



Social acceptability and water markets: analytical framework and conclusion of existing studies

Fabienne Kervarec (ACTeon), Paris, 3-02-2014

Social acceptability as a process

- Time / stakeholders / area
- Collective learning, information, public participation
- Context and alternatives

⇒ complex and dynamic

⇒ endogeneous / interlinked with public policy

⇒ high pressure on water resources ? Political alternatives ?



An aggregate of multidimensional judgments with variations according to market types



Judgements on Water Markets : illustrations (1)

Ethics and fairness

Water is considered as...

- « different from an ordinary commodity »
- « too scarce and vital to be bought and sold... »

Equity linked to perception of...

- policy unenforcement
- how fair is the initial allocation.

Market structure and stakeholders' strategies

Fear/perception of...

- asymetry in market forces
- increasing gap between small and big farmers
- buyers who do not use water.



Judgements on Water Markets : illustrations (2)

Environmental concerns

Debates are linked to...

- changes in water use location and with the purpose of the new user
- the question of public benefits (esp. intersectoral markets)

Local and rural development

Fear/perception of...

- farmers leaving the sector / area
- decline of labor, local services and property value



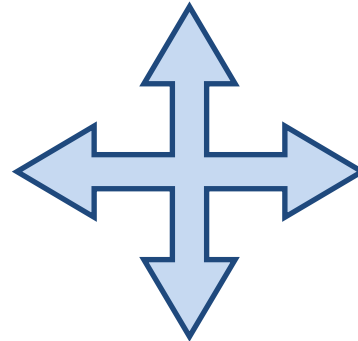
Water market acceptability in the literature: a typology

Market chain organisation and stakeholders strategies

- Oligopsony / rules of pricing / speculation
- Increasing the income gap between small and big farmers

Local and rural development concerns

- Impacts on individual farmers' and the wider community welfare
- Local development issues



Environmental concerns

- => Linked to changes in water use location
- Impacts on surface water quality ?
 - Moving water use upstream ?
 - Less water in the river ?

Ethics and social justice

- Fairness to share efforts
- Problem of initial allocation of quotas
- Water and land rights unbundling
- Water is not an ordinary commodity

Analysis of water market perception by Cap and Trade

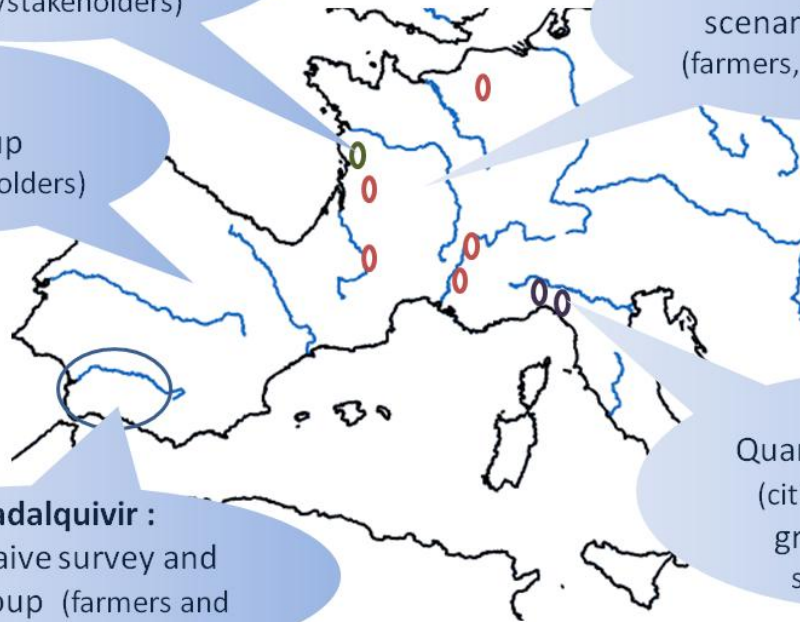
Marais Poitevin :
focus groupe
(farmers/stakeholders)

Spain :
focus group
(national stakeholders)

France (5 cases) :
scenario workshops
(farmers, representatives)

Guadalquivir :
quantitative survey and
focus group (farmers and
stakeholders)

Italy :
Quantitative survey
(citizen) and focus
group (national
stakeholders)



• **The perception of water markets by European farmers:** results of surveys and focus groups in Spain (J. Berbel, Cordoba University)

• **Barriers to trade:** results from scenario workshops in France (C. Hérivaux, Brgm)



To go further....

What should we learn ?

- Judgements or concerns...
 - ✓ that can be answered through institutional mechanisms, limits or market rule
 - ✓ linked to technical feasibility in a specific area,
 - ✓ referring to ethics (more difficult to answer...).
- Linked between acceptability and trust: in the public authority in charge of policy implementation, in abstraction volumes...

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