Food System Outcomes: An Overview and the Potential for Organic

Lilliana Stefanovic, PhD Candidate

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1. Introduction: Project’s Background

- PhD project's Affiliation
  - Umbrella Project: OFSP-Programme with contribution to Deliverables 1, 4 & 6
  - Academic supervision: University of Kassel and Fulda University of Applied Sciences
  - Financial coverage: doctorate scholarship of the Hessen State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Art (Wiesbaden, Germany)

- Focus: Organic Food System Outcomes using systemic view and the context of FS transformation in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Timespan: April 2018 – July 2020
2. Aims and Objectives

• Aim – identify the Outcomes addressed in Organic Food Systems (OFSs) around the world applying systemic view on FS

• Emphasis – transformation of OFS towards SDGs

  Potential for contribution to monitoring of transformation processes in FSs

• Actor-centric approach (project results will present the perspective of the involved key actors as well as experts): human-being – in centre of OFS

• Objectives: Identifying concrete (groups of) Outcomes → SDGs → SDG-Targets → SDG-linked Patterns of Outcomes
3. Methodology at a Glance

**FS Outcomes: General Concept and OFS as Example**
- Systematic Literature Review: FS Outcomes
- Expert Round
- OFS Cases’ Documentation (key actors’ perspective)

**Extraction of Patterns of OFS Outcomes and SDGs + Understanding**
- Online-Survey with Experts of Organic Sector Across the Globe

**Breakdown of Outcomes and linked SDGs to SDG-Targets Level**
- Group Discussions with Key Actors of Selected Cases

**Conceptualization (Basis for Monitoring)**
- Focus Group(s) with Experts (cross-continental)
4. Food System Outcomes: A Brief Overview (1/3)

• FS Outcomes / Effects – positive or negative, intended or unintended consequences of FS activities / interventions occurring „(...) in various domains across time and space“.

Adopted from: Nesheim et al. 2015, p. 12.

• Intervention-based management: “(...) likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention’s outputs” as opposed to impacts (long-term effects)


• Review on FS Outcomes in academic publications on FSs (2008 – present)
  – Outcomes and synonyms considered in context of FSs as well as socio-ecological systems
  – Example: Web of Science, total of 1,190 publications identified
4. Food System Outcomes: A Brief Overview (2/3)

- Increase of interest towards FS discourse and the topic of Outcomes

- However:
  - Some irrelevant (in terms of focus of current project) fields of science, i.e. food technology, construction, etc.
  - Myriad of publications mention term „FS“ referring to value chain solely
  - „Outcomes“ of specific projects appear in output publications

Filtering and screening for relevance → 45 relevant publications
4. Food System Outcomes: A Brief Overview (3/3)

- FS Outcomes in academic publications
  - Context / frame in which Outcomes are discussed
    - Broader sustainability discourse
    - Transformation discourse (incl. FS for GEC research)

- Categories of Outcomes
  - Direct vs. indirect
  - Intended / desired / expected vs. unintended / undesired / unexpected vs. emergent
  - Positive vs. negative
  - Short- vs. long-term

- Value of systems thinking for FS Outcomes' discourse – in order to systemically capture the Outcomes discourse

Source: own data.
5. Preliminary Results (1/3)

• **Expert Round**
  – Participants: six OFSP experts from Asia, North America and Europe
  – Date and venue: October 4th, 2018 at University of Kassel, Germany

• **Online-Survey**
  – Target group: OFS experts und experts from the organic sector (agriculture, processing, distributions, certification, etc.) around the world

![Gender distribution](image)

- Male: 48%
- Female: 50%
- Other: 2%
- Total: n=124

![Age groups](image)

- 18-25: 52%
- 26-39: 16%
- 40-59: 10%
- 60+: 13%
- 18-25: 4%
- Total: n=124

Survey participants per continent

- Europe: 52%
- North America: 4%
- South America: 4%
- Africa: 6%
- Asia: 16%
- Other: 10%
- Total: n=124

Source: own calculations.
5. Preliminary Results (2/3)

- Concrete Groups of Outcomes identified (based on results from Expert round, October 2018, and Online-Survey, March-April 2019)
  - Ecosystem stability
  - Health and nutritional status
  - Food and nutrition security
  - Dietary diversity
  - Improved livelihoods

- SDGs currently addressed in OFSs

- Discrepancies in understanding of desired and existent Outcomes as well as concrete Outcomes under SDGs

Source: own data.
5. Preliminary Results (3/3)

- Overview of survey results: open-ended question (only Outcomes-related answers considered)

What is Organic Food System for you? (multiple answers possible)

n=99

Source: own data.
6. Outlook

• Next steps
  – Group discussions with key actors of selected OFS cases
  – Extraction of SDGs addressed in selected OFS cases, understanding of concrete Outcomes under these SDGs, linking to SDG-Targets' level
  – Focus group(s) with (O)FS and SDG experts (cross-continental)
  – Conceptualization of OFS Outcomes' Pattern and linked SDGs, model-building
Thank you for your attention!
7. References (1/2)


7. References (2/2)


Questions and Discussion