

Organic farming as lever for Romanian rural development

Study case of the institutional framework's influence on small-scale farmers settlement

Context

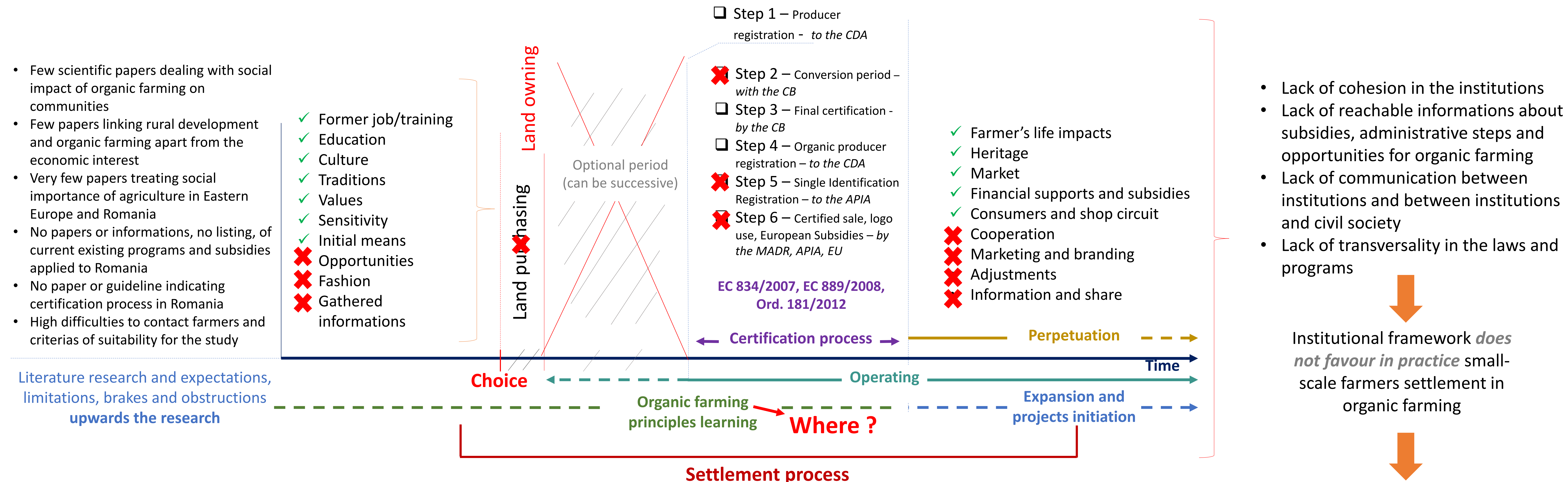
- Rural areas covering 87% of total Romanian surface area hosting almost ½ of the population
 - Agricultural lands represent **60%** of total surface are
 - Primary sector represent **4,5% national GDP employing 1/4th national workforce**
 - Extreme land fragmentation and farm structure polarization
- Agriculture in Romania at the **cross-roads** of societal, environmental and economic stakes
- Development need with cross-cutting approach

Problem statement and hypothesis

- Organic farming attractiveness has augmented by 4 fold operators numbers in the last 10 years
 - Due to its implementation simplicity (tools and surface area needed)
→ Can be a lever for rural development
- Providing numerous jobs, infrastructure, creating global richness and skills to farmers and by extension rural areas and Romania as a whole through **small-scale farming**
- **Studying farmers settlement process to highlight key elements favouring or braking it**

Method and operationalization

- Comprehensive interview** method by J-C. Kaufmann (1996)
- Interview as an bilateral exchange to comprehend farmer's unique dynamic and motives
- Use of a interview grid as comparative tool for all farmers



Discussion and conclusions

- Transparency and communication are essential marketing tools for organic activity in Romania
- Institutions are not favouring in practice small-scale → application procedures and criterias not matching with on field daily life reality as small-scale farmer
- Implementation need of cross-cutting policies to not incitate organic farming under the unique economic dimension → farming depolitization and acknowledgement of farming importance in Romania

- Lack of cohesion in the institutions
- Lack of reachable informations about subsidies, administrative steps and opportunities for organic farming
- Lack of communication between institutions and between institutions and civil society
- Lack of transversality in the laws and programs

Institutional framework *does not favour in practice* small-scale farmers settlement in organic farming

Need to **simplify procedures** to fit with on-field reality

Need of a **cohesivity** between institutions by **including** all of **rural areas stakes** aspects