



Multifunctionality as key concept for agriculture sustainability scenarios: *the TOP-Mard Approach*

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I. Structure

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1.1. Definition of Multifunctionality

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1. Definition of Multifunctionality

1.1. What is agrarian multifunctionality:

Two domains of agrarian multifunctionality:

- a) The analytical one or activity-oriented concept: It describes the characteristics of farm production, the outcomes from land uses and the joint-production, focusing on these relationships.**

- b) The normative domain or policy-oriented concept : it is considered as a policy instrument of rural development.**



1.2. What is multifunctionality: TOP-MARD approach

Broader definition considers and emphasizes the generation of non-commodity outputs that relate multifunctionality not only with the environment (**Narrow definition**) but with the safety of food production, rural viability and quality of life in rural areas.

Holistic or 'joined-up' approach: analyses all market and non-market production relationships by examining the ***input and output ends of the production*** and household livelihood processes, as well as ***the positive and negative non-market outputs and inputs*** involved.

Disaggregated approach the relation between market and non-market functions is sensitive to farming styles, farm type and structure, farm household characteristics, and regional and local contexts.



2. TOP-MARD project



2.1. TOP-MARD: aim

The *main aim* of the research is to develop the concept of multifunctionality as a rural development policy instrument that is sensitive to economic, social, cultural and environmental contexts of the European Union.



2.2. TOP-MARD: Objectives

- 1. To identify the market and non-market functions of agriculture** in a range of European rural contexts considering the disaggregated approach.
- 2. To evaluate the nature and degree of co-production** (*jointness* or *competition*) between the market and non-market goods and services.
- 3. To analyse the factors influencing or determining the nature and degree of different kinds of market and non-market relationships** in the production process.
- 4. To analyse the linkages between these multiple functions and the development of rural areas and their quality of life and environment.**
- 5. To elaborate a systematic and dynamic computer-based model** reflecting the relationships involved.
- 6. To provide a tool for policy makers which can assist in evaluating the impacts of policy changes on both agriculture and regional development** in different European contexts.



2.3. TOP-MARD approach to sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

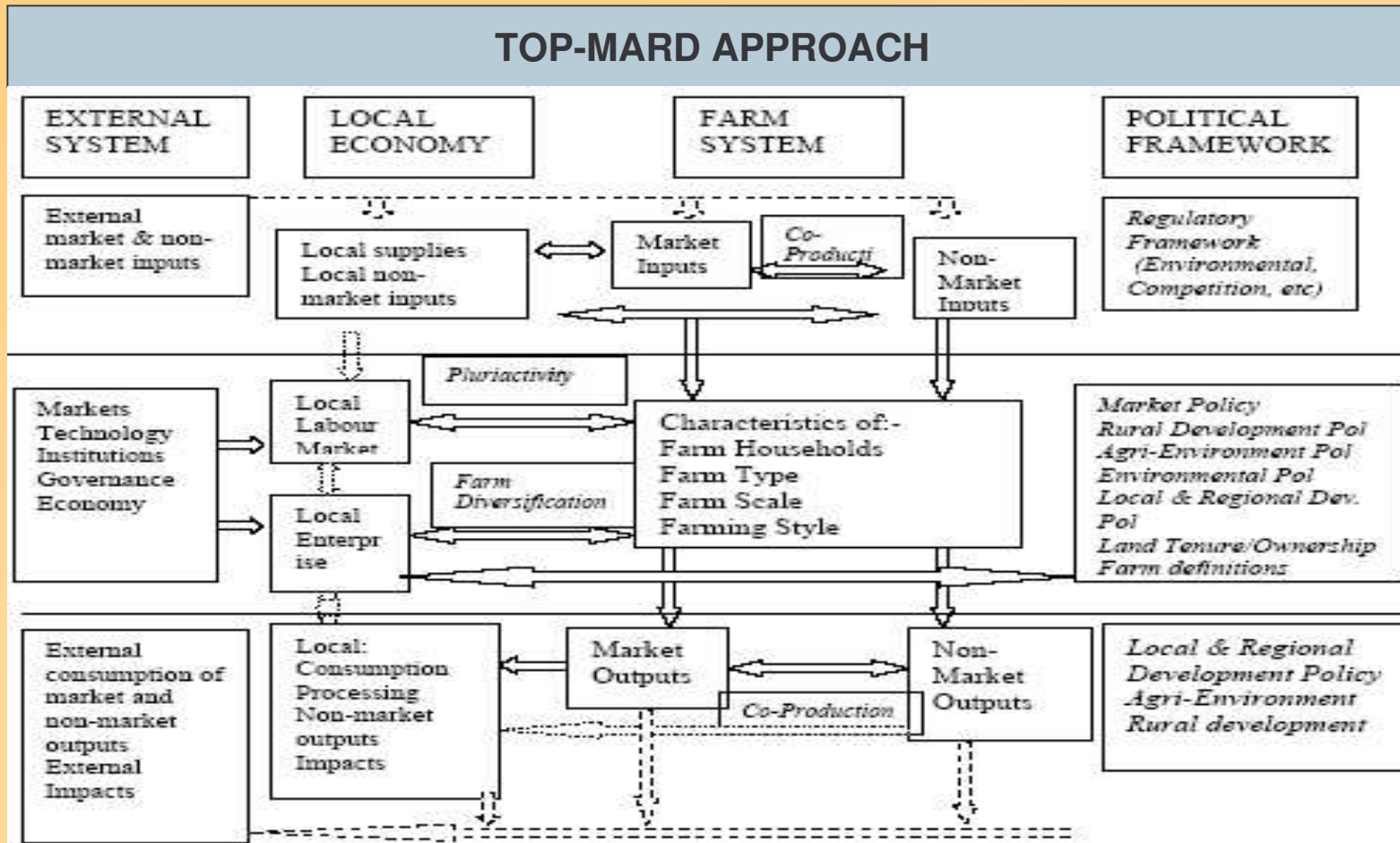
Production of FOOD & VIABILITY OF FARMS



Production of ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Sustainable Agriculture

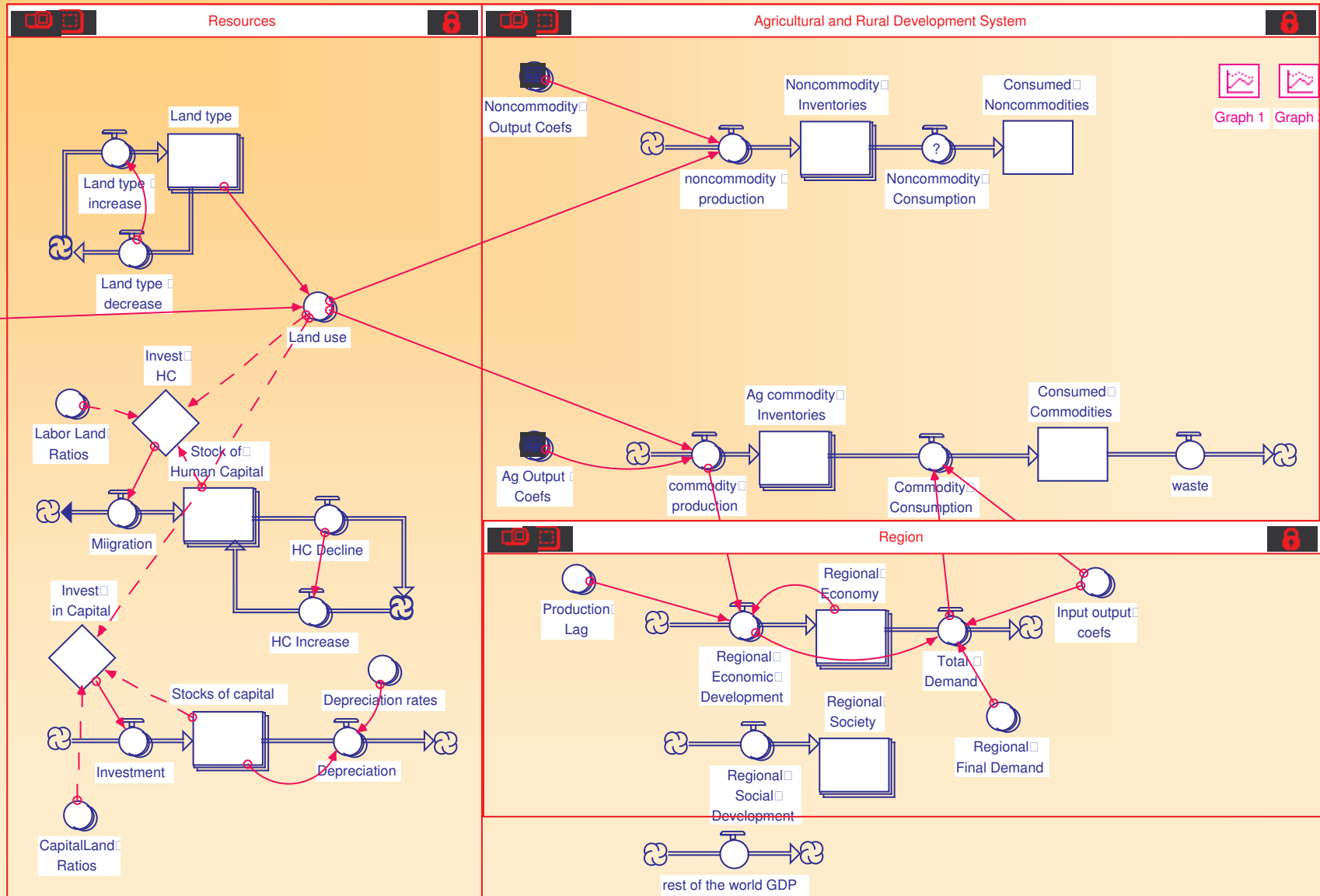
Production of SOCIAL BENEFITS



Quality of Life

Rural Development



2.3. TOP-MARD approach to Multifunctional Agriculture and Rural Development





3. Some reflections about Multifunctionality as a key to agrarian sustainability in Spain

3.1. General context of the Spanish agriculture

1. Diverse / Varied
2. Farming systems or styles 
3. The ecosystems with remarkable factors of fragility
4. Rural areas: unevenly distributed population 



Farming Styles

1. **Traditional extensive systems** in dry land devoted to cereals, sunflower and fallow.
2. **Mediterranean crop systems** in dry land, devoted to vineyards, olive groves and almond trees.
3. **Dehesas systems:** extensive agricultural systems with a mixture of crops, cattle and woodlands.
4. **Extensive livestock systems**, predominantly in mountain or hilly areas, with sheep, goat and cattle presence.
5. **Intensive systems in irrigated land** dedicated to horticulture (vegetable and fruit crops) and other productions such as sugar beet, alfalfa, cereals, tobacco and cotton.
6. **Intensive livestock systems** of pigs, poultry, rabbits and calves.





3.2. Multifunctionality is applied to the following scenarios

1. Areas with risk of marginalisation and depopulation
2. Traditional and extensive systems (or styles)
3. The most fragile ecosystems

Sustainability of the Less Favoured Areas.

<i>Agro System</i>	<i>NCO</i>	<i>CO</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Traditional extensive2. Dehesas3. Mediterranean extensive crop4. Extensive livestock <p>Nº of trees, borders, fallows, permanent pastures, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity: birds, flora• Landscape• Reduction soil erosion• Reduction fires• Cultural identity• Social fabric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food• Raw materials• Rural tourism• Retail trade• Agroindustry

Sustainability of the Less Favoured Areas.

On-farm diversification
Pluriactivity
Quality label
Leader

↑
MTF
Policies

Agrienvironmental
Land protection
Environmental directives



4. Some final ideas

Multifunctionality agrarian contracts as a key for sustainable development in those agrarian marginal areas

Sustainable Rural Development strategy: the key elements of sustainability for the territory

Farm multifunctional strategy in accordance to the SRD Strategy and CAP.

Farm multifunctional strategy with no impacts on market prices distortion in accordance to WTO and Developing issues.



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