Countermovement in Organic Agriculture in Canada

Marc-Antoine Larrivee (mlarrive@uoguelph.ca)

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University of Guelph

Plan of the presentation

- ◇ Context
 - ◇ What is organic agriculture?
- ◇ Polanyi's Countermovement
- ◇ Research objectives
- ◇ Methods
- ◇ Implications

What is Organic Agriculture?

What is Organic agriculture?

From *The World of Organic Agriculture 2017* IFOAM and FiBL
and *Organic Agriculture in Canada* COTA (2017)

	World (2015)	Canada (2015)
Agricultural Land (%)	1.1%	1.5%
Producers	2.4 M	4 065
Organic Market (\$U.S)	120 billion	4.4 billion
<i>Per Capita</i> Consumption (\$U.S)	\$16.79	\$125.51
Countries with Organic regulations	87	-

What is Organic agriculture?

Principles in the Organic movement

Principles

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

The Principle
of **Health.**

The Principle
of **Ecology.**

The Principle
of **Fairness.**

The Principle
of **Care.**

<https://www.ifoam.bio/en/organic-landmarks/principles-organic-agriculture>

Regulation of Organic Products

CANADA

CONSOLIDATION

CODIFICATION

Organic Products Regulations,
2009

Règlement sur les produits
biologiques (2009)

SOR/2009-176

DORS/2009-176

Regulation of Organic Products

- ◊ Creedence Characteristics
- ◊ Single to Third party certification

Appendix A: Additional Tables

Table A1. Colour version of Table 4 in main text. Comparison of importance of organic principles within each regulation.

	Natural	Animal	Human	Soil	Local	Biodiv	Water
Mexico	2	1	4	5	3	7	6
IFOAM	1	7	2	3	6	5	4
Aus	1	6	3	4	7	5	2
Uganda	1	2	5	4	3	6	7
India	1	6	2	4	5	3	7
EU	1	2	3	5	4	7	6
US	1	2	3	4	7	6	5
FAO	2	1	3	4	7	6	5
Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Score	77	46	42	21	17	16	13

Gaps between values and regulations

- ◇ Different vision of what Organic agriculture is
- ◇ Conventionalization through regulation
 - ◇ Mimic of conventional techniques within the range of products allowed
 - ◇ Minimum requirements cause a race to the bottom
 - ◇ Lack of local adaptation
 - ◇ Costs of certification
- ◇ Organic agriculture may not be sustainable

Polanyi's Countermovement

◇ Also called Double movement

Research objectives

- ◆ Identify organic farmers' perception of the Canadian Regulatory System as an instrument of market protection and market promotion
- ◆ Identify the presence or absence of Countermovement in Organic Agriculture in Canada
- ◆ Identify areas of conflict and agreements with the Organic Product Regulation 2009

Methods

- ◆ Content analysis of Canadian organic regulations
 - ◆ Seufert, V., Ramankutty, N., & Mayerhofer, T. (2017).
- ◆ National survey on practices and values
 - ◆ Darnhofer, I., Lindenthal, T., & Bartel-Kratochvil, R. (2010).
- ◆ Interviews
 - ◆ Pre-survey and post-survey

Implications

- ◆ Important social perspective for the next Standards revision in 2020
- ◆ Increased consideration of principles in Organic agriculture
- ◆ Helps define Organic agriculture
- ◆ Sheds light upon actual countermovement in agriculture

References

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Questions or comments?