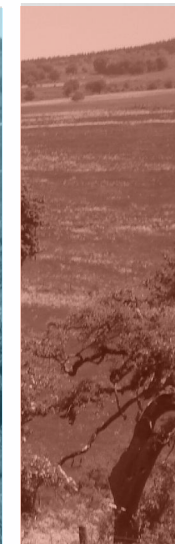




Which types of farms for managing mountain grasslands in the future?

A prospective approach



VEYSSET P. *, RAPEY H. **

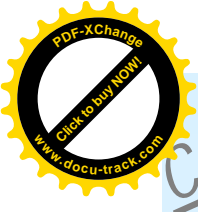


* Inra-URH, ** Cemagref-UMR Métafort



PSDR-Valprai project (2008-2011)





Context

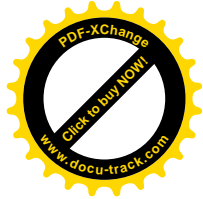
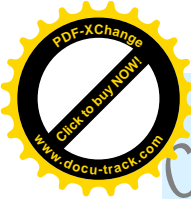
Evolutions concerning grasslands and montains areas

➔ At an *international* level

- Agricultural policies revisions (*CAP Health Check*)
- Quotas abolition
- Markets instability
- Costs increase for energy and farms inputs

➔ At a *local* level...a *local* montain area

- Ageing and decrease of population
- Cessation of farming and land-reallocations
- Livestock production systems with a lack of competitiveness
- Uncertainty on milk collecting
- Agro-environmental constraints
- Complementarities between farming and non-farming activities



Context


Evolutions concerning grasslands and montains areas

➔ At an *international* level

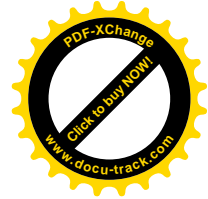
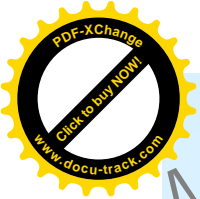
- Agricultural policies revisions (*CAP Health Check*)
- Quotas abolition
- Markets instability
- Costs increase for energy and farms inputs

➔ At a *local* level...a *local* mountain area

- Ageing and decrease of population
- Cessation of farming and land-reallocation
- Livestock production systems with a lack of diversity
- Uncertainty on milk collecting
- Agro-environmental constraints
- Complementarities between farming and non-farming activities



Which *local* effects of *macro* changes in a mountain area ?



Material

The focused area :

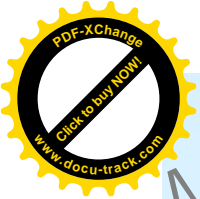
A high grasslands area with various farms structure

The *Mezenc* plateau :

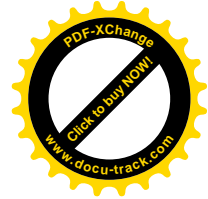
17 000 ha of permanent grasslands
over 1150 m asl. & 1300 mm annual rainfall

Since 1987 (393 farms) : ↘ 10 farms / year





Material



The focused area :

A high grasslands area with various farms structure

172 farms (in 2009) :

49% suckler cattle f.

→ *74 ha/Farm*

25% dairy cattle f.

→ *0.73 LU/ha*

13% mixed suckler-dairy f.

5% sheep-meat f.

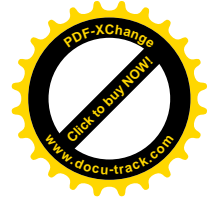
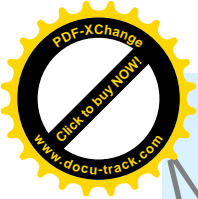
→ *4200 l./Dairy Cow*

8% diversified f.

→ *315 kg meat sold / Suckler LU*

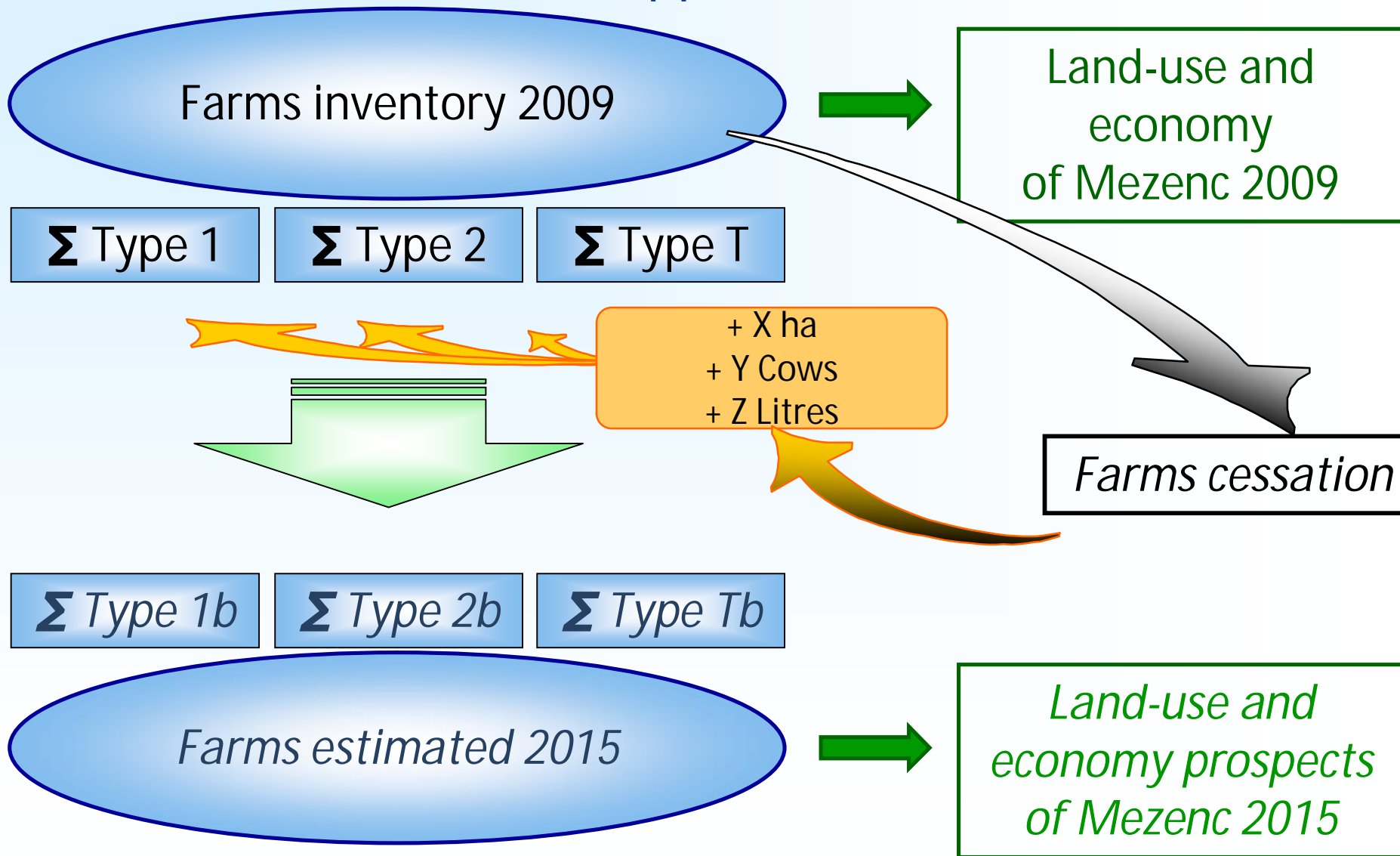
using 12 800 ha

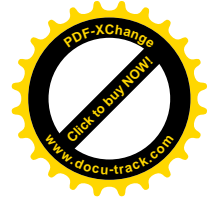
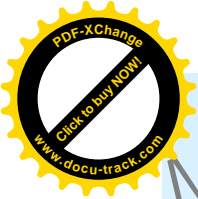
28% farms < 45 ha ↔ 18% farms > 100 ha



Method

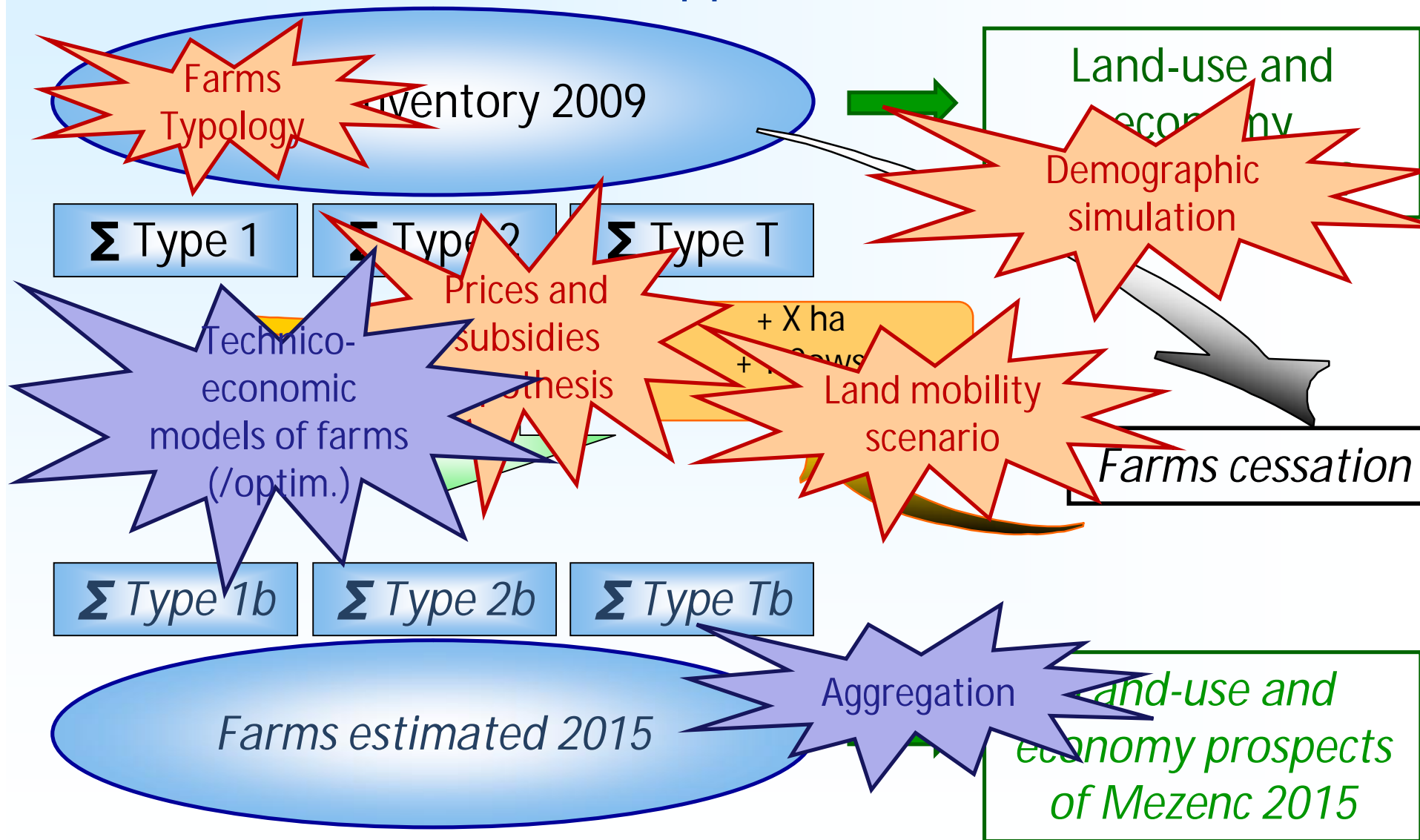
Participative (regional and local experts) & model-based approach

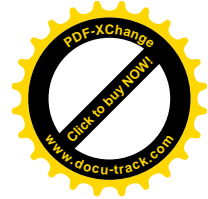
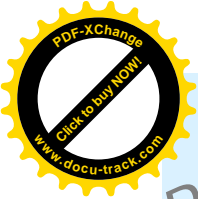




Method

Participative (regional and local experts) & model-based approach





Results (1)

10 cattle farms types (/ 13 farms types)

		Nb	UAA Ha	Suckler Cow Premium Rights	Milk Quota Litres	Workers	Age
<i>Suckler Cattle</i> (9 months calf)	<i>Small</i>	27	33	20	0	1.00	54
	<i>Medium</i>	32	75	38	0	1.30	47
	<i>Large</i>	24	133	68	0	1.50	39
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>	<i>Small & Old F.</i>	12	27	0	47 000	1.20	52
	<i>Medium</i>	25	70	0	145 000	1.40	43
	<i>Large & Individ.</i>	4	101	0	265 000	2.30	36
	<i>Large & Assoc.</i>	3	180	0	420 000	3.80	27
<i>Mixed Suckler Dairy Cattle</i>	<i>Small Quota</i>	11	73	19	66 000	1.75	47
	<i>Medium</i>	8	74	15	124 000	1.25	44
	<i>Large</i>	3	118	25	230 000	2.30	38
Total		149	11 250	3 792	8 917 000	211	



Results (2)

Until 2015,
various land re-allocations

according to local experts hypotheses

41 farmers retired (> 55 years old, in 2009)

↳ 12 large and medium farms with successor

↳ 29 of the small and medium farms (with a low milk quota) dismantled

↳ 1242 ha re-allocated

525 Suckler Cows Premium Rights

444 000 l. Milk Quotas

50 farms without enlargement (small farms and large dairy farms)

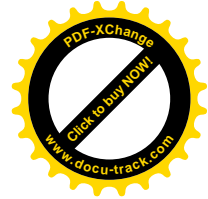
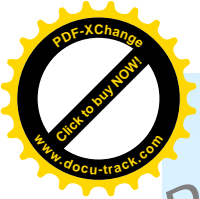
93 potential beneficiaries of re-allocations

↳ 69 medium farms (dairy, suckler and mixed)

↳ 24 large farms (only suckler cattle farms)

→ **Total 2015 : 143 farms...from 27 ha to 180 ha per farm**

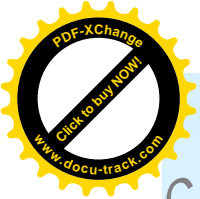




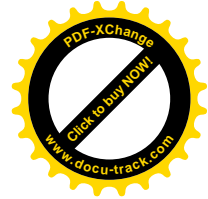
Results

(3) 2015 outlooks at the *Mezenc plateau* scale : Important and fast effects on livestock economy, Less pronounced on grasslands

- Reduction of farms nb. (-18%) and workers (-14%)
- Same total grasslands area, but less total Livestock Units (-9%)
- General cutting down of inputs, and reduction of stocking rate
(-9%, = 0.75 LU/ha)
- Spread of *0 Fertilizer*, without change in grasslands management
- Same litres of milk sold,
but decrease of the total weight of meat sold (-12%; ↘ heifers fattened)
- Low reduction of total farm income (-3%, -71 k€),
but increase of farm income/worker (+14%, +1,6 k€)
- Loss of total added-value(-29%; -798 k€) and increase of grants dependence



Conclusion-
Discussion



Enlightenment on *local* effects of *macro* changes *for the studied area, under current hypothesis*

- More immediate effects on the livestock economy than on land-use patterns and landscape management
- Significant differences of outlooks between milk and meat productions
- Persistence of work intensification & land extensification, with low added-value
- Maintenance of technico-economic gaps between farms
- Extreme necessity of added-value creation, thanks to various certificated productions, based on local resources