CCRI

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Synergies and gaps between farm and non-farm micro-level data for sustainable rural development

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Introduction

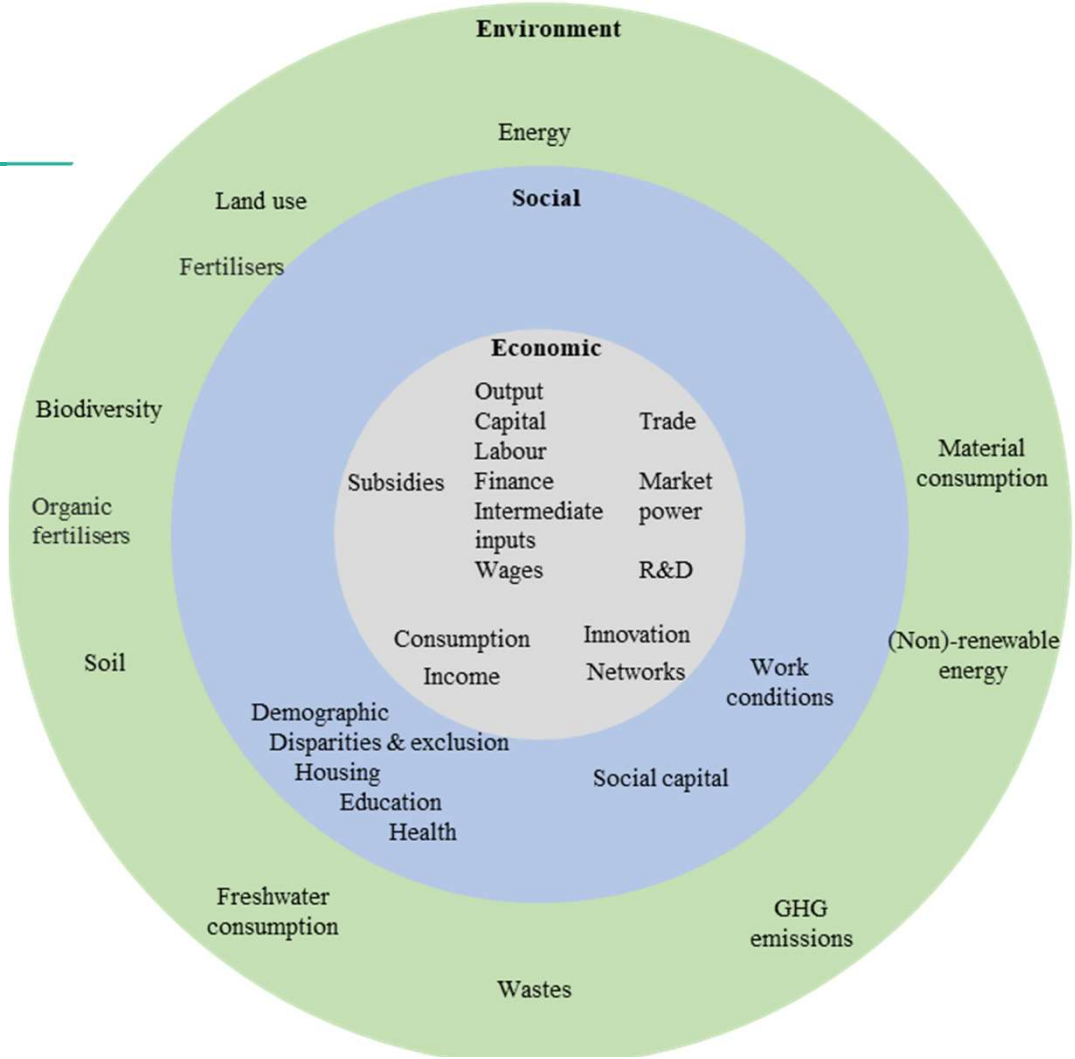
- Social and environmental micro-level data, alongside economic ones, are essential to study the performance of the agricultural sector and rural areas, and to achieve sustainable and inclusive rural development.

- Micro-level data could be obtained directly from National Data Providers, though it is not always a straightforward process.

- However, comparable cross-country and longitudinal micro-level data are limited, and their main focus is on economic aspects.

Microdata for rural development

- Defining the agricultural and rural boundaries.
- Defining agricultural sector - distinguishing between farm and non-farm businesses.
- Identifying economic, social, and environmental indicators.



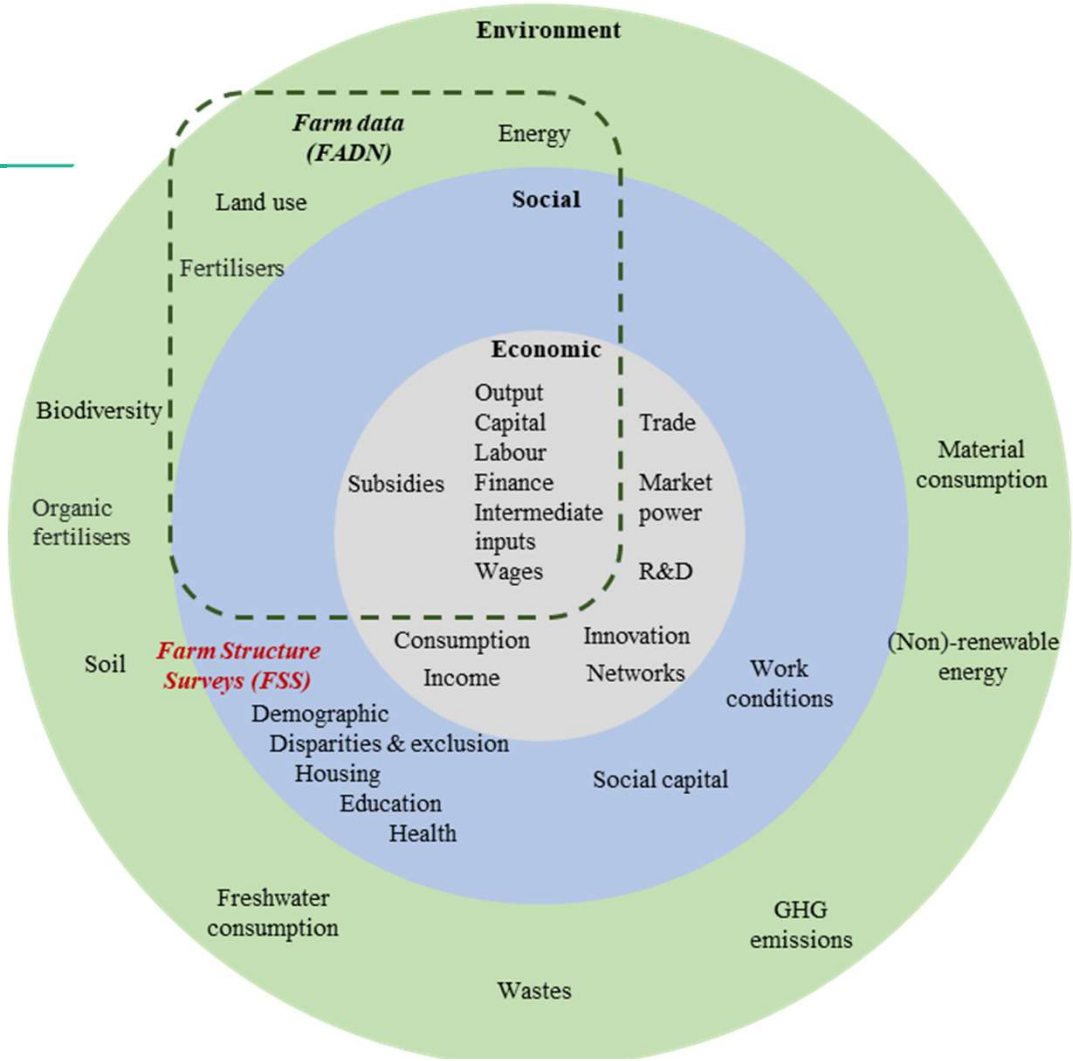
EU Farm level data

Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN):

Outputs, economic value added, land use, subsidies, and labour and capital inputs.

Farm Structure Surveys (FSS):

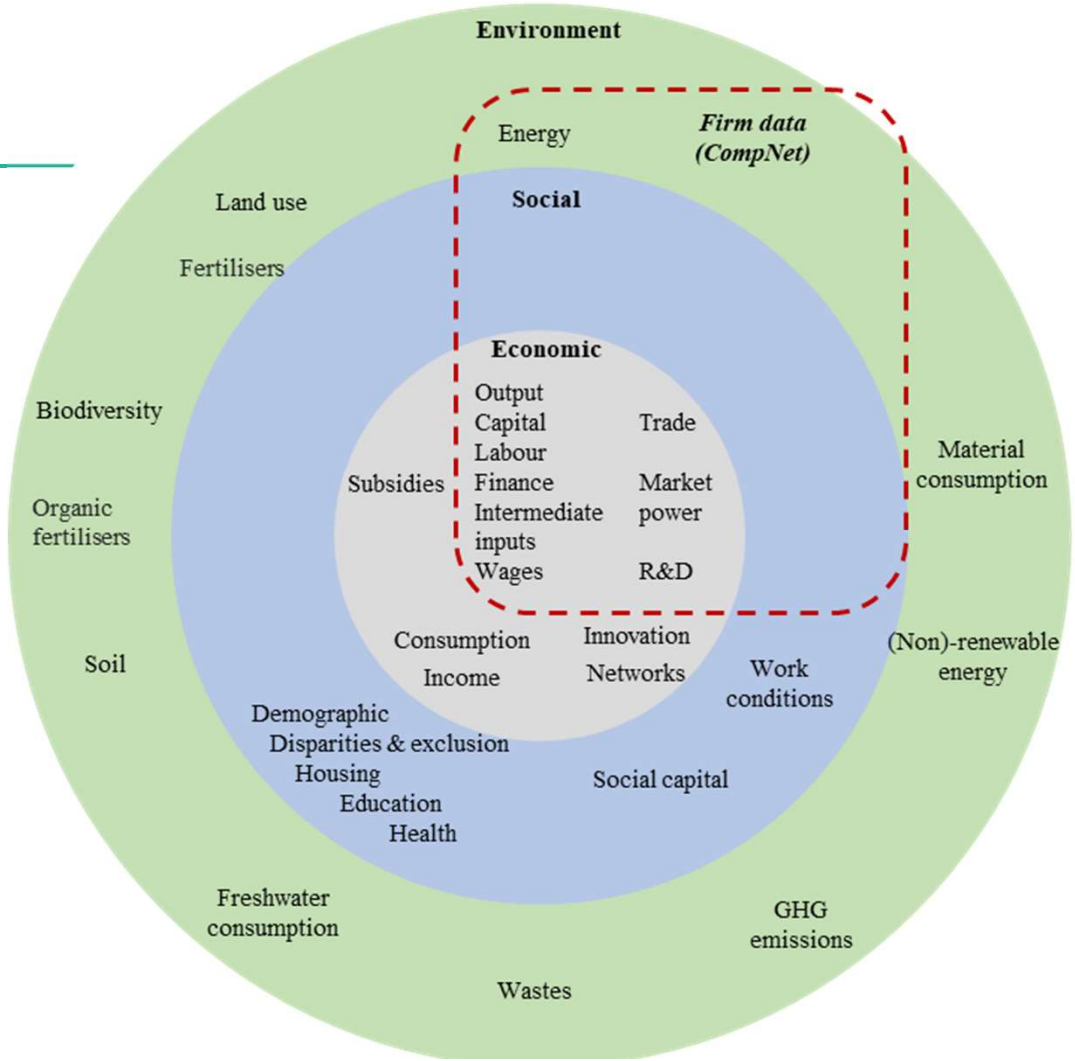
Economic and demographic information



EU Firm level data

Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet):

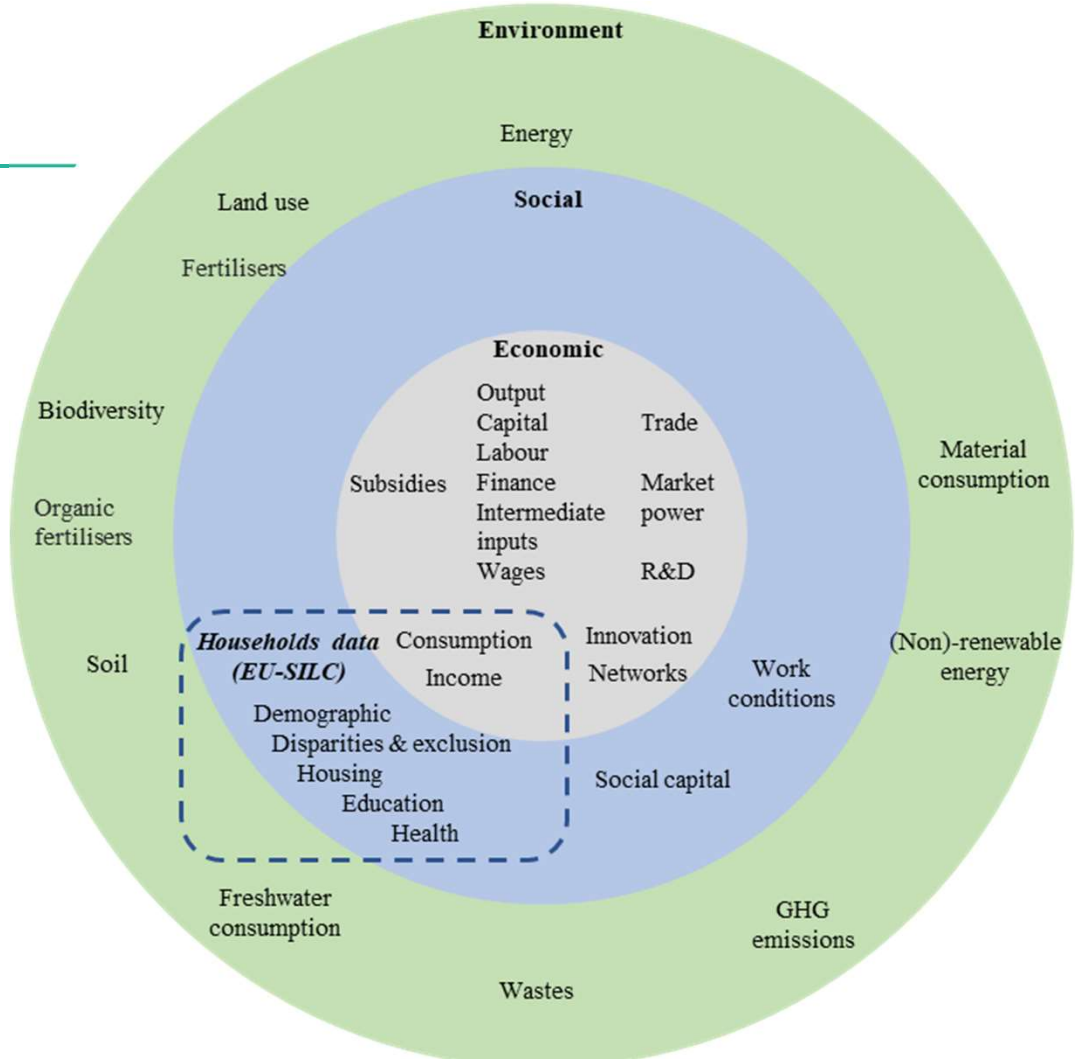
- Micro-aggregated variables computed by National Data Providers
- Value added, trade, market power, and labour and capital inputs.
- Doesn't include the agricultural sector.



EU households data

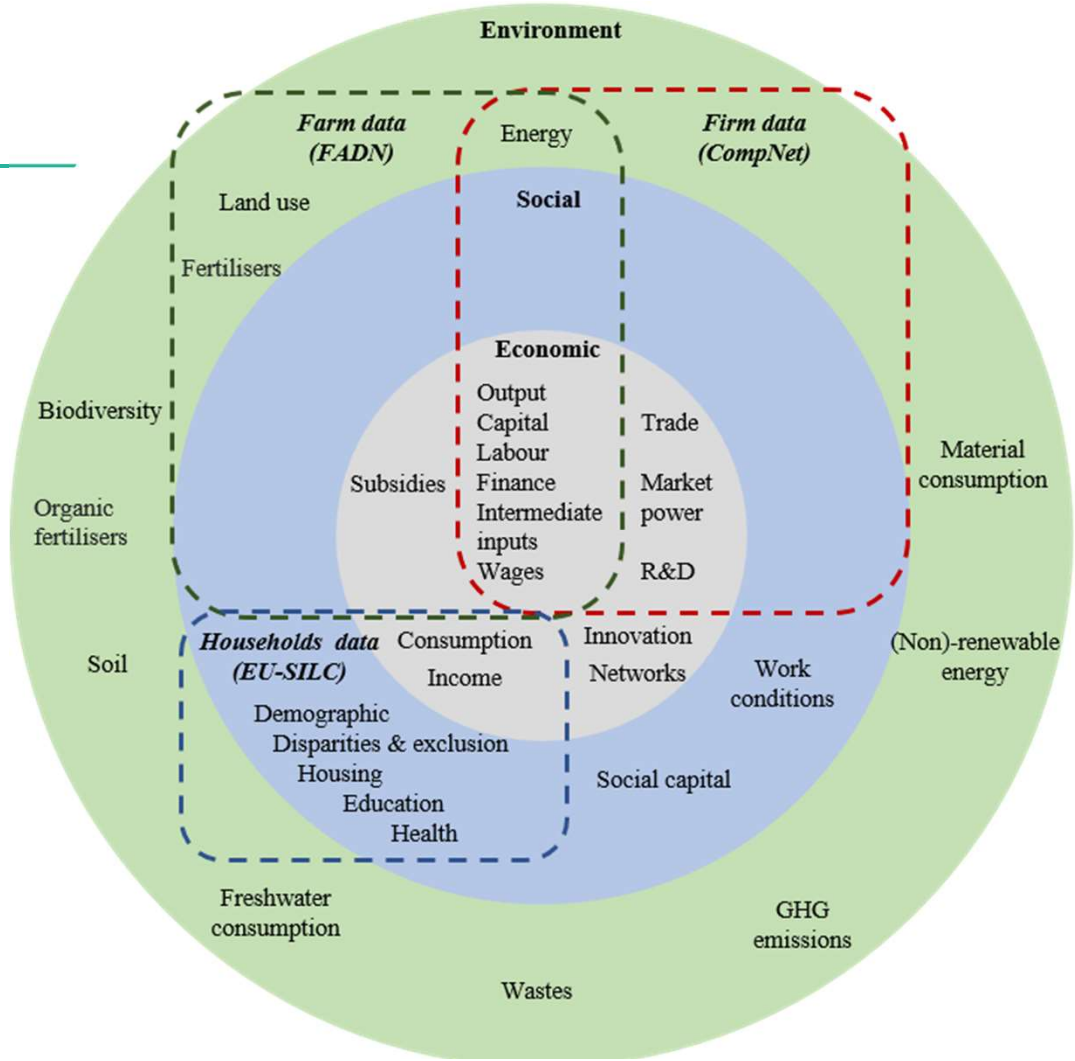
Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC):

- Employment, income, poverty, education, health, social exclusion and living conditions.
- Variables at the level of individual persons and at the level of households.



EU rural microdata

- Economic information is well reported.
- Social information could be available from households survey.
- Environmental information is yet to be well-covered.



Other examples in OECD countries?

- In the US, the Annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS): detailed economic data on the financial condition, production practices, and resource management of farms.
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) produces several micro-level annual surveys covering productivity, taxation, innovation, R&D, and offshoring.
- Annual Business Survey: provides demographic information, as well as economic ones, that could be exploited for social indicators.

Challenges and constraints

- Can we identify common indicators for social and environmental performance among **rural** firms, farms and households? what can be used directly, what can be estimated, and how? What are the gaps?
- Can we match data units from more than one dataset (e.g. farm, firm, individual, or household)?
- How can we deal with multifunctional businesses (farms which are also processors or retailers), or multiple-site businesses (operating in both cities and rural areas)?
- Can surveys capture exchanges between businesses / business networks effectively, in order to measure rural value-chain and the trade between farm and non-farm businesses in rural areas?

Thank you

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