

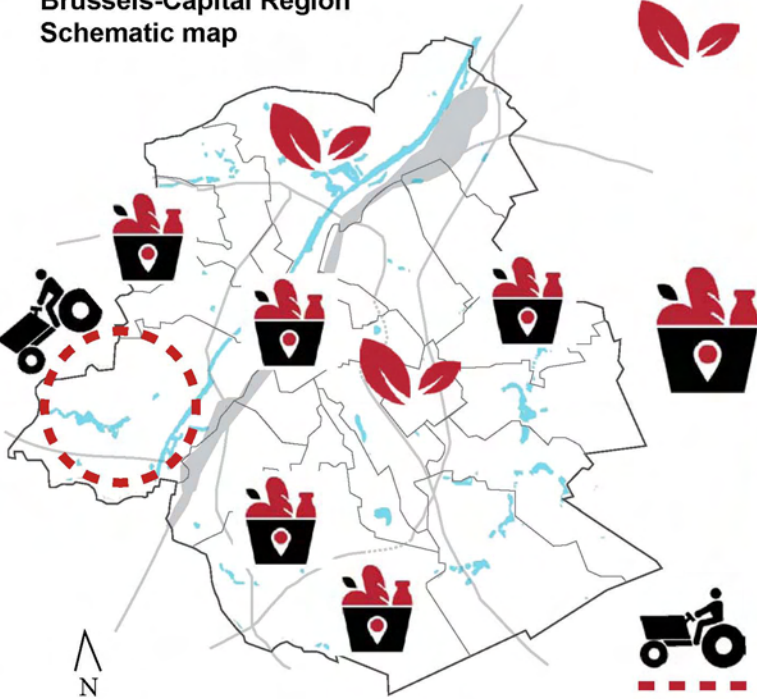
# Challenging the Multi-Scalar Governance of Alternative Food Systems

A view on the Case of Brussels

## Problematizing | Multi-Scalar Challenges

Urban Agriculture(s) and Alternative Food Systems as hybrid initiatives intersecting multiple Spatial/Jurisdictional Scales

Brussels-Capital Region Schematic map



### MUNICIPAL

**Punctual CSA**  
Community Based food project within a certain neighbourhood/ municipality



### REGIONAL

**Spatially Extended CSA**  
Food basket scheme involving an organizational network at the Regional or wider territorial scale



### INTERREGIONAL

**Peri-Urban Agricultural Area**  
Converting/protecting land for organic agriculture in a cross-border agricultural area

Scales of Influence

**Plurality of Urban Agriculture(s) (UAs) and Alternative Food Systems (AFSs)**

UAs and AFSs involve hybrid forms and organizational arrangements interfering with different spatial/institutional scales and yet co-existing in the same urban system.

What factors drive the scaling-out/scaling-up of such initiatives?

This fosters a critical demand for governance.

**What Multi-Scalar Governance for UAs and AFSs?**

## Framing | Identifying Governance Tensions

Conceptualizing the governance of UAs and AFSs through four interrelated governance tensions

Multi-scalarity of UAs/AFSs



The conceptual framework identifies a range of key interrelated governance tensions affecting the building of multi-scaled UAs and AFNs: i.e. organizational, institutional, power and spatial tensions. Such tensions, which guide the empirical analysis, will have diverse empirical declinations in different forms of AFSs.

## Testing | Empirical Analysis on the Brussels Case

Entry points for the empirical investigation

The three empirical entry points allow to analyse governance tensions of different forms of AFSs, from local projects (small scale UAs) to urban-rural networks (Markets, Alternative Supply Systems). The analysis reconstructs what factors drive their up-scaling/out-scaling; by which institutions they are represented; how they diversely interact with a wider system of influential urban actors.

### Land

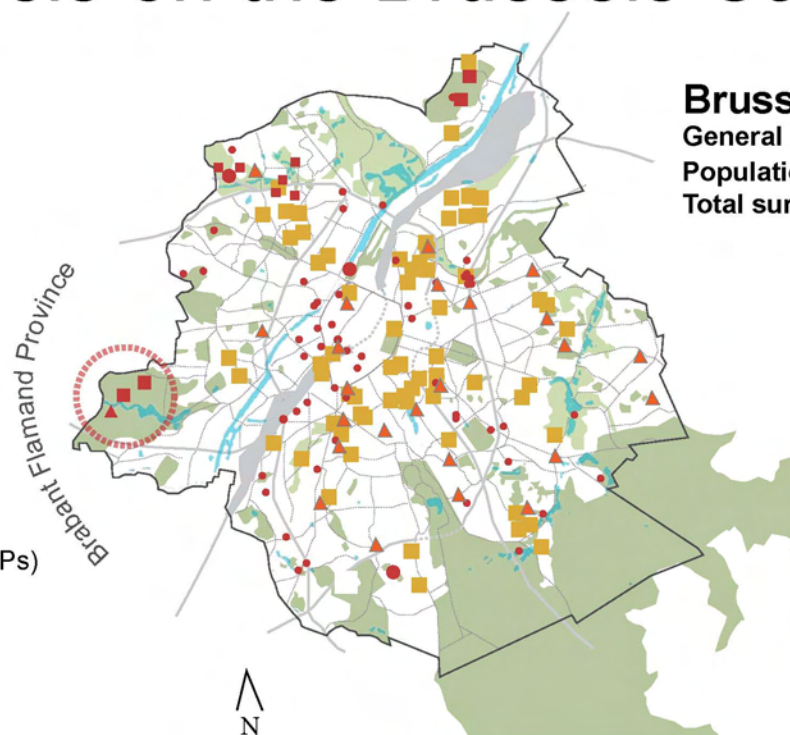
- Small scale UrbanAgriculture projects
- Wider area of agricultural preservation/development

### Markets

- ▲ Regional markets/food cooperatives

### Alternative Supply Systems

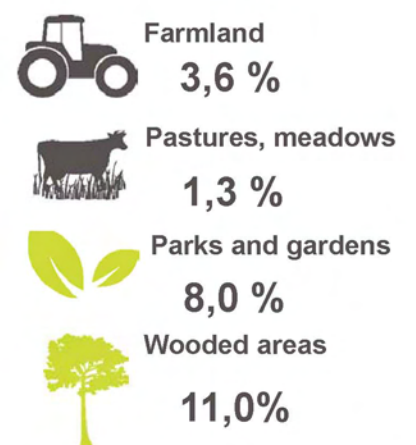
- Solidarity Purchasing Groups (GASAPs) (delivery points in 2013)



### Brussels-Capital Region (BCR) General Data

Population: 1 163 486 (2014)  
Total surface: 16. 261 ha

% Out of the Total Surface



(Source: IBSA)