

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) as common property regimes for organic farming labelling

ERSR 2022 BOKU Satellite event

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1.1 Organic labels and certification schemes

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1.1 Organic labels and certification schemes

1.2 Participatory Guarantee Systems

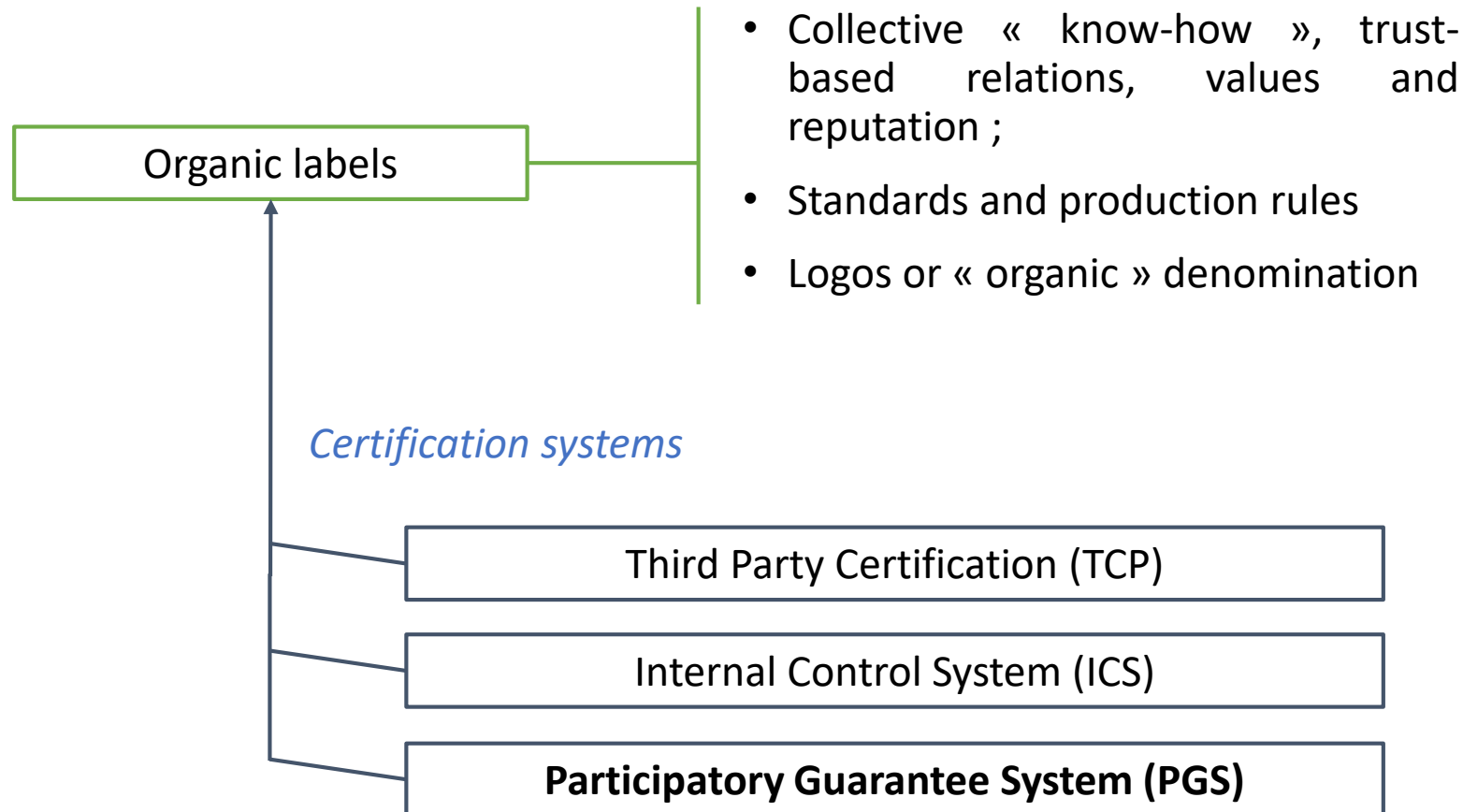
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1.2 Participatory Guarantee Systems

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- **Certification by PGS is a collaborative process** where knowledge is shared, social link is strengthened and individuals are empowered (Home et al., 2017).
- The **active participation of various stakeholders** (producers, distributors and consumers) is a keystone of PGS certification (Nelson et al., 2010)
- Involved individuals have access to a **diversity of rights on the label** (Lima et al., 2021)

”PGS are often run and administered by NGOs or farmer ’s associations, **with limited smallholder involvement**” (Home et al., 2017)

How are rights distributed among PGS actors, what forms of involvement and contribution does it generate?

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Bundle of rights framework (Schlager and Ostrom, 1992): Property-right regimes define the distribution of positions, rights and duties within a community of resource users.

Hypothesis: Property regimes and governance designs of PGSs vary, and their characteristics greatly impact members' motivations for involvement and contribution.

Paper contribution: Investigate how designs of common property rights regimes in PGSs and their associated bundles of rights hold potential for a closer linkage between organic labels and their users.

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2.1 Bundles of rights

Table 1 - Property rights bundles associated with positions. Source: Adapted from (Hess and Ostrom, 2007; Schlager and Ostrom, 1992)

	Owner	Proprietor	Claimant	Authorized user
<i>Access and Withdrawal</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Contribution and Management</i>	X	X	X	
<i>Exclusion</i>	X	X		
<i>Alienation</i>	X			

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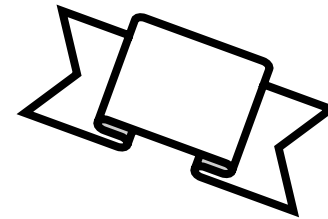
2.2 Action Situations (AS)

Three recurrent action situations for collective decision-making were identified regarding the governance of a PGS:



AS1

Inspection and certification process of a producer



AS2

Modification of governance rules (status, positions, decision-making...)



AS3

Modification of PGS standards

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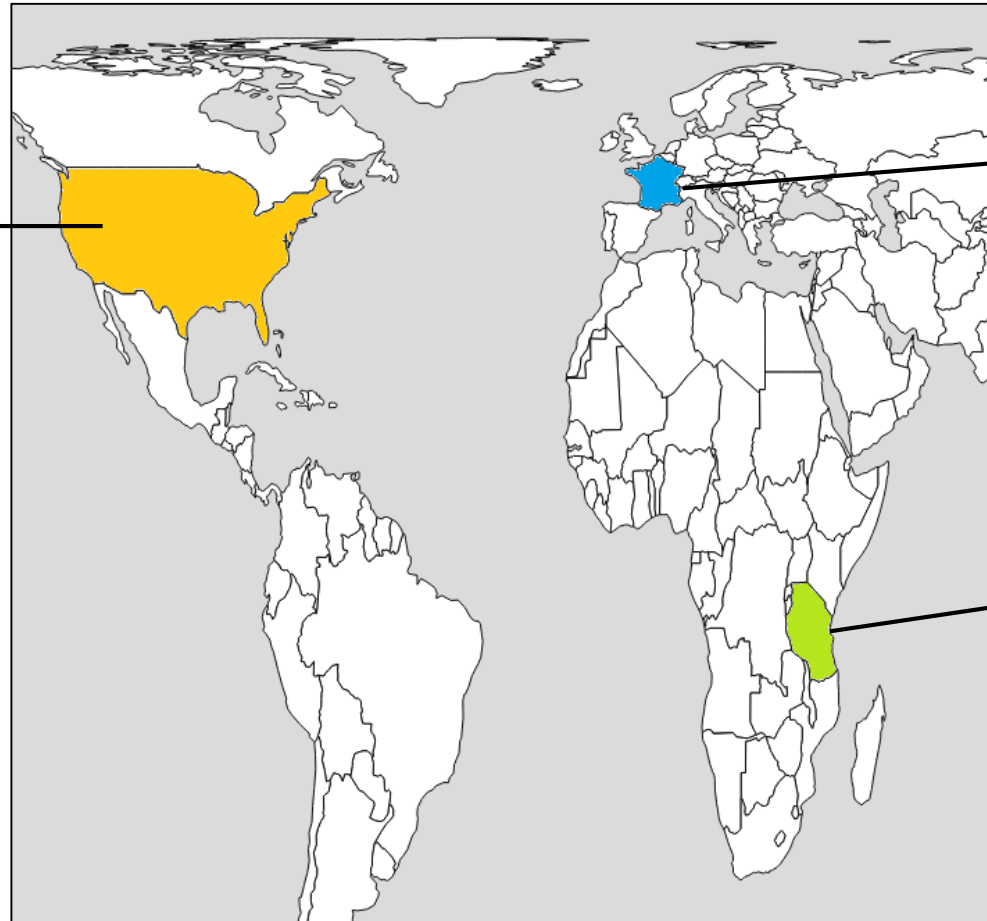
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Certified Naturally Grown (CNG)
Created in 2002
~ 750 producers



Nature et Progrès (N&P)
Created in 1964
~ 1000 producers






Kilimo Hai (KH)
Created in 2007
~ 2000 producers in Tanzania

3.2 Data collection

Grey literature: regulatory texts, communications, reports...

➤ *Formal rules and functioning of the organizations*

	PGS	Documents
	Nature et Progrès (N&P)	(N&P, 2000, 2013, 2021)
	Certified Naturally Grown (CNG)	(CNG, 2020, 2021)
	Kilimo Hai (KH)	(TOAM, 2005, 2021; UNEP, 2010; IFOAM, 2013; Katto-Andrighetto, 2013; Schwindenhammer, 2016; SECO, 2020; SAT, 2020)

Semi-structured interviews: 10 PGS administrators and employees

➤ *Informal rules, history and dynamics of the community*

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4. PGSs common property regimes: reconnecting food systems actors and label management

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4.2 Modification of governance rules

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		Participatory Guarantee Systems			Third Party	
		Nature & Progrès (N&P)	Certified Naturally Grown (CNG)	Kilimo Hai (KH)	Organic certification	
AS1: Inspection and certification process	Access / Withdrawal	<i>Right to use the logo</i>	P	P	P	P
	Contribution	<i>Participate to inspections</i>	P+M (+E)	P (+M)	P+E	E
	Management	<i>Organize inspections</i>	P+M	E	P+E	E
	Exclusion	<i>Grant certification</i>	P+M	E	P+E	E

(P)= rights held by certified producers. (M)= rights held by non-producer members.

(E)= rights held by employees of the organization. (A)= rights held by public authorities.

4.1 Inspection and certification process

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4.2 Modification of governance rules

			Participatory Guarantee Systems			Third Party
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AS2: Modification of governance rules	Access	<i>Access to documents</i>	Open	Open	Open	Open
	Contribution	<i>Suggest modifications</i>	P+M	P+E	P	A
	Management	<i>Participate in rule-making decisions</i>	P+M	P+E	P	A
	Exclusion	<i>Appoint decision-making bodies members</i>	P+M	E+M	P+E	A

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AS3: Modification of standard	Access	<i>Access to documents</i>	Open	Open	Open	Open
	Contribution	<i>Suggest modifications</i>	P	P+E	A	A
	Management	<i>Participate in rule-making decisions</i>	P+M	P+E	A	A
	Exclusion	<i>Appoint decision-making bodies members</i>	P+M	E+M	A	A

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The PGSs studied have **diverse designs of property-right regimes**, resulting from **adaptations to the contexts** in which they are embedded (activist values, large territories, public-owned standard...).

Formal rules such as property rights have a major impact on stakeholder participation, as they **formally define who can participate, in what way and how**. PGSs grant wide arrays of rights on the management of organic labels, leaving room for involvement of members.

Some PGSs have **stratified governance structures** with different positions, associated rights and duties. This allow members to **contribute commensurately to their capacities and desires** (*heterarchy*).

New research questions:

- How do institutional and ecosystemic environments impact the evolution of PGS governance? What strengths and vulnerabilities induced?
- To what extent do socioeconomic and cognitive factors affect participation in PGSs?

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