

Policy Choices for Dairy Development

lessons from work on product and process quality
in China and other countries

J.B. (Hans) Schiere c.s.

www.laventana.nl

FAO/APHCA-meeting; November 2008; Bangkok



my (small) company and 'mission'

- 'La Ventana' is Spanish for 'window', a name that relates with vision , ventilation and fresh approaches.

the 'director'



- I think that we know how to milk, how to make yoghurt, how to breed and so on
- I think that agriculture should be source rather than sink
- I aim to prepare for the future, not to improve the past
- for this I seek synergy in field of training / consulting / business for "better" dairy and cattle production ...

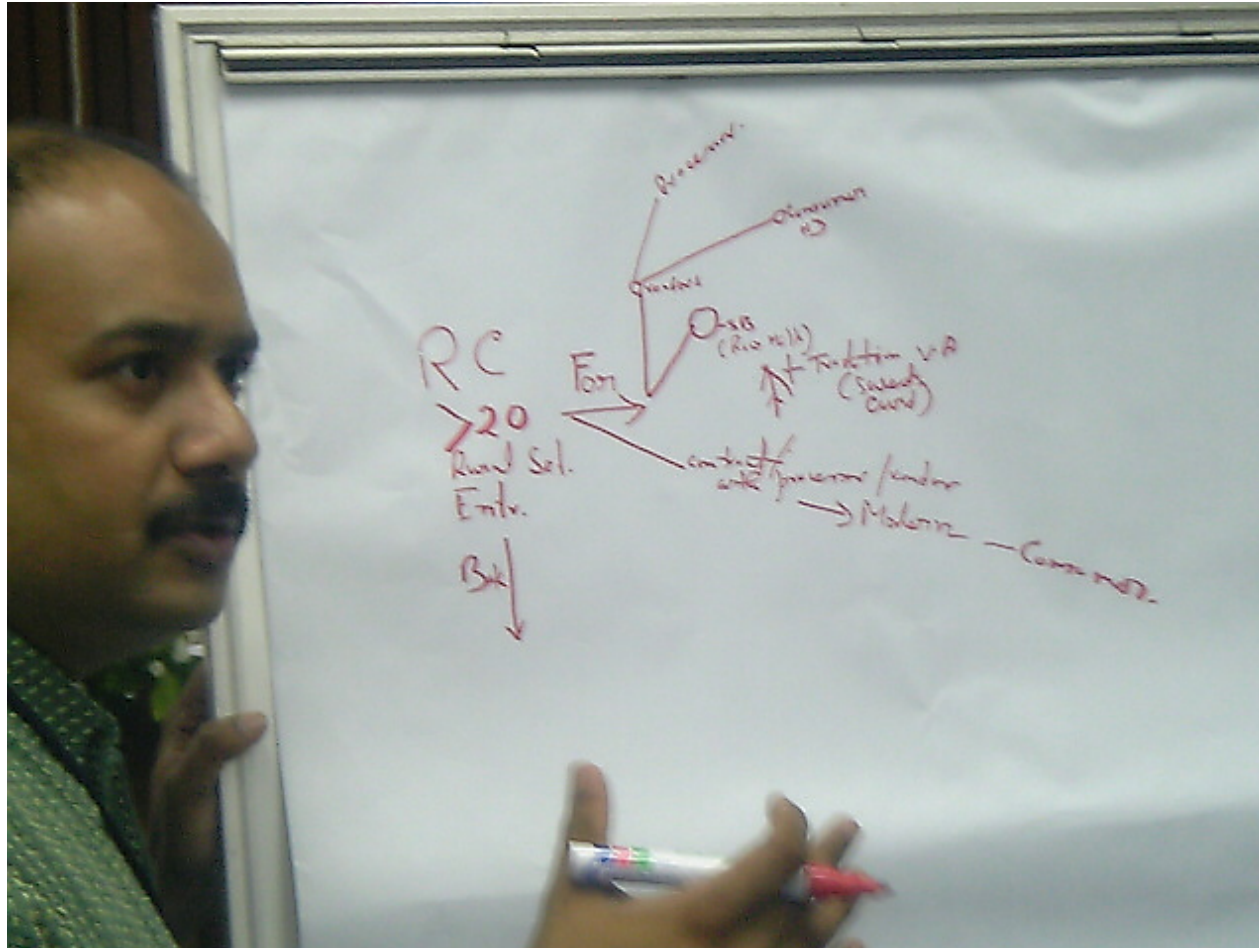
Synergy sofar ...

- Last month I came to FAO/APHCA to seek synergy on work in Philippines:
 - livestock course (next week)
 - expertise centre (next month onwards)
- Nancy suggested a talk on our work with quality in Chinese dairy chains .. so here we are ..
- already I met many old and new colleagues ..

and after yesterday I think that:

- indeed we roughly know how to feed, breed, seed, proces, etc.,
- indeed we roughly know stakeholder and chain stuff, system methodologies, etc.
- indeed we do recognise different (dairy)systems
- but we struggle to cope with all the variation
- but we struggle to suggest policies because:
 - * we do not decide which road(s) to go
 - and/or
 - * we want everybody to fit one mold

We want to fit all in the same mold even if life (in a sector) is a matter of combining strategies



Our work in China may be useful since:

- it reflects variation in S-&SEAsia discussed here
- it gave methods to work with variation
- it combined notions of product & process quality (should I explain?) with existing chain-approaches
- it thus gave clues for policy choices across levels of farm, region and country

our team and -approach

- people from agronomy, production, collection and processing .. along the chain
- we stressed variation, avoiding “averages”
- we distinguished product & process quality
(should I explain again???)
- we sought (drivers of) change on “transects”:
 - from distant to near cities
 - from cold and dry to hot and wet regions
 - from mixed to specialized systems
 - from informal to formal chains

“drivers” of change along “transects”

capturing the variation that we struggled with yesterday

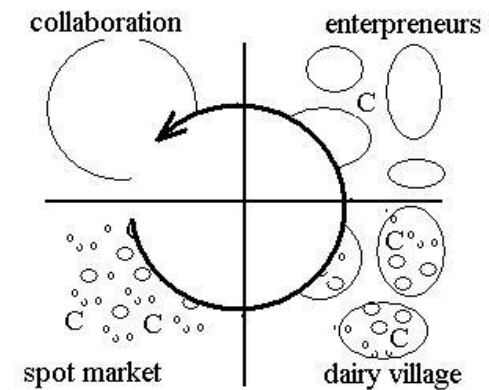
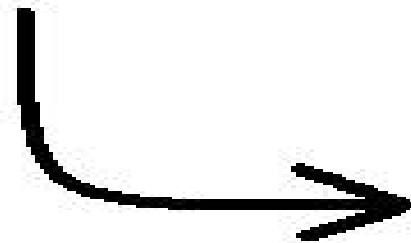
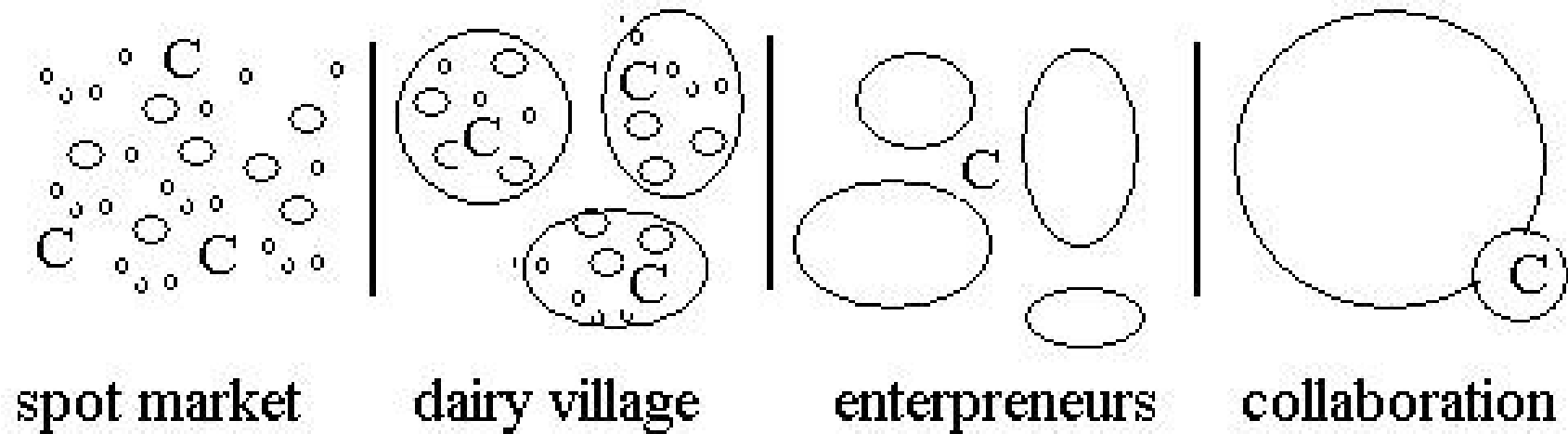
- *from distant to near the city:*
grazing vs stall feeding, nutrient cycling, other primary production goal, and other collection & processing ..
- *from cold & dry to hot & humid*
different seasonal fluctuations yields, relevance water use efficiency, effect on feeding systems
- *mixed to specialized (see later) ..*
- *informal to formal (see later) ..*

From mixed to specialized

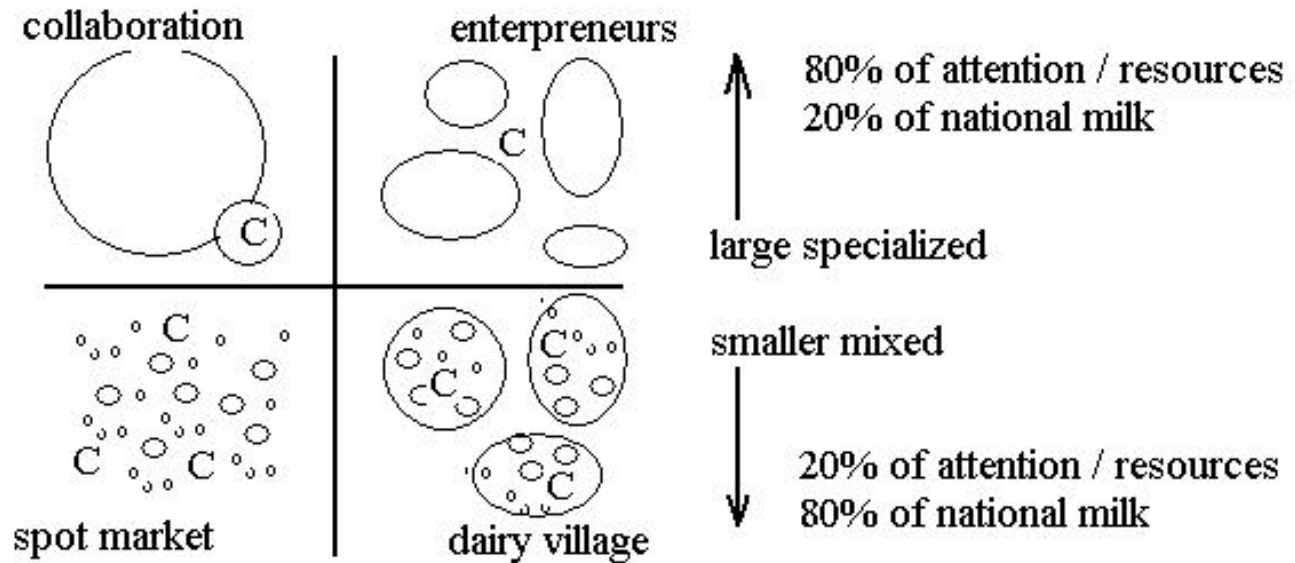
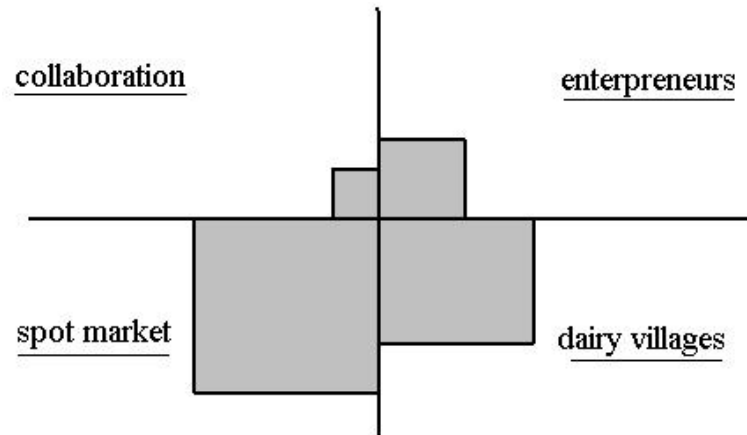
capturing the variation of yesterday
and policy issues start to emerge ...

- From
 - traditional to modern (policy choice?)
 - generally lower yields (policy choice?)
 - focus on cross-breds and recycling (..)
 - mixed is (not always) small scale ..
 - product quality from “dirty” to “clean”??
 - process quality often from good to poor
(high footprint, water use, foodmiles)

from informal to formal markets



Policy on quantity and quality



Classification, from static to dynamic

We thus classified the variation on “transects”:

- from distant to near “cities”
- from dry and cold to hot and wet
- from mixed to specialized
- from informal to formal

(basically the theme of yesterday afternoon)

We can now start to classify “trajectories” from:

- present to future
- where we are to where we want to go
- do we spend resources where they are used?

Classification and policy choices

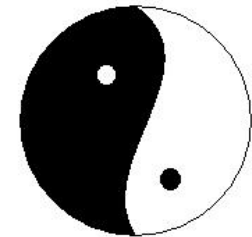
applied to trajectories from A to B:

- from expensive milk for few or cheap milk for many
- from import to self-sufficiency
- from poor to clear definition of fresh milk
- from local to national scale
- from variable and resilient to standardized and stable but not resilient systems
- from “traditional” to “modern” product quality control
- from product- to process quality

Policy and the farfetched stuff

newer product and process qualities

- greenhouses now generate energy ..
- dairy could produces rather than cost water ..
- do we go for local pride (MG-Brasil, Mindanao ..)
- do we go for inclusive / balanced development
- will we go from >500 to <150 kg N/ha/yr ..
- is milk a commodity or for community ..
- is variation opportunity or problem ..
- is technology as public or private property ..
- do we seek diversity or standards in goals
*(MG vs SPaolo, Mindanao vs. Batangas, SEAsia vs EU;
Nystate vs Texas; Cambodia vs Thailand, ..)*



Role government and others ..

easier said than done ... but:

- stimulate “strange” things (Mexico city dairy, ..)
- price-setting of oil, water, land, labour, waste ..
- (re)define “fresh” milk
- teach for the future:
 - diversity and outside the box
 - default vs design
 - sink or source
- R&D for “*default or design*”, for “*sink to source*”
- subsidize / tax (see Ugo Picamarra:-)

the real life ..

courtcases and government ...

before we say goodbye ...



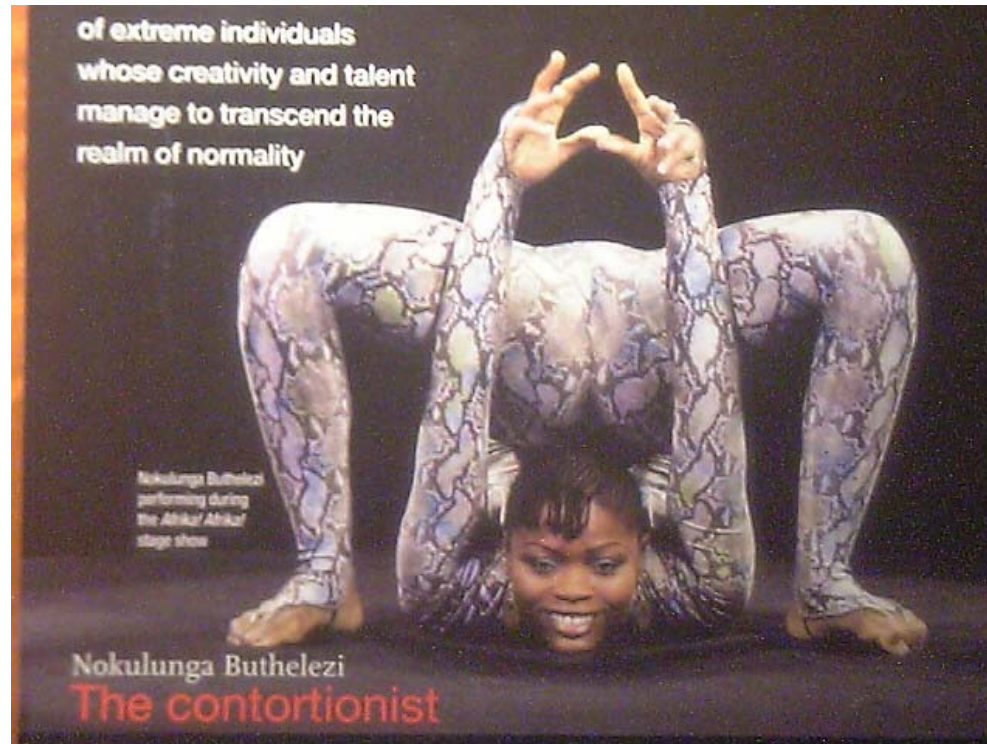
Concluding

let us be modest, but nevertheless:

- We know feed, breed etc well enough, we have the building blocks ...
- We know methodology on stakeholder stuff, chains, product & process quality, we know how to construct ...
- We need to chose development scenarios and visions, we need decide on what we want (that is policy as well as politics) ..
- We should take the first step and lift our hind leg
... even if life is what happens when we make other plans ..

Easier said than done

but we need not do the impossible ..



Thank you, also on behalf of my “director”