

Roles, difficulties and needs of advisors in Climate-Smart Farming Transformations

Results from focus groups in 10 different European countries

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Climate smart Advisor project

Context of the project : ~~Winter~~ **CLIMATE CHANGE** is coming !

→ Agricultural sector has to :

- Reduce Green House Gases emissions, and store carbon in soils & landscape
- Adapt to a more extreme climate

→ Farm advisors are recognized as key actors in fostering climate-smart innovations and supporting farmers in transitions



Pan-European multi-actor network (2023-2030)

Aims to **boost the EU agricultural advisory community on climate smart farming** by strengthening the advisors' capacity and role in this transition



Materials & method



10 FG run in nov / dec 2023

Recruitment of on-field **Climate Smart Farming (CSF) advisors**

→ Objective : listen to them to **understand the advisor's practices, successes and difficulties**, and involve & make them want to improve their advisory practices on CSF

→ Average of 10 participants / Focus group

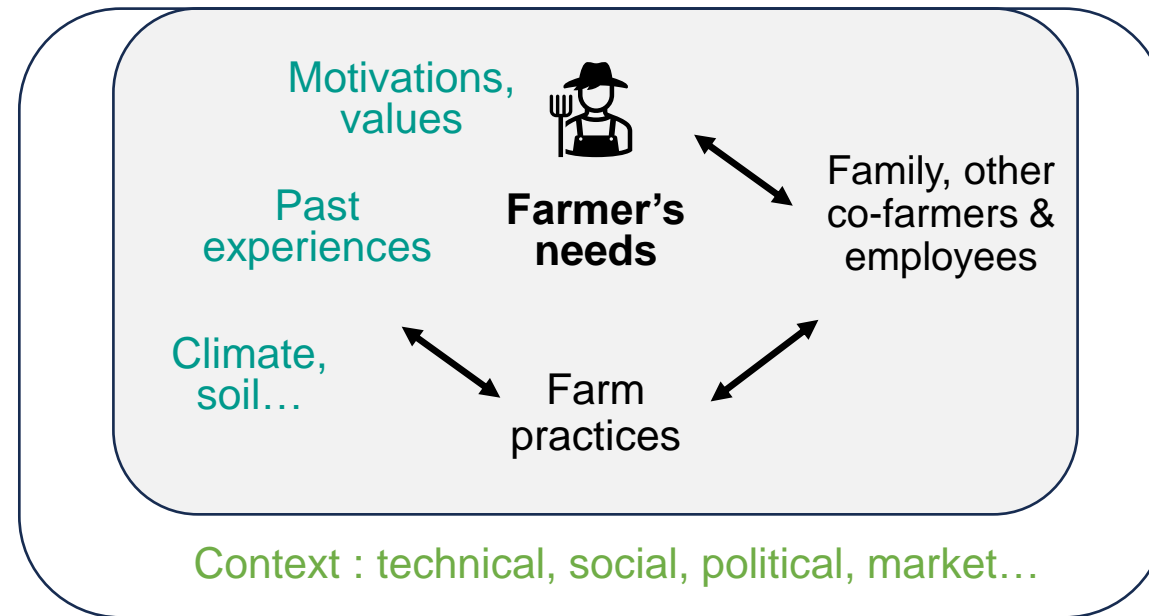
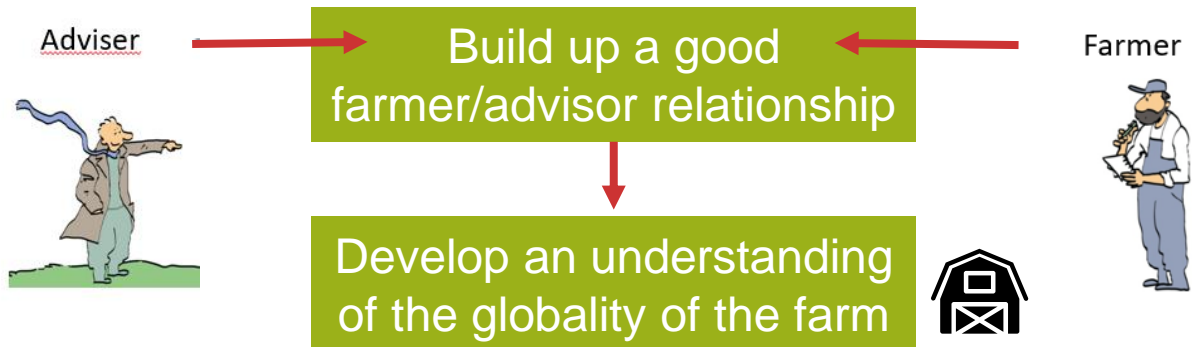
→ Advisors well experienced or not, mainly supporting farmers on climate issues and climate-friendly practices

→ All production sectors

What is the most important when advising ? Good Practices



Key aspects of their job



Involve the farmers in finding relevant CS measures



Support the farmer in implementing changes



Useful tools spontaneously quoted

Most of the participants know and use tools for CSF advise

Decision support tools : Strategic and business management tools, simulation of levers, risk management tool

Although not necessarily special carbon calculators



Tools for carbon audits

No national tool for calculating carbon footprint



Tools for other topics known and widely used

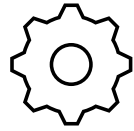
Tools for good management and diagnostic of hedges, soil, forage accounting, nutrient management, pasture, farm management accounting, environmental monitoring, slurry management, holistic assessment ...

Tools not spontaneously quoted even if they are commonly used

Self diagnostic tools : might not be seen as very important or relevant in their work with the farmers

Tools for rewarding mechanisms : lack of familiarity with these tools and mechanisms

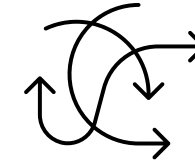




What's important to encourage the use of a climate tool ?



Key aspects to help



Difficulties



Importance of **TIME**, both in terms of **knowledge sharing and trust**, regardless which tool is used

Lack of time in the field



Accessibility / simplicity: both in terms of use (and language), and of **understanding and results reporting**, to help discussions with the farmer

Availability, knowledge



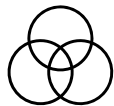
Give a **better understanding**, or even prediction, of **technical and economic issues** → **Tailor their advice to farmers' expectations** (improve farm efficiency / secure money with additional subsidies)

Take into account globality of the farm



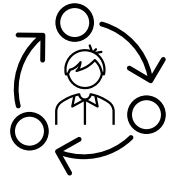
Allow to **compare farm system** with other benchmarks → **Re-insure** the farmers about the **sustainability of their farm**, both economically and technically

No proof possible

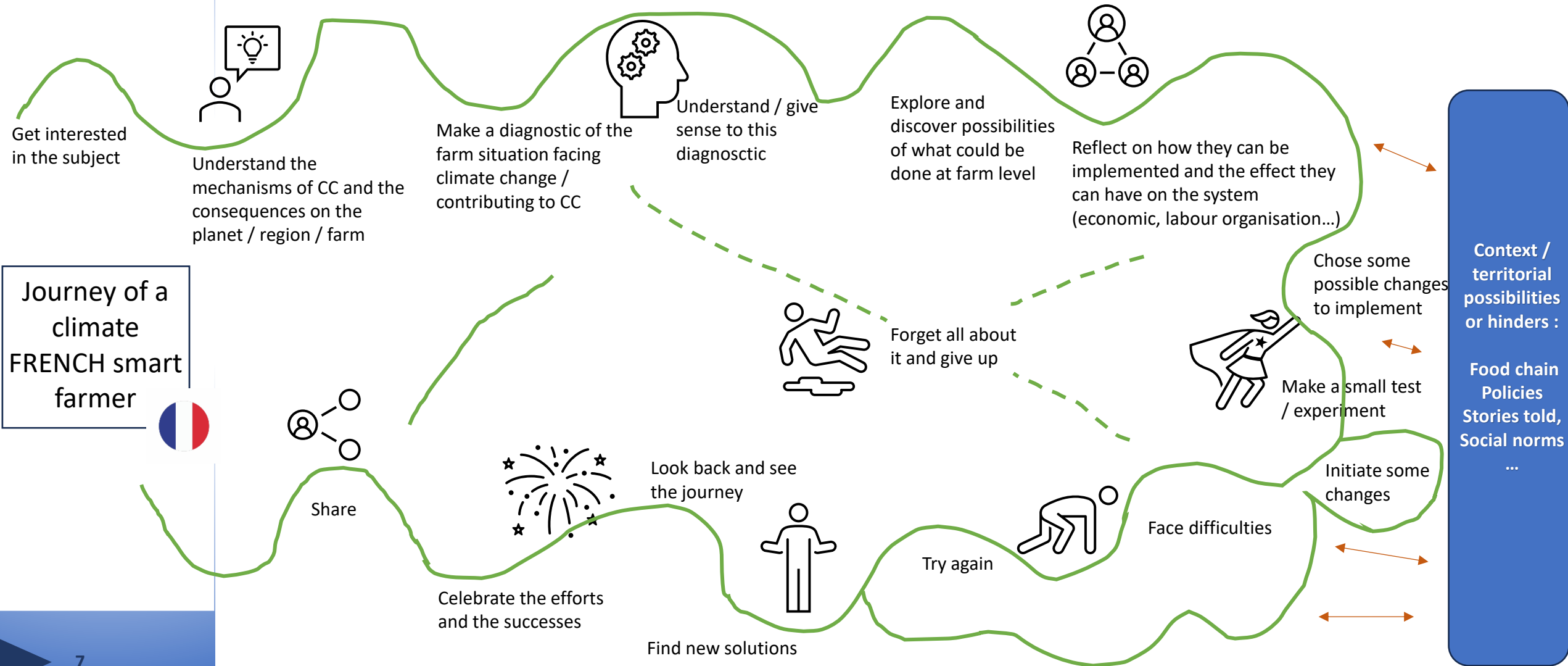


Economic aspects & cost / benefit ratio





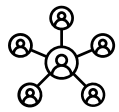
Advisory approaches when using tools



According to advisors, what do they need to improve their advice ?



AKIS level



Coordinate with other colleagues

→ Develop the « climate advisory » concept, including more interdisciplinarity

Structural level

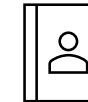


Secure money to be able to **reward** farmers who implement CSF practices

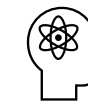


Time... always !
To build farmers' trust and bring them to action

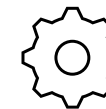
Technical level



Develop hands-on description of relevant / economically beneficial CSF practices for farmers



Educate farmers and advisors **on CSF practices**, specially on data & calculation methods behind the results



Carbon calculators tools :
choose few recognized in experienced countries and **national tool to be developed** in countries with no national tool yet



Thank you for your attention

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