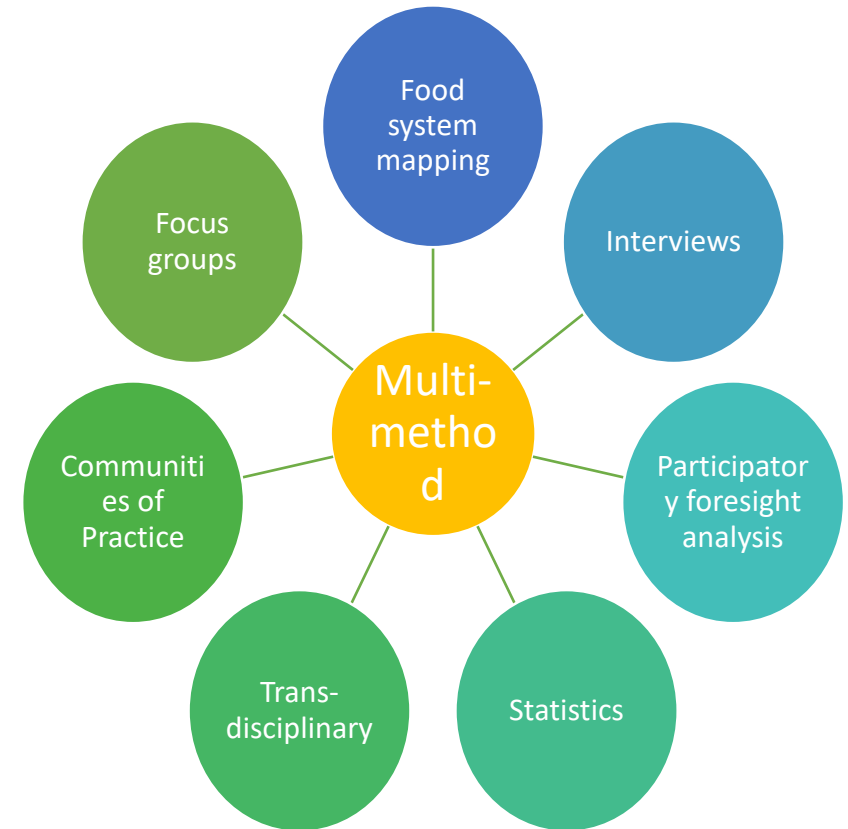
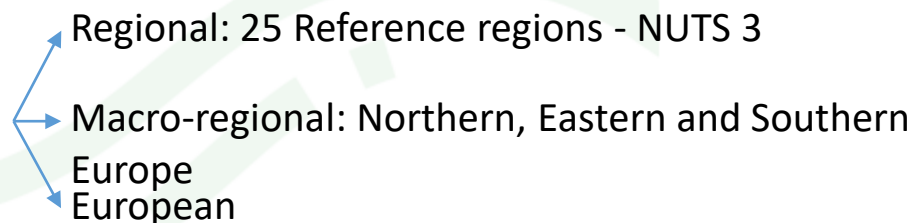
Research Question: *What is the contribution of small farms and of the related food businesses to sustainable food and nutrition security in a wide range of food systems?*

Territorially-based **Food System** approach

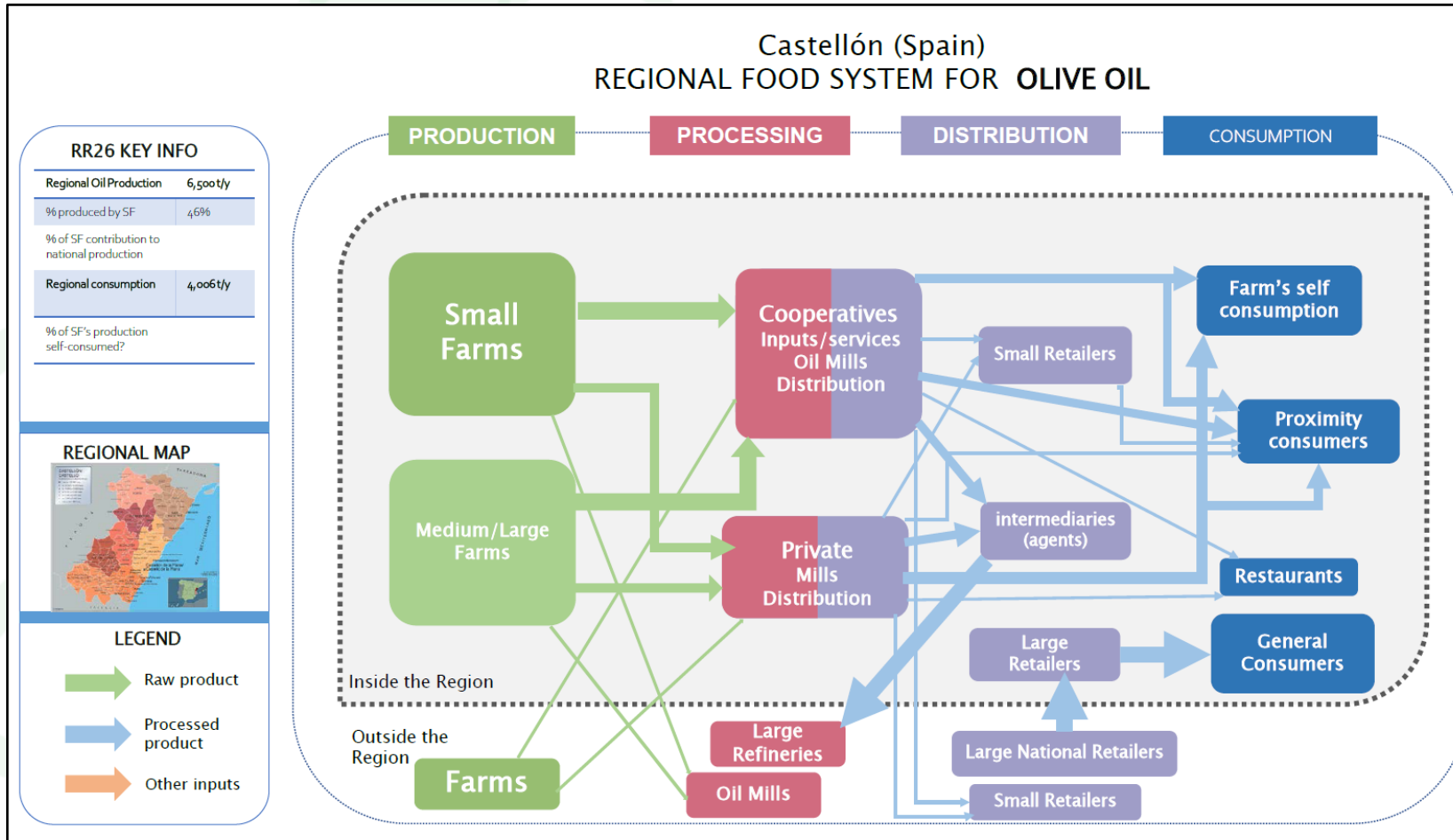
Elements of FNS: **food provision, food availability and food access**

Recognises the **diversity** of small farms & food systems in Europe

Analysis at 3 levels



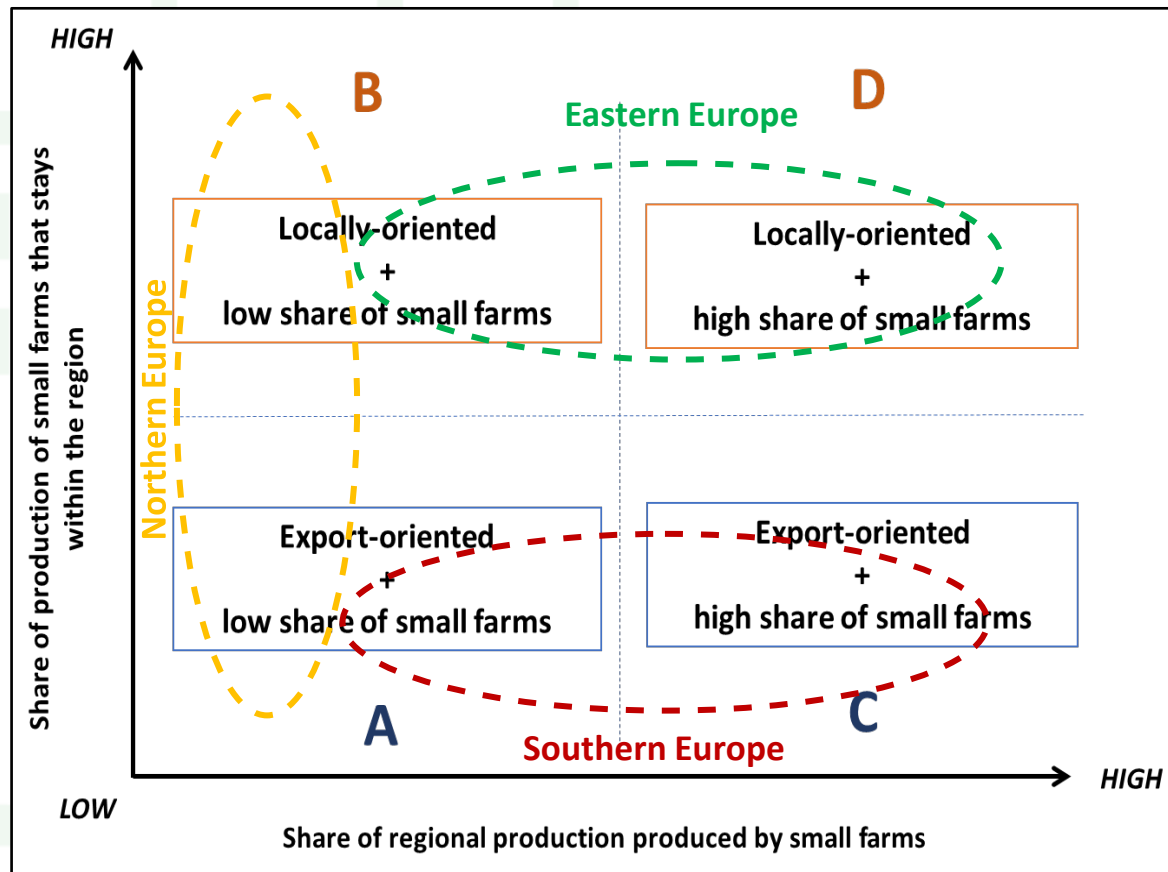
ROLE OF SMALL FARMS IN REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS



SALSA produced 91 product-specific food system maps for 25 regions in Europe



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF SMALL FARMS IN REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE



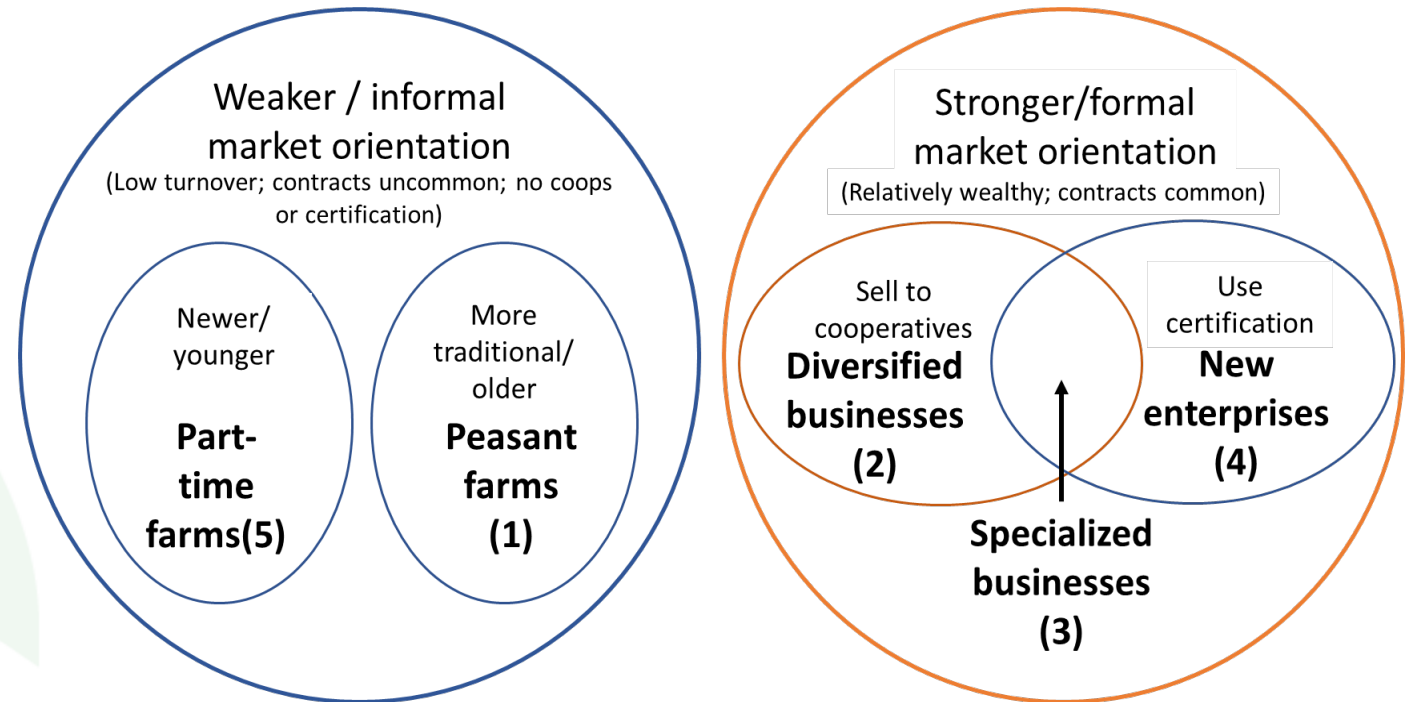
TYPOLOGY OF EUROPEAN SMALL FARMS

Small farm diversity **beyond the subsistence-commercial duality**

Most farms oriented towards the **market**
+
they produce for **self-provisioning**

Type prevalence varies depending on
region & market context

No “one-size-fits-all” for policy





SMALL FARMS CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN EUROPE

Research Question: *What is the contribution of small farms to sustainable food and nutrition security in a wide range of food systems?*

RESULTS FOR EUROPE

SF play important & diverse roles within the food system

In some regions and products, significant SF contributions to food production and availability

Non-market food flows can be crucial for farm households and their communities

Income generated by SF contributes to food access and poverty alleviation

SF safeguard the stability, diversity & resilience of food systems



MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL FARMS TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

SMALL FARMS NEED A FAVOURABLE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Enabling conditions to exist and produce

- Incentives to **remain in rural areas**
- **Generational renewal** and support to **new entrants**
- Improved **access to land** and land tenure security
- Access to **finance**
- **CC adaptation**

Enabling conditions to market

- **Collective action** and **cooperation**
- Access to **diversity of value chains**
 - Innovative approaches to traditional markets
 - Higher value-added supply chains
- **Consumers** involvement

Knowledge and Innovation

- Source of **resilience**
- Key for CC adaptation
- Room for retro-innovation
- Greater **access to information and training**
- Building softer skills & **networking**

Tailored policy and regulatory frameworks

- More **territorially** based
- **Small-scale** adapted
- Must consider:
 - characteristics of **regional food systems**
 - different **types of SF**



CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL FARMS TO EUROPEAN RURAL AREAS

Challenges for small farms have an impact on their broader rural settings

SMALL FARMS' RURAL LINKAGE

Maintaining
agricultural
employment &
preventing
outmigration

Impact of SF
dynamics in land
occupation

Preservation of
traditional landscapes
and environmental
quality

Synergies that
stimulate broader
economic activity

Beyond small farms' role as **food producers**, their **role in supporting rural communities and the rural environment**





Thank you

For more information

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Thank you

