

CAP and so-called public goods

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outlines

1. Some theoretical remarks
2. CAP: The issue of the delivery of public goods from private land
3. The role of common pools of resources is hidden

Some theoretical remarks on current definition

Types of Goods

Jointness of Use or Consumption

Alternative Use

Joint Use

Feasible
Exclusion

Private good: bread,
shoes, automobiles,
haircuts, books, etc.

Toll good: Theatre,
night club, telephone
service, toll road, cable
TV, electric power

Infeasible
Exclusion

Common pool resource:
water pumped from a
ground water basin, fish
taken from an ocean,
crude oil extracted from
an oil field

Public good: peace and
security, national
defense, mosquito
abatement, fire
protection, weather
forecasts, “public” TV

Elinor and Vincent OSTROM, 1971

- Numerous critiques of the current economic definition, considering relativity and continuity of the two attributes
- In fact there is a huge diversity of situations which combine the different types of goods
- There is generally a confusion between the attributes of goods and property regimes
 - The exclusion can be linked with cost of exclusion
 - Issue of indivisibility of the resource (Samuelson: “collective consumption”. E.g.: PEACE)

E. Ostrom:

- « The relative advantages of private property and common property for the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of natural resource use patterns have been debated in legal and economic literatures for several centuries. The debate has been clouded **by a troika of confusions that relate to the difference between**
 - (1) common property and open-access regimes,
 - (2) common-pool resources and common property regimes, and
 - (3) a resource system and the flow of resource units.” (Ostrom, 2000, résumé).

CAP: The issue of the delivery of public goods from private land

- This limits “public goods” to “environmental good ”
- Activation of ES services, delivered by ecological services which are not at the scale of private holdings
- private contribution in terms of means to functioning of agro-eco-systems and ESS production
 - What are the beneficiaries? Local? Global?
- Effectivity and efficiency depend on collective action regimes
 - Which can be discouraged by individual incentive schemes

The role of the commons is hidden

- The necessity of collective action was stressed in the managing of natural resource (and thus the individual participation of farmers in the provision of “public good”)
- In this sense PG refers to a desirable “state” of the *natural environment* (clean air, clean water, biodiversity...), an objective for public policies
 - The issue we discussed is private incentive vs support for collective action
- I want to consider the “*intellectual environment*”
 - The importance of intellectual capacities and facilities, training, experience networks... was stressed

Intellectual environment

- Knowledge is generally seen as non rival, but in fact it can be privatized
- Local knowledge, shared experiences, professional knowledge are immaterial common resources
- Agriculture modernization as destroyed a lot of local common pools of resources natural or intellectual
- But with the modernization have emerged vast systems of immaterial/intellectual common resources
- They articulate private, common and public goods

Examples

- Animal breeds: some are privatized (chickens), but cow breeds result from selection schemes which have the attributes of common, by creating common/public knowledge (genetic indexes)
- Collective reputation in the case of Geographical Indications and in general collective quality schemes
- It is intangible resources the value being in the future and depending on systemic dynamics

Intellectual infrastructures

- *More examples:* quality conceptions (doctrines) and quality standards, landscape care societies, good practices, agronomics
- Politics connect these types of commons with public intellectual domains
- “Public goods” here relate with “innovation” visions (e.g. energy transition)
- Developing and adapting the intellectual environment
 - Issues of privatization, preservation on intellectual public domain, revealing the common dimensions and building social capital