After Rio Summit, new authorized knowledges

Case of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Madagascar

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Outline

- Introduction
- 1. SRI genesis context
- 2. SRI actors and acts
- 3. Change and continuity in knowledge governance
- Conclusion
INTRODUCTION
The SRI case

Aim

Useful concepts

authorized knowledge (Verrier, 1999)

science democracy, hybrid forums (Callon et al., 2001)

Methods
1. SRI GENESIS CONTEXT
Malagasy rice growing: between diversity of practices, local and introduced norms

Institutional and economical context 1985-1995

Price local/global
2. SRI ACTORS AND ACTS
An idea sprouts, arises and circulates

The designing of SRI

Emphatic mediatisation before any assessment

*Yields have thus increased from 2 tons of paddy rice per ha to 8 or even 12 with local varieties*

Scoffing local practices

Moral arguments

Yield competitions

Media coverage, plays of influence and truncated debates

Avoidance of agricultural research forums

A SRI self-promotion

No work of disillusion

Some farmers like it
3. CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN KNOWLEDGE GOVERNANCE
• Sharing knowledge power: a new authorised knowledge

• Continuity
  • Scoffing at farmers' knowledge
  • Agronomic invention

• Changes
  • Mass media: a knowledge stakeholder mobilised by SRI proponents
  • Knowledge “champions”
  • Rebuilding the scientific landscape and new alliances
  • Active marginalisation and then self-censure of authorised knowledge

• The special nature of ‘civil knowledge’

• An international controversy without impact
CONCLUSION