

Ad hoc support : TGFST-SAD

Thinking about food processing systems in a holistic way: towards a more sustainable agriculture

ABSTRACT

The visit from the Professor Harriet Friedmann, sociologist and geographer from the University of Toronto, gave rise to very fruitful scientific discussions on the question of the sustainability of agro-food systems. Harriet Friedmann contributed in different respects to a large number of seminars, part of which had been organised specifically in the context of her visit to deal with questions related to the evolution of agrofood systems and their sustainability. These seminars were critical in particular to discuss the linkages between agriculture and food systems. Harriet Friedmann's visit provided a unique opportunity to put into perspective different conceptual approaches that have been developed to analyse agro-food system and this contributes to proposing ways for renewing the thinking about these systems in a way that better addresses environmental and social sustainability concerns. Interestingly a significant number of researchers took advantage of her visit to have her participating to different seminars and scientific discussions.

Her visit contributed to enrich the collective thinking currently being developed within the Montpellierian scientific community about the sustainability of urban agrofood systems as part of designing the SurFood project and in particular about the urban rural linkages from a sociological and territorial point of view. Her experience as past Chair of the Toronto Food Policy Council was a critical element in this regard.

Year : 2012

Project number : 1200-002

Type of funding : SP

Project type : PC

Research units in the network : MOISA

Start date : 2012-07-31

End date : 2013-03-30

Flagship project : no

Project leader : Estelle Bienabe

Project leader's institution : CIRAD

Project leader's RU : INNOVATION

Budget allocated : 20499 €

Total budget allocated (including co-financing) : 20499 €

Funding : Labex

PERSPECTIVES

Beyond the publishing process underway, scientific exchanges with Pr Harriet Friedmann continue in the context of the building of the SurFood project, notably with the organization in Montpellier of the 5th AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) Sustainable Food Planning Conference "Innovations in urban food systems" to be held in Montpellier on the 28 and 29 of October 2013.