The pretext of foresight to debate on groundwater management in agriculture lessons from seven case studies in France

La prospective, un prétexte pour débattre de la gestion des prélèvements agricoles pour l'irrigation

Enseignement de sept cas d'étude en France

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Outlines of the presentation

- The problem
- Participatory foresight methodology
- Implementation in 7 case studies
- Stakeholders' evaluation of the method
- Discussion & conclusion





The problem

2 obstacles to creative thinking

- 1 current legal framework, political context & attitudes
- 2 Interpersonnal relationships, official postures due to positioning in current negotiations



A detour via the future may help

Free access regime 1980 1992 Water law 2000 **EU Water** Directive 2006 Water law

Water allocation rules?

Drought management?

Role of the State & new WUAS?

Economic incentives & market mecanisms for water allocation ?

Use of new technologies (smart meters, satelite)

Financial model for WUAs?

Governance with WUAs?

2020 Decentralised regulated regime



Need to invent a drastically different model: creativity!



Participatory foresight methodology

Three main principles

- Long term thinking (25-30 years)
 - Disconnect from present stakes
 - Exploratory thinking not prescriptive

Use of predefiend scenarios

- Contrasted scenarios open the range of possible futures
- Used as a tool to trigger discussion and the development of hydrid scenarios
- Rooted in reality adapted to each case study based on interviews
- A response to time constraint

Plurality of visions

- Participatory approach for a collective intelligence
- Experts & representative of users
- Grass root actors (farmers)
- Keep public separate and confront the results at the end













Implementation in selected case studies

A common framework

Climate & economic change



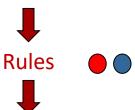
Increased water demand & reduced available resources



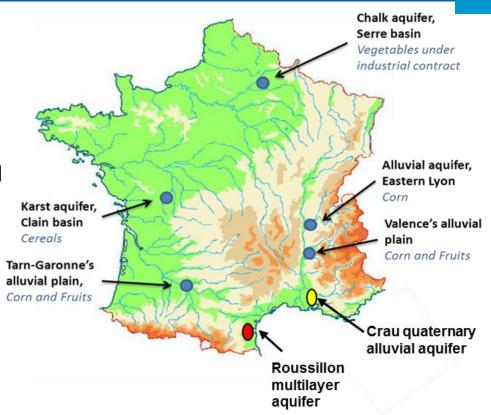
Structural water deficit, new access & allocation rules



Water users association created + receive bulk allocation + empowered to design their own rules



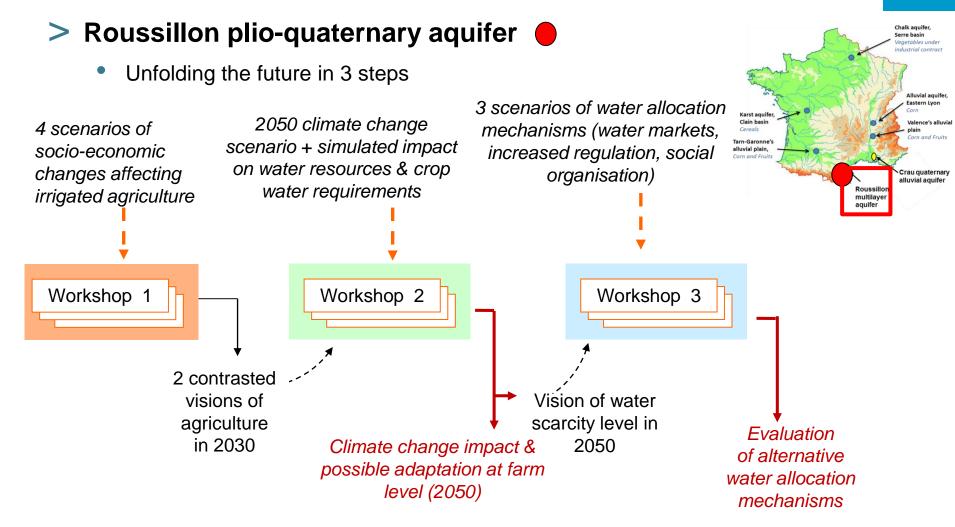






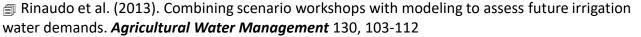


Implementation in case studies





Rinaudo et al. (2012). Envisioning innovative groundwater regulation policies through scenario workshops in France and Portugal. *Irrigation and Drainage* - vol. pp.





Implementation in case studies

Towards collective GW management in 5 aquifers

New water law

- Evolution of the context imposed
- Discussion of alternative management approaches (scenarios)



Transparency

Tax & subsidy

Joint liability contract

Tradable quotas

16 workshops in 5 regions

80 farmers, 44 stakeholders





Figureau et al. (2015) Policy instruments for decentralized management of agricultural groundwater abstraction: a participatory approach. *Ecological Economics* 119: 147-157.

Figureau et al. (2014) Scénarios de régulation décentralisée des prélèvements agricole en eau souterraine : évaluation participative dans le bassin du Clain. *Economie Rurale* n°. 342



Crau quaternary

Implementation in case studies

> Supporting the design of dought management rules in the Crau alluvial plain

First set of rules based on a **technical approach** aiming at optimizing water use efficiency without questionning existing allocation

complex rules based on crop & soil types, etc. difficult to reach consensus

Foresight Future drought scenarios Alternative rules for inital allocation Reallocation instrument scenarios

Development of farm economic models to assess the impact of scenarios

Cereals

alluvial plain.

Continuation of the **negociation process** to formalize water management rules

Farmers debate











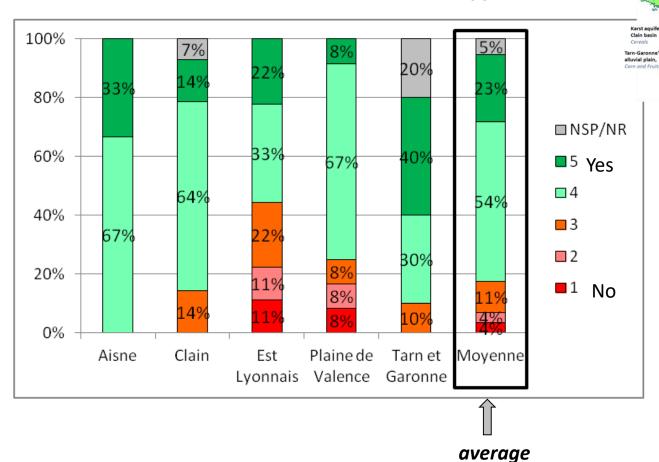


Crau quaternary

multilayer

Stakeholder's evaluation

The use of narrative scenario was usefull to trigger discussions

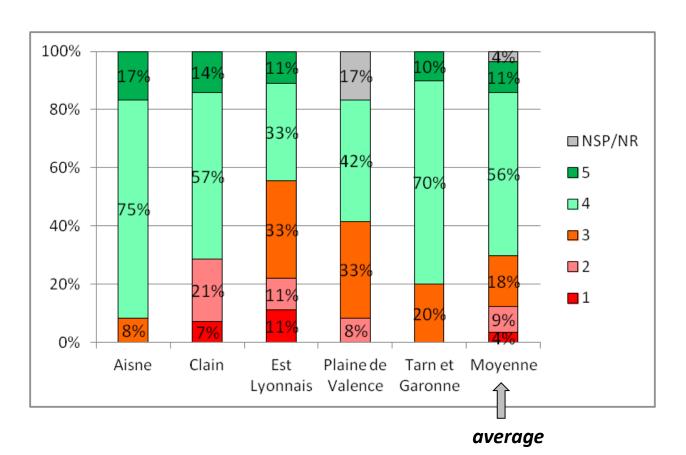


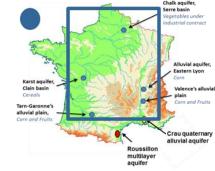




Stakeholder's evaluation

Were the workshops useful to develop your own thinking?



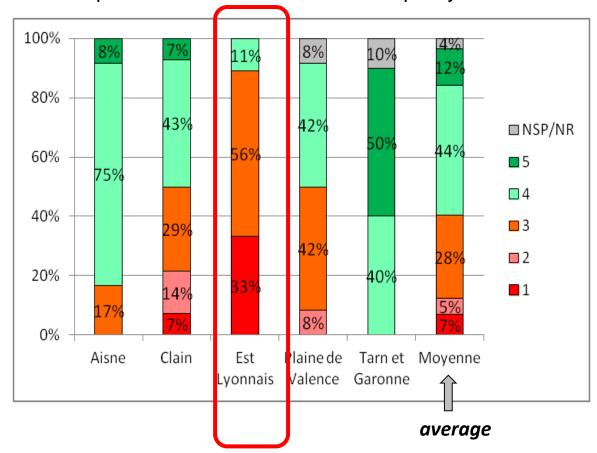






Stakeholder's evaluation

Some of the innovative ideas that emerged from the workshop should be debated in the local policy arena









Conclusion

> Recommandations

- Contrasted narrative scenarios is an efficient way to trigger discussions on water allocation reforms
- The context highly matters (farm types, groundwater characteristics).
- The discussion of future water management rules should be embedded in a discussion of the future of agriculture
- Separating water quantity & quality issues, agricultural and urban use is perceived as artificial – however time is a constraints!
- Research driven work may have limited impact if not commissioned by actors designing the rules





Conclusion







responsábel pela emissão e pela distituição de Como banto a Associação como o Tribunal da Agua quotas pelos seus utilizadores (respeltando os limites são compostos por agricultores, a gestão da água das disponibilidades hibiricas estabelecidas pelo lorna-se assim mais fexiuel e mais pròxima da:

se o sector aprilipia desta região cumprir a sua quota

Il figlo é tratado no Tribunal da Água.

e à hones idade por par le da Direcção da Associação

Faysse et al. (2014). Participatory analysis for adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean agricultural systems: possible choices in process design. Regional Environmental Change

Sellika et al (in press) Concilier développement agricole et usage pérenne des eaux souterraines : un dialogue multi-acteurs pour définir un projet de territoire agricole durable dans la province de Séfrou; Alternatives Rurales (http://alternatives-rurales.org)



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Thank you for your attention

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