

Future|Food|Commons

A framework to investigate trends and impacts of "sharing" in new producer- consumer relationships

Background

Emerging new flexible forms of consumer- producer relationships and activities within the food sector are challenging the traditional models of consumption and ownership. As social innovations, their extension can be interpreted as forerunner of economic transition. Interaction takes place through flexibilisation of scope and levels of consumer integration into the food production and distribution process and the common sustainable use and sharing of resources, in specific land, labour, production facilities, money, and knowledge.

From a transition perspective these new models might gain increasing significance and hold substantial potentials but also risks for sustainable development, welfare and quality of life.

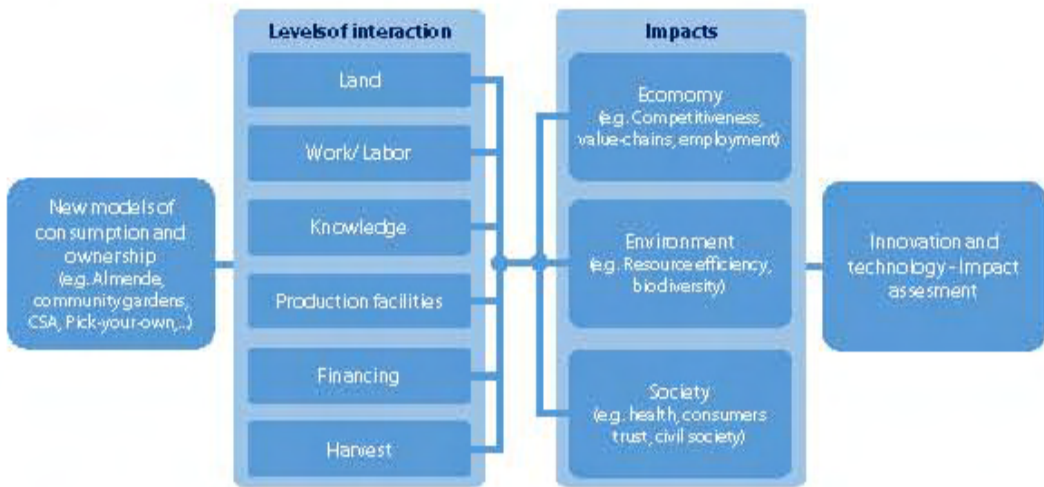


Fig 1: New models of consumption and ownership and their impacts in different levels of interaction



Fig 2: New consumer- producer interactions with shared labour, Eagle Street Rooftop Farm, NYC

Research aim and objectives

The research project Future|Food|Commons (FuFoCo) aims at providing answers to the following research questions:

- How can new models of consumption and ownership in the food sector be systemized?
- Which potentials and risks for sustainable development, welfare and quality of life do the different food sector consumer- producer interactions (CPI) bare?
- How are the development potentials affected under different scenario perspectives?

Methods

Future|Food|Commons (FuFoCo) applies a stakeholder-centred research approach, taking into account expert knowledge from the relevant disciplines.

WP1: Analysis of scientific literature + Guided interviews with about 25 stakeholders and qualitative analysis

WP2: Foresight scenario process in 2 expert workshops

WP3: Analysis of scientific literature + Analytical Network Process (ANP) including expert interviews

WP4: Analysis of documents from the relevant political disciplines

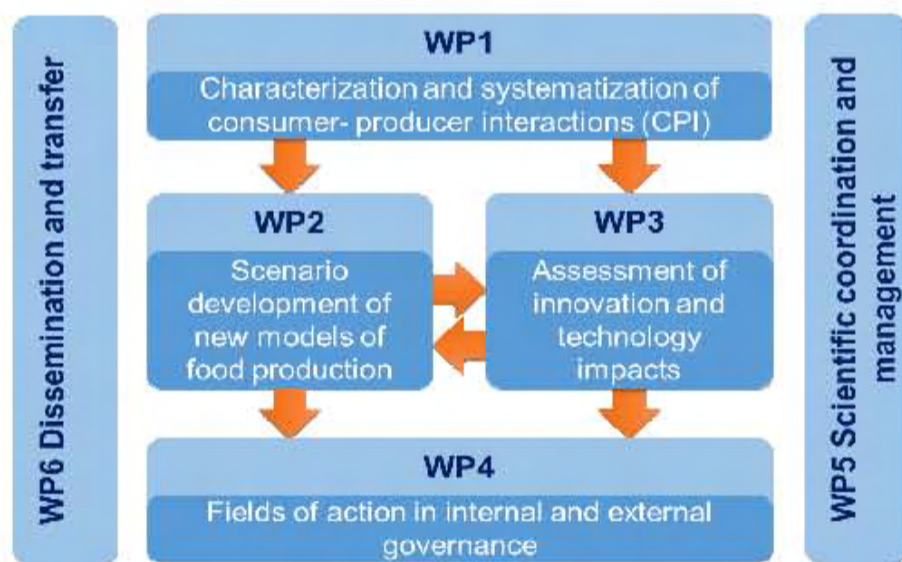
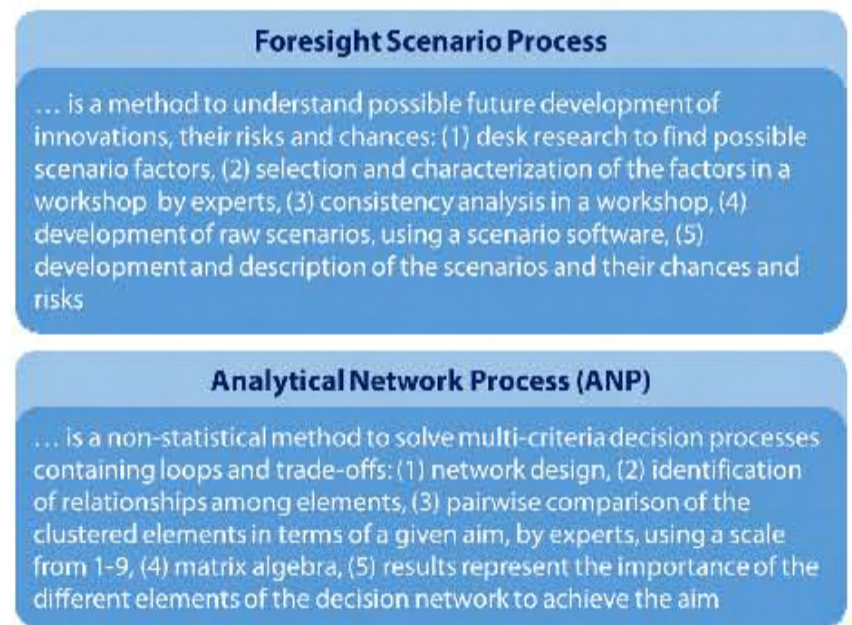


Fig 3: Research design of the BMBF-funded project Future|Food|Commons (FuFoCo), duration 8/2015 - 7/2017



Expected results

Future|Food|Commons (FuFoCo) contributes to a deeper understanding of innovative forms of consumer- producer interactions (CPI) and their sharing character. Potentials, risks and their impact are elaborated through foresight studies considering future developments of new concepts of supply. This also allows to identify requirements for steering and policies aiming at support for transition to a sustainable economy.

