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Agrifood transition models and perspectives to face climate change

Mathilde Virantin¹

Abstract

Modern agriculture suffers a lot from climate change but farming practices are also significantly responsible for increasing temperatures. That being said, the agrifood system needs to go through a radical transition to make it more environmentally-friendly, fair to all, and healthy. Right now, eating pesticide-free food is still a niche reserved to the middle and upper class, so solutions must be found to change that for everyone to have access to healthy, safe food. This paper describes different models to plan this transition, and by combining them we should be able to feed everyone on this planet equally and safely. The four models discussed are a transition through the use of technology (other than chemical inputs); sustainable intensification; agroecology; and the just transition model, which will be described in a more extensive way.

Keywords: agrifood ; agriculture ; sustainable intensification ; agroecology ; just transition ; food systems

■ Section 1 - Introduction : the Need for a Transition

In September 2021, the first Working Group (WGI) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its 6th assessment report. While the international community had agreed through the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit anthropogenic global warming to +1.5°C since the industrial revolution (1850-1900), it is estimated that by the period 2010-2019 global temperature has already increase of about 1.07°C (IPCC, 2021, p.5). Under all emission scenarios considered by the WGI, the global temperatures will continue to increase until mid-century, and unless global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are radically cut throughout the world, the 2°C threshold

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