Towards a resilience-enabling environment: principles and roadmaps

SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT EU FARMING SYSTEMS

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1. The role of actors in enabling (or disabling) resilience

- Actors' decisions regarding how to use their resources influence resilience of the farming system

- Actors' decision are determined as much by informal institutions (norms, collaboration culture, innovativeness, subjective beliefs, …) as by formal institutions (policies)

- System analysis reveals several stylized pattern of systemic behavior that leads to failures, such as 'shifting the burden' archetype
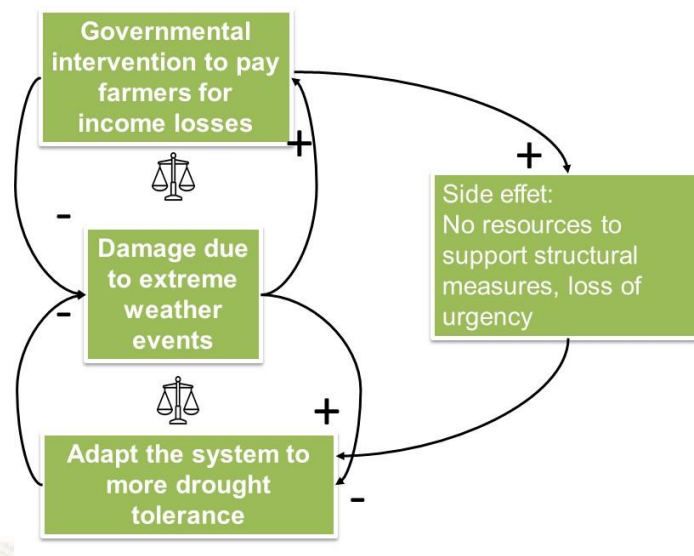
2. Principles for enabling resilience

Conduct more systemic in-depth analysis of the drivers of challenges and vulnerabilities

Assist Farming System to detect, assess and address long-term trends

Shift resources towards building anticipatory capacity and responsive capacity when shocks are reoccurring

Find a balance in putting resources in immediate versus future challenges

Foster a diversity of responses, rather than focusing too much on a limited set of actions strengthening resilience

Provide temporary resources to cope with the adverse consequences of a shock, but only to buy time.

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3. Implementing SUREFARM's principles: ROADMAPS

- Policy dialogue processes should be used
    - o All actors need to be involved
    - o Roadmaps for implementing principles can be region and farming system specific
    - o Address mix of formal and informal institutions, not specific instruments in isolation
    - o Withstand the tendency to add new instruments but rethink the mix

- The issue needs to be ripe and actors need to be convinced that (and why) enabling resilience does not equal to protecting status quo

- Role of analyst will meet its limits as normative considerations regarding responsibilities and expectations will become more prominent

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