

RETHINKING RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH AGRICULTURAL AND AGRO-FOOD LOCAL SYSTEMS FRANCESCO MANTINO (INEA)

Paper prepared for presentation at the 3rd AIEAA
Conference

“Feeding the Planet and Greening Agriculture:
Challenges and opportunities for the bio-economy”

25-27 June, 2014

Alghero, Italy

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- Recent criticism on the notion of rural development
- Reduction of rural development to the redistributive vision
- The role of institutions in explaining the processes of rural development
- A substantial lack of focus on the role of agricultural and agro-industrial dynamics

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- Identification of the local agro-food system as unit of analysis
- Characteristics of these systems and their export performance on international markets in the last years
- Analysis of the role of local institutions and actors in explaining the different performances.

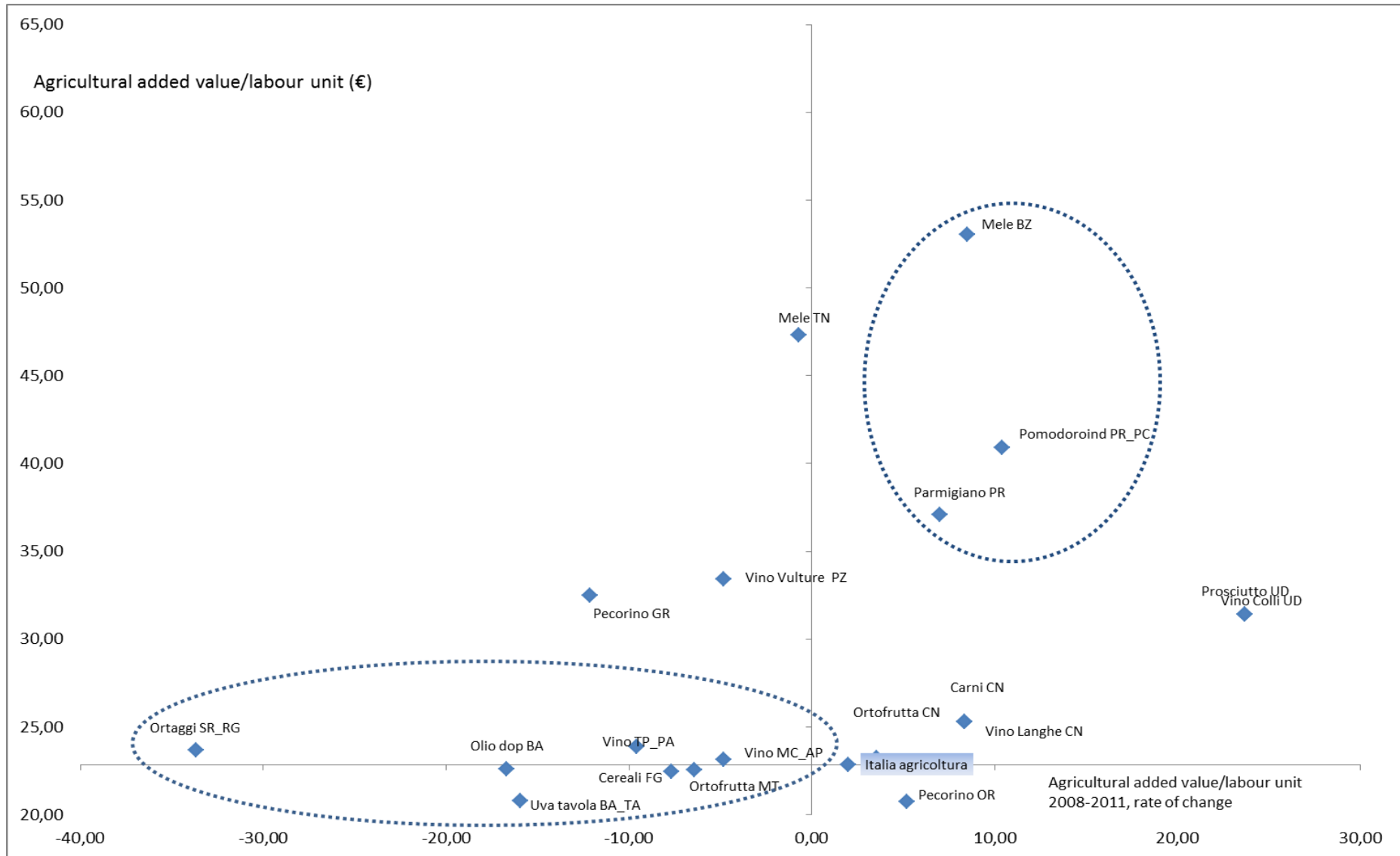
20 localised agro-food systems

Local agri-food system	Administrative Region	No. Of municipalities	Population 2011 (inhabitants)	Population Rate of change 2011-2000 (%)	Migration balance 2011 (%)	Difference between migration balance of the area and regional	Ageing Index	Ageing index of the area/regional ageing index
Fruit-vegetables MT	Basilicata S	12	89.301	-0,6	0,20	0,16	27,1	0,88
Wine Vulture	Basilicata S	15	85.994	-4,0	0,11	0,07	28,8	0,93
Parmisan Cheese	Emilia-Romagna	47	421.000	7,3	0,63	0,04	35,5	0,98
Tomato ind North	Emilia-Romagna and Lombardy NW	37	488.768	9,4	0,75	0,15	35,6	0,99
S. Daniele Ham	Friuli NE	7	20.876	-18,4	0,10	-0,16	38,1	1,01
Wine Friuli	Friuli NE	15	69.236	-0,1	0,11	-0,15	36,8	0,97
Wine Marche	Marche C	33	215.338	-8,0	0,08	-0,19	36,6	1,02
Fruits-vegetables Cuneo	Piedmont NW	10	124.651	4,7	0,55	0,58	35,9	1,25
Beef meat Cuneo	Piedmont NW	40	281.138	-4,3	0,43	0,12	34,6	0,93
Wine Langhe	Piedmont NW	94	198.446	16,6	0,32	0,02	35,1	0,95
Grapes Bari	Apulia S	10	178.726	-4,3	0,25	0,28	26,5	0,92
Cereals Foggia	Apulia S	61	654.141	0,5	-0,07	-0,04	29,4	1,02
Olive oil Bari	Apulia S	41	1.250.493	2,7	0,03	0,06	27,6	0,96
Pecorino cheese Oristano	Sardinia S	88	206.172	22,3	0,01	-0,09	34,9	1,18
Vegetables Ragusa	Sicily S	14	422.464	-6,0	0,22	0,19	27,1	0,95
Wine Trapani	Sicily S	37	567.768	-6,0	0,11	0,08	30,7	1,08
Nursery gardening Pistoia	Tuscany C	5	130.533	-7,7	0,30	-0,20	37,5	1,00
Pecorino cheese Grosseto	Tuscany C	28	250.266	18,5	0,63	0,13	37,4	1,00
Apples Trentino	Trentino NE	55	61.576	13,8	0,29	-0,15	31,4	1,07
Apples Alto Adige	Trentino NE	72	554.932	60,2	0,40	-0,04	30,4	1,04
Total		721	6.271.819	5,5	0,25			

Dynamism of the demographic profile

- local economy is able to draw population from other areas of either the same region or other regions
- ageing also is lower than the rest of the regional territory
- the population profile is not so jeopardised as in the most remote areas

Agricultural productivity in local systems

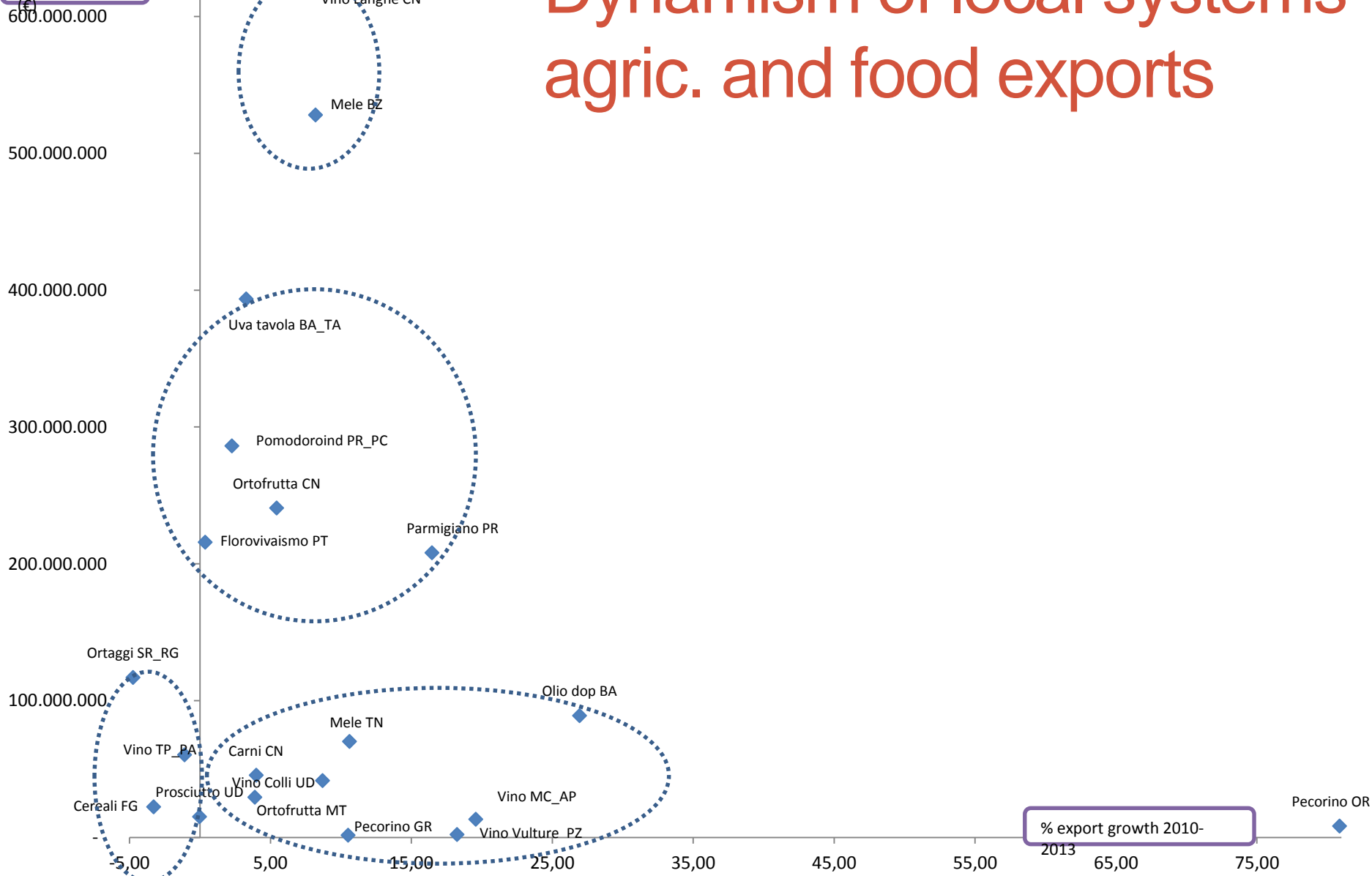


Dynamism of Italian agric. and food exports

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change % 2013-2010
North-East	6.719.221.459	7.157.321.103	7.346.966.472	7.664.583.181	14,1
North-West	7.303.541.184	8.075.773.085	8.593.135.002	9.074.076.097	24,2
Center	4.357.163.365	4.762.860.056	5.002.670.005	5.376.171.544	23,4
Mezzogiorno	56.206.973.089	61.290.336.365	64.687.439.874	67.772.847.926	20,6
Total	28.032.763.256	30.481.647.325	32.087.124.336	33.649.076.319	20,0

Dynamism of local systems' agric. and food exports

Exports 2013
(€)



% export growth 2010-
2013

Some conclusion (1)

- The debate on rural development has frequently undervalued the role of agro-food sector
- Dynamism and resilience of localised agro-food systems in time of crises
- Localised agro-food systems recall the concept of industrial district but with strong differences
- Local nature of resources, history and traditions as part of local identity

Some conclusion (2)

- Classical structural variables, geographical differences and infrastructures cannot explain diversity of local agro-food systems
- Institutional and governance are crucial factors
- Vertical and horizontal integration/cooperation within the agro-food chain
- Linkages with sectors outside the agro-food chain (horizontal cooperation)
- Leadership: who is leading these processes?