Organic farming and resilience

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Modernisation's potential to undermine resilience

Farmers increasingly become office workers: only those who handle the paper work well, survive. This reduces the time and energy available for other tasks (e.g. time with the family, experimenting,

Modernisation often means

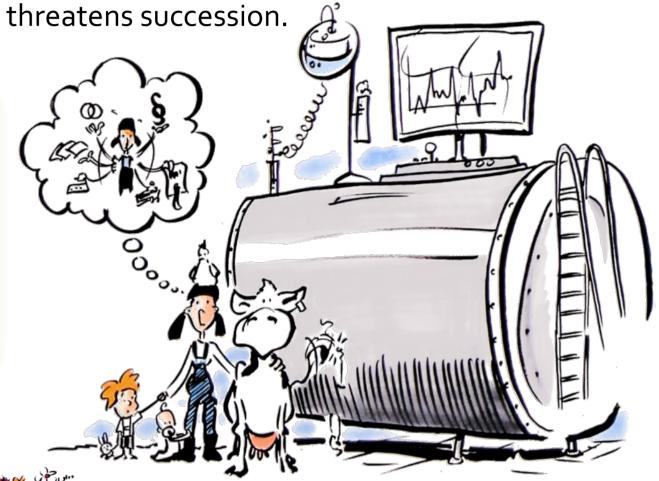
the bigger the tractor,

the bigger the distance

from nature.

larger machinery. But: 11(パラ

Farm women are overburdened: they have to help with handling large milk quantities, keep abreast of changing legal and documentation requirements, need to take care of the children and the household. Low quality of life threatens succession.

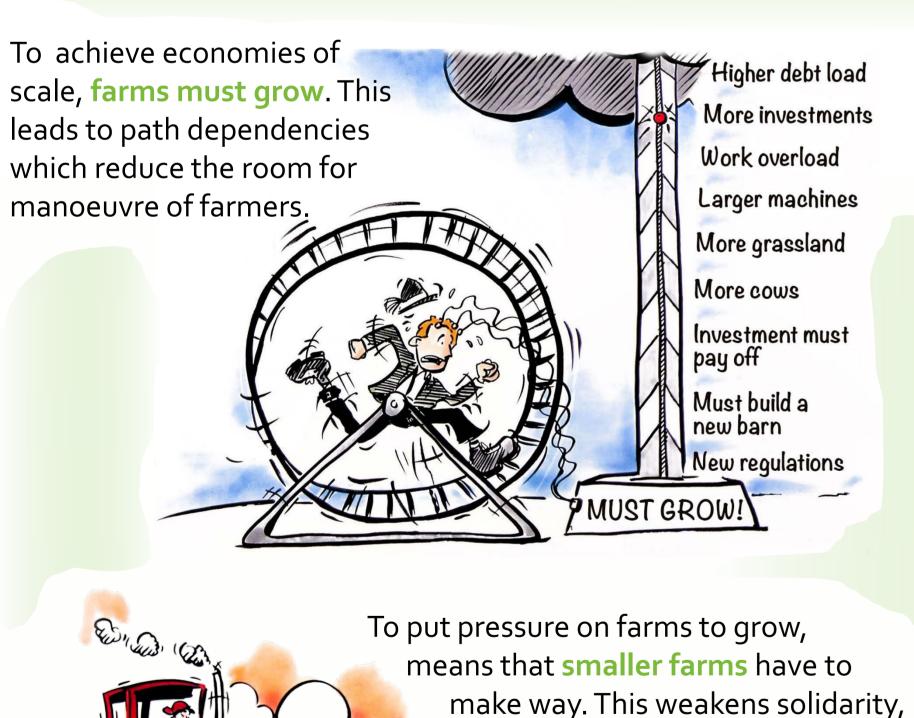


nethods may not be appropriate for local soils nisation reduces human-animal interactions.

Feedback loops are severed.

number of potential partners

for joint initiatives.





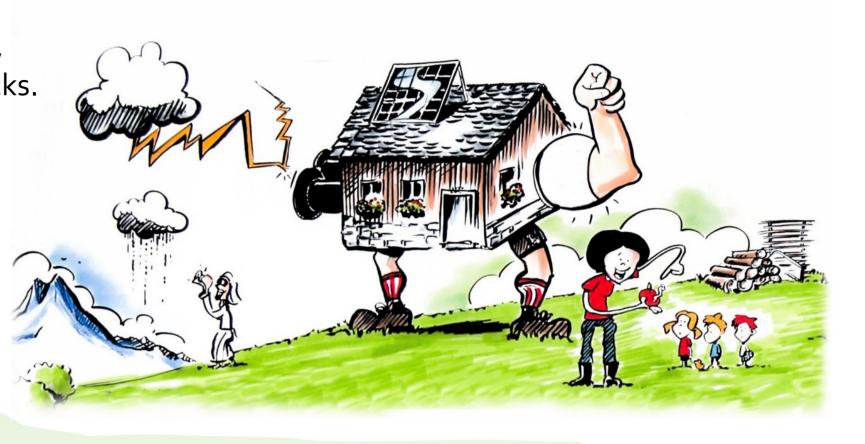
Modern production methods require high expenditures for agrichemicals, veterinarians, etc. As commodity prices tend to be volatile, farmers are often caught in a cost-price squeeze.



- ✓ Organic farmers are more likely to develop alternatives to 'get big or get out'. This has enabled small farms to thrive and contributed to social cohesion.
- ✓ Many farmers welcome a territorial, multifunctional approach to farming. Yet, formal institutions tend to have a sectoral approach, which narrows the type of initiatives they endorse.
- ✓ Diversity has many advantages. On a farm it allows to buffer shocks and enhances adaptability. A diversity of farms in a region is a valuable source for common initiatives and fosters social innovations.
- Encouraging experimentation and open-ended learning processes is important to enable initiatives between diverse stakeholders. This requires a broader understanding of learning, i.e. one not limited to technical knowledge transfer.
- ✓ Quality of life on farms is essential to ensure succession. Offering coaching services would help address intergenerational issues and support women.

Organic farming's potential to strengthen resilience

Organic farms are often diversified, which allows them to weather shocks. They not only integrate diverse agricultural activities, but address diverse societal demands, e.g. through energy production, tourism and education services.





Higher direct payments means less pressure to grow. This leaves more time to discuss emerging opportunities and to think how the farm may be adapted.

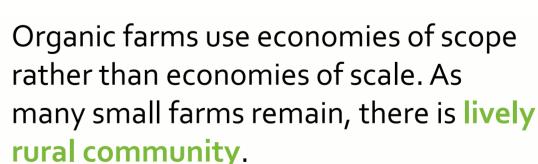
Less debt also strengthens the ability to transform the farm.



Organic farming builds on closed nutrient cycles and experiential knowledge. This ensures locally adapted production methods, and reduces dependency from the agrichemical industry.



A territorial orientation enables joint initiatives with a variety of rural stakeholders.





rather than competition enables peer recognition. Organic farming also receive more societal recognition for services.



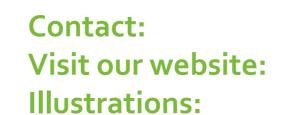












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