

# Landscape in peripheral rural regions: can a non-acknowledged asset be a potential for development ?



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## ‘Multifunctional Landscapes’

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**The region of Alentejo, southern Portugal  
Monfurado Natura 2000 site, a diversified landscape,  
100km from the metropolitan area of Lisbon**



# A specific Mediterranean landscape: 2 types of High Nature Value Farming Systems

## Type I

**Farmland with high proportion of semi-natural vegetation**

- Large scale holdings (> 100 ha)
- Silvo pastoral land use, Montado
- Extensive grazing
- Hunting



## Type II

**Farmland with a mosaic of low intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements**

- Small scale
- Olive groves, grazing and vegetable gardens
- Multiple uses





**Type II** Small scale mosaic, close to town:  
high heterogeneity, mixed farming  
attractive for hobby farming + residence + 2<sup>nd</sup> home





# Type I MONTADO : *agro-silvo pastoral system* open oak forest + extensive grazing





# MONTADO multifunctional landscape hotspot for multiple public goods





# MONTADO landscape: which strategies for future management ?

It is a space of production,  
a space of consumption  
a space of conservation

BUT >> amenity functions depend  
on the productive land use system  
in place, fragile in a  
globalized market context

AND >> there is no market or  
market failure for these amenities  
> public goods and services





# MONTADO

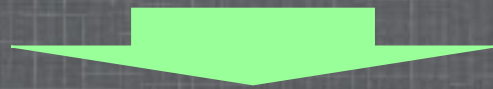
Highly resilient land use system, but threatened due to

## INTENSIFICATION

- Over-exploitation of tree cover by cork harvest and pruning for charcoal production
- Over-grazing >> soil compaction, increased erosion and hinders tree regeneration
- Mechanized and deep ploughing >> affect root system and weakens the trees

## EXTENSIFICATION

- Extreme decay of cultivation in under-cover rotation
- Shrub encroachment and increased fire risk
- Forest closing and decreased heterogeneity



**Landscape simplification + loss of specific character**



# Can landscape multifunctionality become a new driver ?



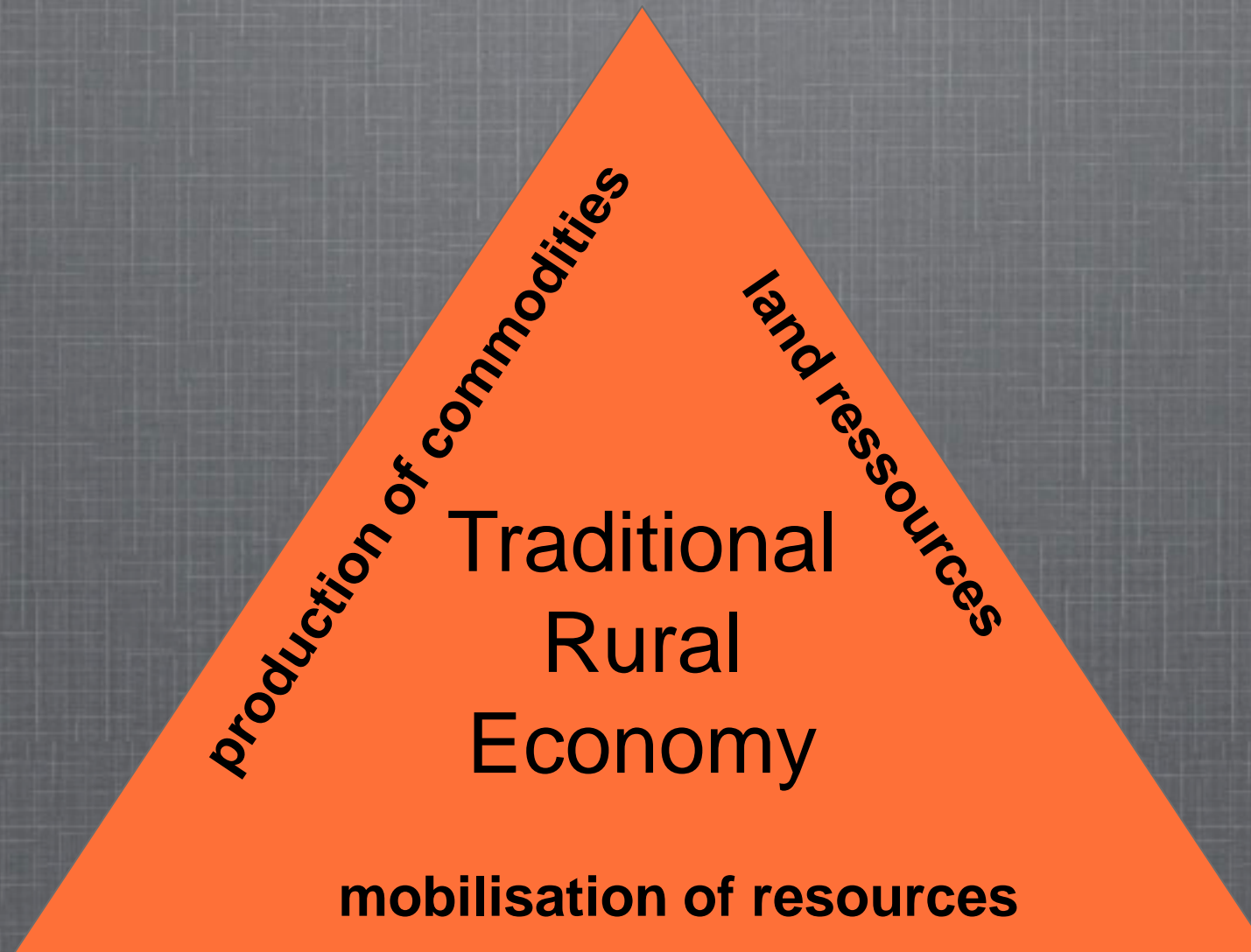
Between productivism and  
post-productivism,  
➡ farmers feel  
conflicts between different policies  
tensions between management models





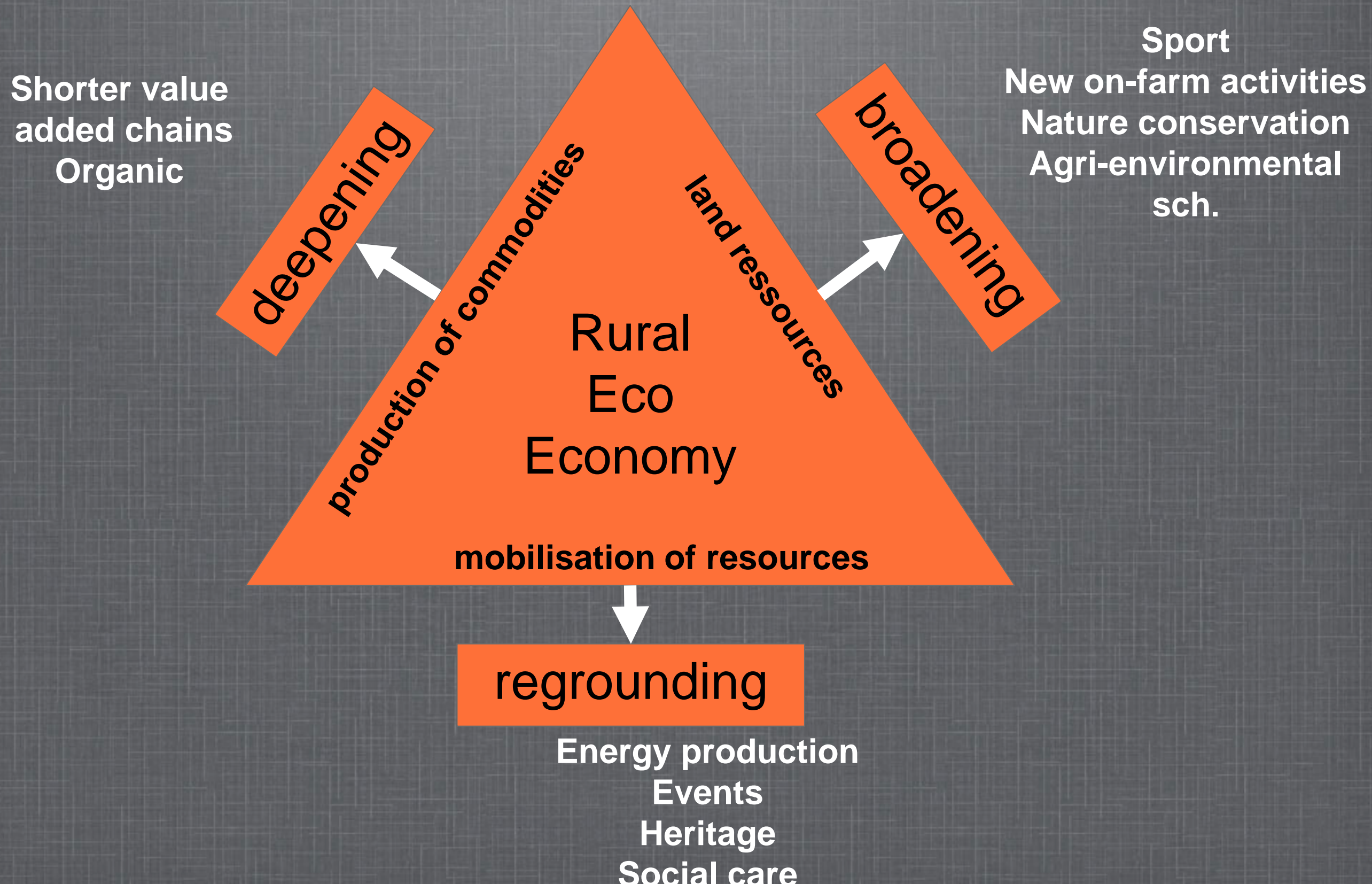
# What is grounding their options ?

## ...business as usual



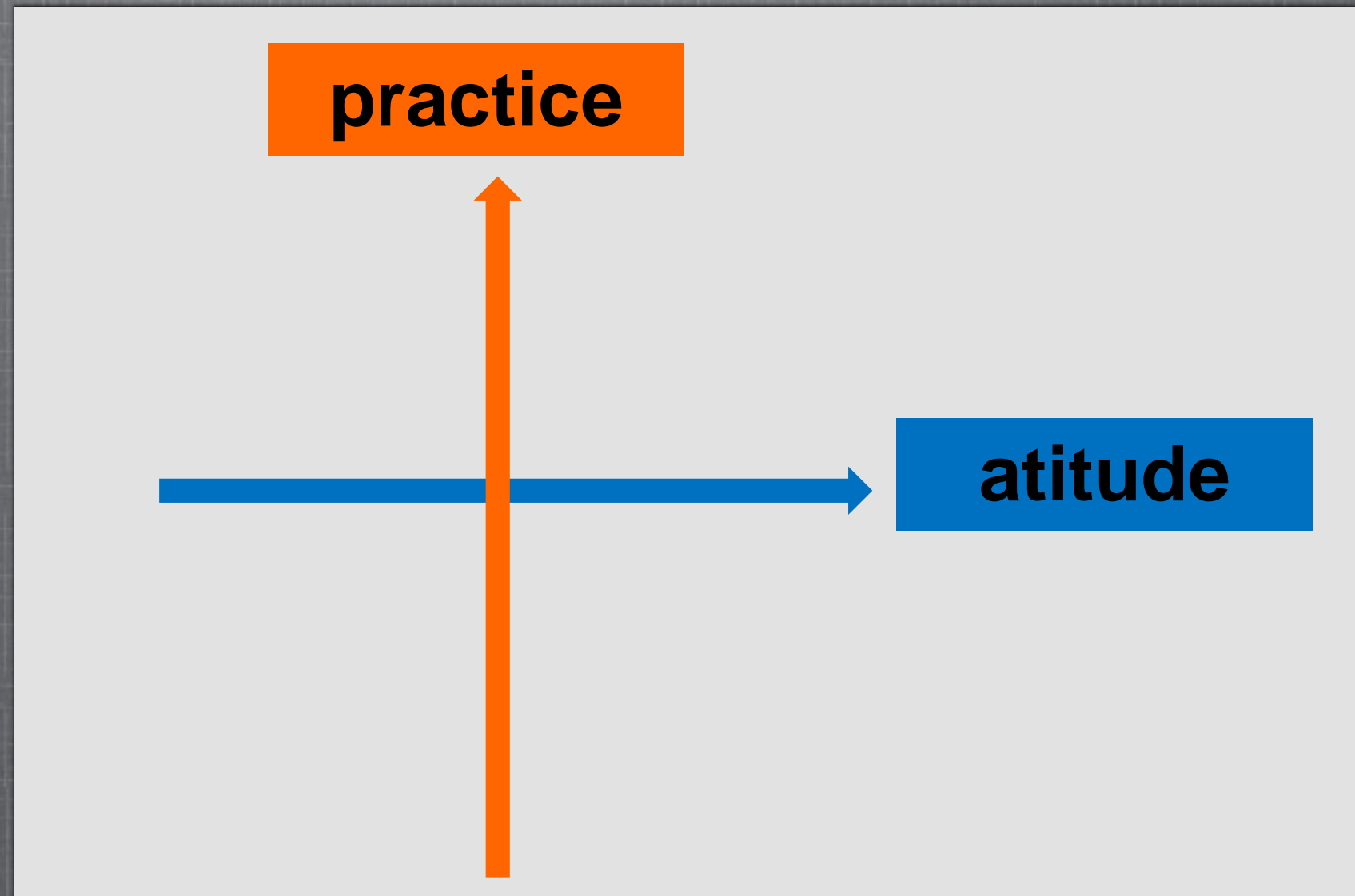


# ...or exploiting innovation paths and engaging in a transition process?





# looking behind the land management in place: the land manager self-concept



*a step forward:*  
understanding the relation between productivist  
and post-productivist **action and thought**



# Survey of Monfurado land managers (n=70)

*Adapted from Wilson's (2007) dimensions of productivist and post-productivist action and thought:*

1. Agricultural policies
2. Ideology
3. Governance of rural spaces
4. Food regimes and agro-commodity chains
5. Agricultural production
6. Farming Techniques
7. Environmental impacts

>> answers located in a spectrum between productivism and post-productivism



post-productivist though and  
productivist action

productivist though and  
productivist action

Specialized agri-business

Small scale

Multifunctional  
innovative

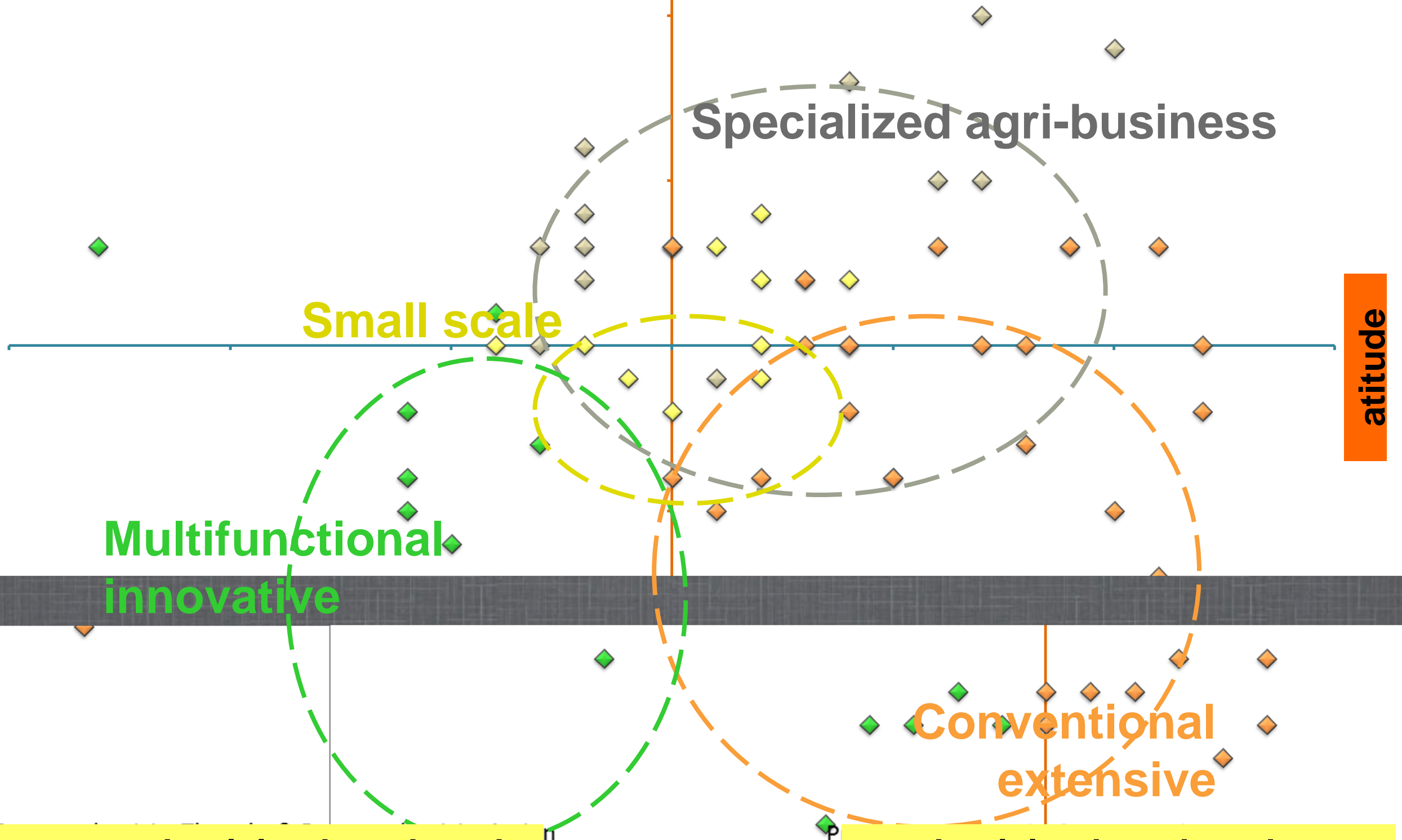
attitude

post-productivist though and  
post-productivist action

practice

productivist though and post-  
productivist action

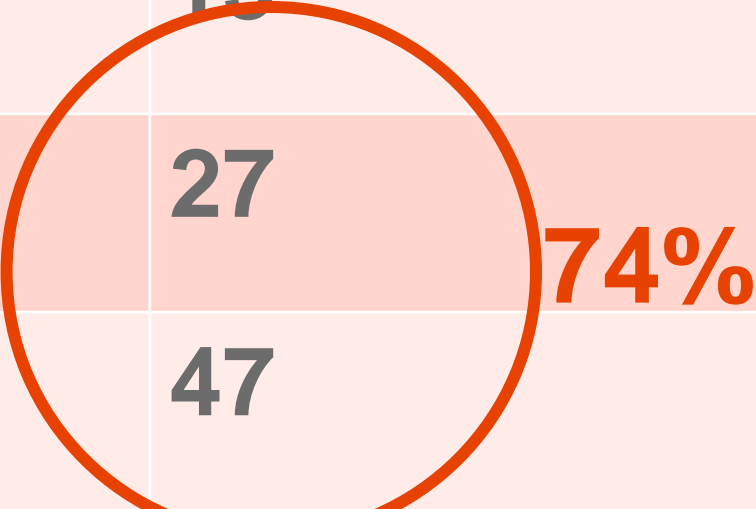
Conventional  
extensive





# Post-productivism is NOT there or on the way

	Number	% Area
Small scale	14	13
Multifunctional Innovative	13	13
Agri-Business Specialized	15	27
Conventional Extensive	28	47



some innovation in management,  
but no transition into a multifunctional model

>> **fragility**

in face of changing policies and new pressures



**The MONTADO is maintained, but  
production is still the driver of this landscape**

**In the Montado, as in other peripheric rural  
regions of Europe,  
a multifunctional landscape**

**DOES NOT mean it is being taken care of**

**previous surveys show farmers care may be  
grounded in awareness of**

**environmental constraints x heritage values**

**...or even lack of entrepreneurship**

**... property structure**

**... tax system**

**... CAP tools**

**...**





# The landscape as a potential for development ?

## The importance of the farmers self concept

>> the productivist ideal is linked to:

- the social position within the agricultural community
- their own understanding as good farmers

## MULTIFUNCTIONALITY demand

may not be enough

much work with farmers is required for  
a broader change of attitudes  
and innovative empowerment



if we want landscape  
as a potential for development

**we should not underestimate  
the land managers mindset**



THANK YOU