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Sustainability assessment of PDO value chains: The cases of L'Etivaz and Le Gruyère in Switzerland

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Protected Designations of Origin are tools for protecting the geographical names of products but are considered as well by EU-regulation 510/2006 as tools for supporting local development processes. Their impacts on sustainability have been poorly documented in the literature so far. The objectives of this paper are: To present a method of constructing indicators of sustainability adapted from the SAFA guidelines developed at FAO; to present the results for 2 PDO cheeses that have existed for many decades in the Swiss Alps but have been legally registered as PDO for about 10 years only and to propose responses in terms of policies' adaptation or changes for improving the impact on sustainability of the concerned products. The research is part of the GLAMUR European research project which has developed a methodological approach in order to identify the possible policy interventions based on a performance assessment of local vs. global food value chains. The methodological approach is applied to the performance assessment of two PDO cheeses in Switzerland. First, relevant attributes have been identified as the main perceived fields of impacts and corresponding indicators have been defined based on literature and experts opinions. Second, data have been collected in order to calculate the indicators. Third, the results and their policy implications are discussed. The main policy recommendation is that the sustainability assessment of PDO could be useful for the purpose of allocating public support to PDO initiatives in order to encourage sustainability improvement all along the chain.

Biography

Author Name is a Biologist specialized in Biotechnology and Agri-Food; she continued her formation achieving the Master Erasmus Mundus Food Identity in 2014. The latter allowed her acquiring deep knowledge of typical and local food around Europe strengthened by her participation at the European Project FP7 GLAMUR aiming at integrating advancement in scientific knowledge about the impact of food chains to practice, to increase food chains sustainability through public policies and private strategies

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