



**Colloque, Toulouse, 21-25 juin 2021**

# **Les transitions écologiques en transitions et actions**

**Session (S1-2) : les transactions ville-campagne**

**Hélène Guétat-Bernard**

***Imaginer des évènements, fabriquer des modalités d'échanges, inventer des rapports aux connaissances pour penser et accompagner les transactions ville-campagne***

***Exemple de la plate-forme de réflexions et d'actions du « système alimentaire local de Pondichéry », Inde***

# Seminar on Local Food System of Pondicherry



• **Venue:** : French Institute of Pondicherry

• **Agenda:** January (during Pongal)

• **Objective :**

- to bring into the public debate a citizen commitment to liveable cities based on sustainable links with their environment, to preserve local agriculture that protects water, soil and biodiversity.

- to organise a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food (from production to processing and consumption to waste management) into the local political scene and to decide what the 'food priorities' of the community are.

- The societal expectations of the right to sustainable food for consumers, and the right of farmers to produce sustainable food, requires the networking of concrete experiences in local areas and exchanges between science and society.

• **Organisation :** a 4-day workshop

talks and debates on the concept of "City-region food system" with researchers, urban and rural citizens and consumers, farmers, food processors, policy makers, (ii) site visits to organic farms or gardens, (iii) an organic food exhibition (with food stands and art events to raise awareness and the desire to get involved in changing practices).



# Participation and collaboration

## 2019-2021

### Academic partners

- **IFP** : Department of Social sciences, Dpt of Ecology
- **International Institute of Asian Studies**, Leiden, NL : **Humanities Across Borders**
- **IIT Madras**
- **University of Pondicherry** : Departments of Women studies, Social works, Food and nutrition, Literature

### National, global civil society associations

Anna Swaraj movement  
ASHA  
Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers (INOFO, linked with IFOAM)  
MAKAAM (Forum for women farmer's rights)  
CIKS (Center for Indian Knowledge system)  
Vikalp Sangam  
DHAN Foundation  
Fair Trade Towns International

### Local organisations

**Economic stakeholders** : Organics farmers, Gardeners, Restaurants, Grocerers, Fishers

Social Entrepreneurship Association, Auroville  
Vilkap Sangam,  
PondyCAN

...

### Government organisations

Schools  
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)  
Departments of Agriculture and Tourism,  
Gov. of Pondicherry

CORE  
TEAM:



# LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS WORKSHOP 2021

PUDUCHERRY  
FEB 3 - FEB 9

A scientific and citizen annual event to shed light on initiatives around food.

-Third Edition-



Day 1  
(Wednesday, February 3rd)  
Inauguration, Launch of the Picture exhibition

Day 2  
(Thursday, February 4th)  
Field visit to PS Palayam with Training session on Beekeeping

Day 3  
(Friday, February 5th)  
Field visit to Oraiyur Village

Day 4  
(Saturday, February 6th)  
Cycle Tour, Circle garden visits and Food sharing activities

Day 5  
(Sunday, February 7th)  
Farmers market  
Venue: The Arboretum, ECR

Day 6 and Day 7  
(Monday, February 8th and 9th):  
Workshops, Discussions and Debates  
(Venue Alliance Française)

For more details, contact : [ifs2021@ifpindia.org](mailto:ifs2021@ifpindia.org)

Organisers



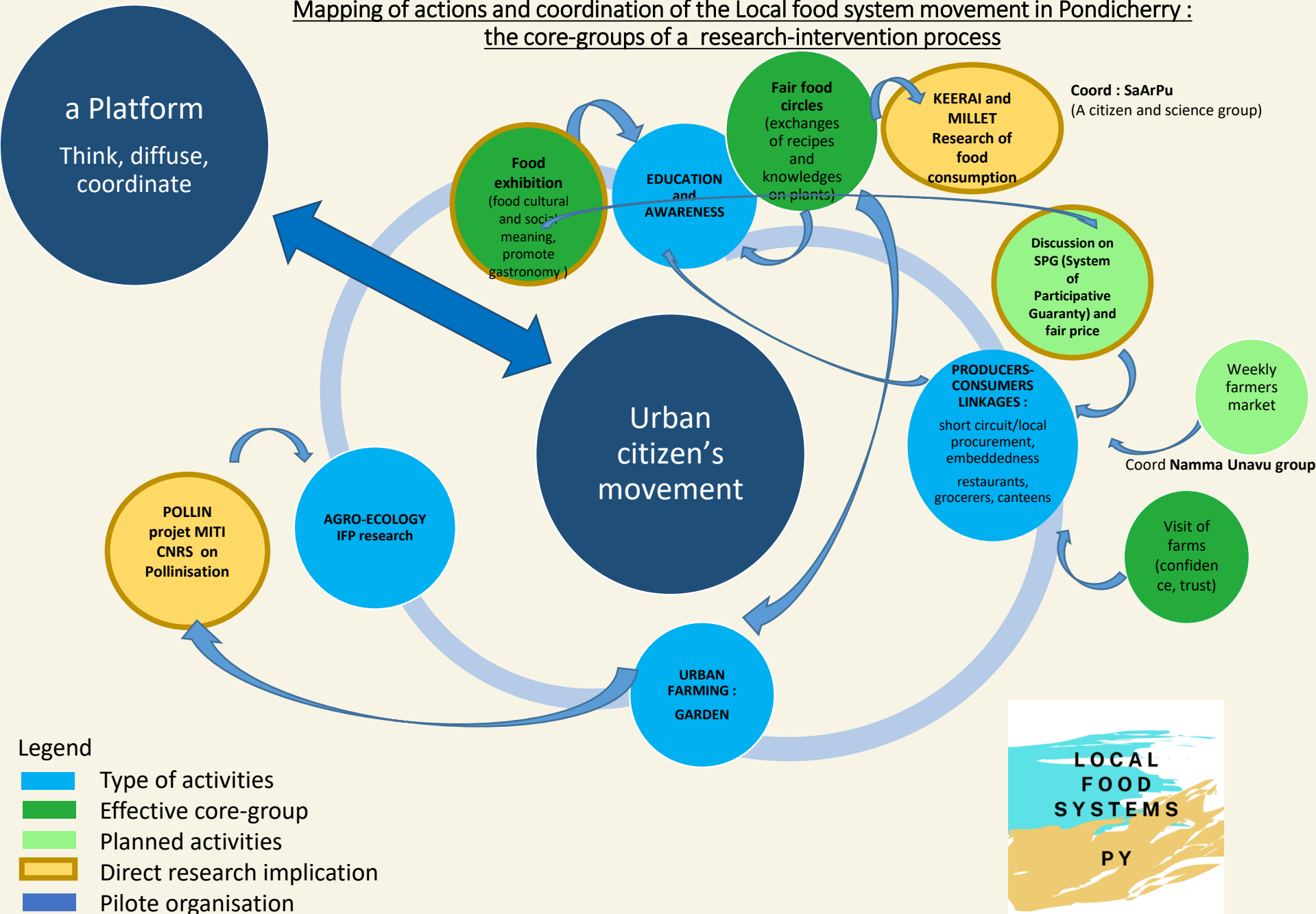
Partners



Sponsors



Mapping of actions and coordination of the Local food system movement in Pondicherry :  
the core-groups of a research-intervention process



# What is Local Food System of Pondicherry project?

Multiple stakeholders => sustainable production, trade and value distribution in the food supply chain.

Create a platform for co-creating a holistic, circular food system through research and implementation in the city of Pondicherry and its bio-region.

In 2020, **Social Entrepreneurship Association Auroville** and **Fair Trade Twin Towns Pondicherry and Auroville** have joined as co-organizers.





# Communication/networking/sharing experiences the first step of an Indian articulation

## Vikalp Vārtā

#14

Online dialogue series on alternatives for India

### City goes local with its food system!



In Pondicherry, a group of citizens hosted by the French Institute Pondicherry (IFP) has come together to localise the food system, by supporting community gardens and urban farming as well as connecting retailers and restaurants with ecological farmer networks. A farmer's market, an alternative currency to enable more local flows of value and information and connecting with similar initiatives across the world are all on the cards.

Join us for an interactive session with



Anjali Schiavina



Gijs Spoor

**August 22, 2020**  
**3:30 – 5:30 pm IST**

Zoom ID #  
**874 1371 6546**

 Alternatives India  
**VIKALP sangam**  
[www.vikalpsangam.org](http://www.vikalpsangam.org)  
[www.vscoronatimes.blogspot.com](http://www.vscoronatimes.blogspot.com)  
[aevsangam@gmail.com](mailto:aevsangam@gmail.com)



## 1. Circle Garden (Urban gardens)

- Based on **permaculture**, integrating a variety of plants of different physiologies and time duration.
- Citizens pick up **skills and attitude** required to explore our relationship with where our food comes from.
- We create gardens in private homes, community spaces, schools, universities, hospitals, cafés and restaurants.



Aadi Purukku Celebration



## 2. Organic / Natural Farmers in the bio region-

- Few **existing** farming collectives ready to grow.
- If linked to restaurants, cafés, school and university canteens, old people's homes and hospitals => **demand** increases, encouraging other farmers go organic.
- Encouraging existing organic farmers to conduct **workshops** for non-organic farmers and show the economical and health benefits.





### 3. Farmer to consumer connect

- Pandemic lockdowns have affected our farmers in a very big way.
- How can we connect farmers directly to consumers not for selling their produce but also in a **deeper** and more meaningful manner through farm visits and exchanges at farm and city level?



4. **Fair Food Circle** –having meals together where we **celebrate** local food recipes for better health and well-being for ourselves and our soil .

- Encouraging **conversations** on non-exploitative and non-discriminatory production practices that enhance the livelihood of vulnerable farming communities.
- Introduce the concept of **circularity** within the food chain.



## 5. Farmers Market –

- To increase **market share** for local and natural food producers.
- Help farmers to **value add** to their produce at farm level so that they can increase their income, revive traditional recipes and ensure a sustained livelihood.
- Create food based **community**, bring people together





LOCAL  
FOOD  
SYSTEMS

PY



Changement climatique- AAP 2020,  
Mission pour les initiatives transverses et interdisciplinaires

## 1 - POLLIN project

Protection des pollinisateurs et transition agroécologique dans un territoire  
du Sud-Est indien

*Protection of pollinators and agroecological transition  
in the Pondicherry region*

Coordination : Hélène Guétat-Bernard

French Institute of Pondicherry  
[Helene.guetat@ifpindia.org](mailto:Helene.guetat@ifpindia.org)



# Team :

5 INSHS, 7 INEE, 1 phd, 2 field assistants

- **French Institute of Pondicherry**, Umifre 21, CNRS, MAE : social sciences (Venkatasubramanian, Guetat-Bernard Hélène, Valluvan), Ecology (K. Anupama, S. Prasad, J. Lazar, Indhu Ayyanaar, N. Balachandran)
- **Université Paris Nanterre**, UMR 7218 LAVUE : Landy Frédéric
- **INRAE**, UMR 1317 : Vanbergen Adam
- **MNHN**, UMR 7204 CESCO : Porcher Emmanuelle, Fontaine Colin
- **CNRS**, UMR 7618 IEES : Thébault Elisa
- **Science Po Toulouse**, UMR MA 119 LEREPS : Gallai Nicola
- **IRD**, UMR 208 PALOC : Simenel Romain

# The scientific question

## Is Pollination crucial for biodiversity & the future of humankind?

Climate change is **altering the distribution of pollinator species, their interactions and specific links with crops and wild plants.**

Reductions in nectar, pollen and habitat resources are likely to compound this

**Adaptive strategies of beekeepers** to maintain symbolic and practical relationships between humans and bees may be insufficient due to rapid dynamics and insufficient scientific knowledge.

However, the decline of pollinators is not uniform. **Understanding which pollinator species are the most resistant** to a changing environment is therefore a key factor in **guiding public policy.**

India is a **biodiversity hotspot, particularly for bees**, but there is **insufficient data** to build scenarios.

One of the challenges of this inter- and transdisciplinary project is to **improve ecological knowledge on pollinators, based on a protocol and scientific analyses articulated with a citizen science approach.**



# Objectives

Analyze along a **rural-urban gradient**:

- 1) the pollination services offered to crops by **two local honeybees** (A. Cerana and Trigona) that show adaptive capacities to climate change
- 2) the **knowledge and practices of beekeepers and farmers** regarding the relationship between pollinating insects and agrobiodiversity.
- 3) We will combine ecological, socio-economic and anthropological research to understand, measure and disseminate the **contribution of pollination to agricultural yields** as a step towards a climate change resilient agro-ecological system.
- 4) The **science-society platform** that already exists for a territorial food project will promote interactions between ecologists / social scientists and farmers / gardeners, in order to understand the expectations of the latter, develop a model for observing pollinators in their agro-ecosystem and propose avenues for public policies.

# Expected results

## **Establish:**

- 1) the **plant/pollinator network**
- 2) the **list of cultivated and wild edible plants dependent on pollinators**
- 3) the possible **links between meteorological parameters**, in particular rainfall, **agricultural yields and the prevalence of pollinators**
- 4) the **knowledge and practices of beekeepers and farmers** (in their socio-economic and cultural diversity) in terms of bees and pollination, their domestication, and their relationship with climate change.

## **Evaluate:**

- 5) Using *A. cerana* as an **indicator of the overall health of pollination services**
- 6) **Economic evaluation of the contribution of pollinators to Indian agriculture and the Pondicherry region**
- 7) Possibility of combining scientific ecological knowledge with the perceptions of farmers in their social diversity, their unequal means and their variable objectives, in order to build in the longer term a **citizen science observatory on pollinators**. One of the objectives is to disseminate local beehives in fields and gardens.

The logo features the text 'LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. Below it, the letters 'PY' are also in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background consists of a light blue brushstroke at the top and a golden-yellow brushstroke at the bottom, both with a textured, painterly appearance.

LOCAL  
FOOD  
SYSTEMS

PY

## 2 - Keerai project

Les légumes feuilles, *keerai* : savoirs féminins déconsidérés et plantes négligées



Décliner la complexité d'une **analyse féministe** d'une alimentation banale

Participation : Hélène Guétat-Bernard, Brigitte Sébastia, Balachandran

# 25 variétés de *keerai* sur le marché des producteurs à Pondicherry



# Vendre des *keerai* dans la rue : juxtaposition des discriminations



Entre ville et campagnes, de (vieilles) femmes rurales qui vendent, conseillent et transmettent les connaissances sur les plantes et la manière de les consommer.

Echanges entre classes (caste) sociales.

Un revenu de survie.

De rudes conditions d'existence et de travail.



# Des jardins alimentaires

Une génération de femmes qui connaît la valeur des *keerai* : des savoirs qui s'effritent. *Patti Marunthu* (les médecines des grand-mères)

Une question de génération (éloignement des liens au rural), d'âge et de conditions sociales.

La maternité : le temps des réapprentissages.



Les femmes de basses/classes castes ont la maîtrise des savoirs.



Côtoiement du sauvage et du domestique: préserver le sauvage et le valoriser

# Engouement pour les jardins sur les toits



Un espace de détente, d'espace à soi et pour soi.  
Améliorer et diversifier son alimentation; manger à peu de frais et faire valoir ses connaissances

Le jardin (ou le champs, le bord de chemin) : source pérenne d'apports alimentaire et nutritionnel de base pour la famille.

Souveraineté et justice alimentaire (//en milieu rural : préservation des communs et préoccupation de l'enclosure des champs)



Sophistication des jardins :  
Se reconnecter à la nature, se préoccuper de sa santé,  
Une préoccupation des classes moyennes urbaines.

# Réapprendre les savoirs : les *keerai* dans les cuisines des classes moyennes

Valorisation des savoirs des femmes cuisinières de tous milieux sociaux et de toutes classes sociales : (ré) apprendre en valorisant les compétences et les cultures alimentaires des femmes de milieu populaire.



Des hommes qui « aident » et désirent bousculer les normes. Des masculinités en transition?



# Pour une approche féministe d'une **gouvernance alimentaire du Commun** (Vivero-Pol, 2017)

Une **plate forme sur le système alimentaire local** de Pondichéry pour  
penser une démocratie alimentaire ou une recherche en action  
(partenariat académique et relais féministes)

## Réciprocité et Action collective

- Inventaire des savoirs (féminins et masculins) sur les plantes. Publication pour une recherche de reconnaissance.
- Préserver les zones communes de cueillette, contrôler les enclosures
- Bâtir des jardins collectifs
- Créer des échanges équitables entre production, cueillette et consommation
- Festival alimentaire (éducation populaire). Exposition de photos. Démonstration culinaire.

## Economie sociale du marché

- Encouragement aux initiatives (féminines) de création d'entreprise
- Mise en lien de la recherche publique sur la transformation alimentaire et des entrepreneuses
- Soutien aux Self-Help groups féminins

## Tentative de dialogue avec les acteurs publics

- Soutien à la demande d'Introduire les *keerai* et les millets dans le PDS
- Soutien (subvention) aux jardins et accès au foncier pour les femmes
- Accompagnement aux banques de semences
- création d'un marché hebdomadaire autour SPG

# Conclusion :

## depuis 3 ans, une plate forme qui ...

Construit de l'interconnaissance et du désir de comprendre, d'échanger sur des points de vue, sur les contraintes de chacun.e selon sa place dans le système.

Permet d'entrer dans des processus de traduction entre acteur.trice.s

Favorise l'implication, suscite de la demande de collaboration, facilite la recherche en partenariat.

Mais difficulté de construire de l'égalité dans l'échange dans le contexte d'une société hiérarchisée, d'une paysannerie subordonnée.

Fragilité de l'engagement (manque de temps, de compréhension de l'intention dans l'engagement).

Des chercheurs face à leur institution. Des attentes de la société pour une coopération scientifique. Un institut ouvert sur les attentes sociétales.