

Diversity of farmer types safeguarding local cattle breeds

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A farmer is a key actor in the conservation of AnGR

External factors

- Policies (agricultural, rural, food and environmental)
- Food market
- Attitudes of the stakeholders (authorities, vetereneries, extension organisation, farmers organisations)
- Media

Internal factors

- Farm characteristics (history, size, location, soil, infrastructure)
- Farmer characteristics (age, education, personality, family)



Modenese farmer, Italy.
Photo: Flavia Piazza

”A breed
has to fit to the farmer.”



A breeder of Ferrandaise at the French agricultural show this year. Photo: Delphine Dulcos

Key questions

- Why do the farmers keep local breeds?
 - How do the farmers' reasons to keep local breeds differ?
 - What kind of farmer "types" can be identified?
 - Are there differences between the farmers and the breeds
 - Are there differences between across the Europe and between Europe and other parts of the world?

- Case studies
 - European farmers (EURECA -project)
 - Finncattle
 - Yakutia cattle
 -

Qualitative approach

- Understanding the farmers' reasons for keeping local breeds in different contexts
- Data collection: Interviews, surveys with structured and open ended questions
- Content analysis aiming for differences between the farmers' reasons and farmer types

I Case study: European farmers

- Research material
 - Open ended questions from the EURECA WP1 questionnaire
 - Five countries included
 - The Netherlands
 - Italy
 - Belgium
 - Spain
 - Finland



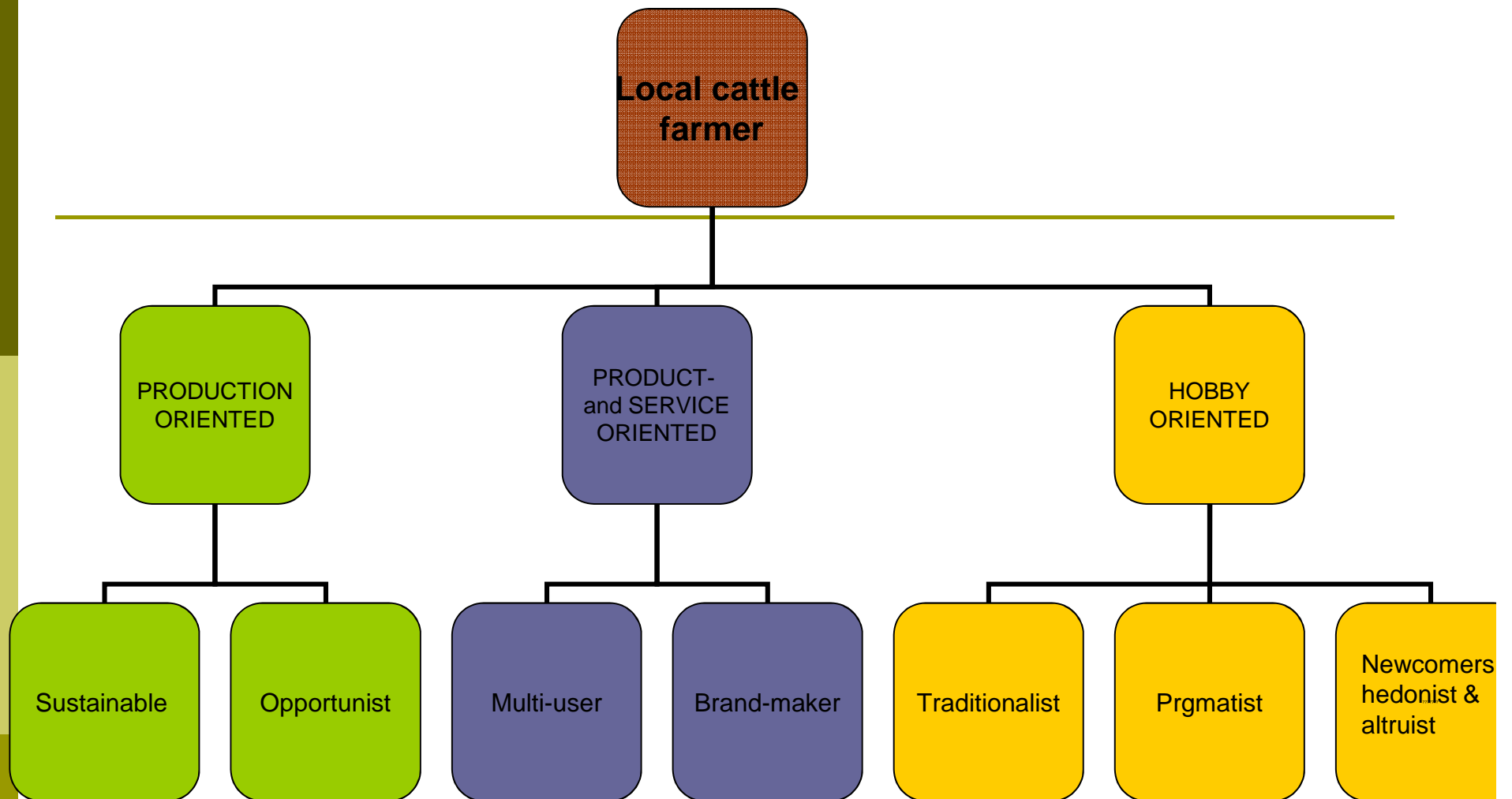
Method

- Qualitative content analysis
 - Reading and re-reading of the research material
 - Identifying differences and similarities in farmers' thinking
 - Concising the most essential information
 - Clustering (and re-clustering) the farmer types
 - Naming the clusters

Differences and similarities

– themes arising

- ❑ Professionalism
- ❑ Economical objectives
- ❑ Attitudes to the quantity and quality of the production
- ❑ Attitudes for producing added values
- ❑ Reasons for conservation
- ❑ Commitment for keeping the breed
- ❑ Aesthetic values
- ❑ Scope of thinking and acting



Typologisation of the farmers' based primarily on the data of EURECA WP1. (Gandini et al. 2010; Soini & Lilja 2010)

1. Production oriented

□ Sustainable

- High sense of professionalism
- Aesthetic values of the animals arise from the good traits
- Economic profitability of cattle farming in the long term
- Good quality and quantity of products
- No special interest for processing and branding the products themselves
- Conservation is needed for animal breeding
- Strong commitment to continue

"Cattle farming is serious job."

" I don't want to live like Robinson Crusoe; my cows are production animals, not pets."

1. Production oriented

□ Opportunist

- cattle is a necessity
- strong economic interest for profitable farming
- quantity of the production
- no interest in processing or branding of the products
- no special interest in conservation issue
- personal or farm level scope of thinking and acting

"The subsidies should be increased."

2. Product oriented

□ Multi-user

- Professionality usually/originally from some other field
- Local breeds constitute a part of economic activities (tourism and on-farm-selling etc.)
- Quality of the production and products
- Reasons for conservation are multiple
- Scope of acting and thinking: farm/community/global

"Local cattle breeds can be combined well with other farming activities"

"Local cattle are extremely suitable for grazing management in nature reserves: Good use of natural pastures all year around."

2. Product oriented

□ Brand -makers

- Coming from outside agricultural sector
- Cattle farming should be profitable business
- Emphasis on the gastronomic quality of the products
- Multiple and added values of the breed
- Strong commitment to develop the business
- Genes establish a base for good products
- Scope of actions and thinking: National and global

3. Hobby-oriented

□ Newcomer

- Usually no background in farming
- Economics or production is not so important at all as the animal herself
- No interest in adding values by themselves
- Aesthetics of the breed arise from the "scenic beauty" and "naturalness"
- Could be divided into
 - hedonistic
 - Altruistic

"Everybody has a right to keep local breeds"

3. Hobby-oriented

□ Traditionalist

- Usually older or ex- farmers
- Economics is not so important
- The breed fits well to the farm
- Products used by the household or neighbourhood
- Continue the traditions of the farm
- Strongly committed to keep the breed

"The breed is traditional prestige of the farm. "

" It is too administrative, there are too many documents to fill in. "

3. Hobby-oriented

Pragmatist

- Professional farmers having a few local breeds
- Economics is not important
- No personal interest in processing of products
- Local breeds represent ethically sustainable farming,
- Scope of thinking: personal/farmlevel

"We got the first cows by accident, but since then we just haven't been able to get rid of them, because they are so cute."

Differences between the breeds

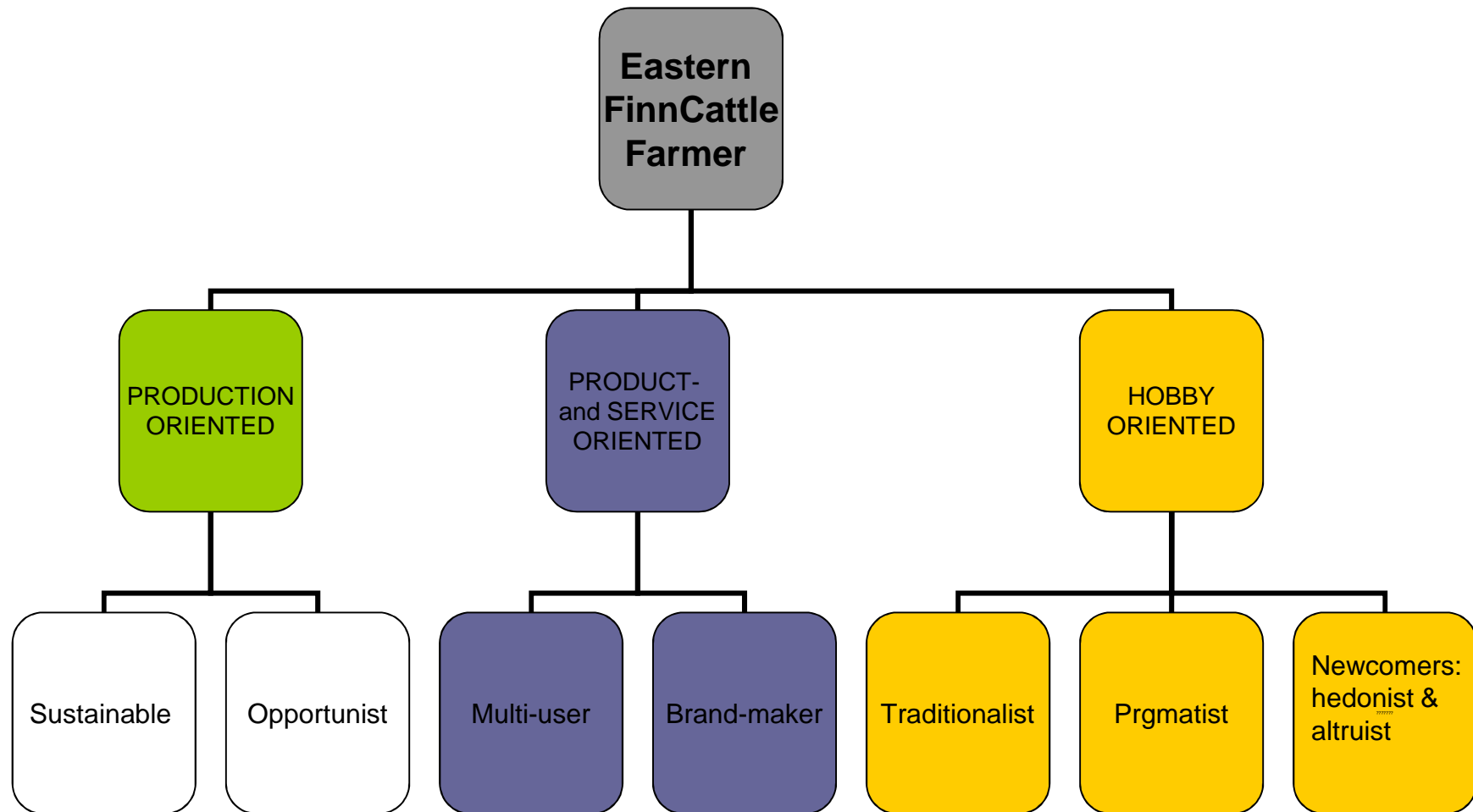
Eastern Fincattle

- Ca. 800 WFC individuals
- Evacuated from the Eastern Finland after the WWII all over the Finland and recently put out of the prison => "special"
- Increasing

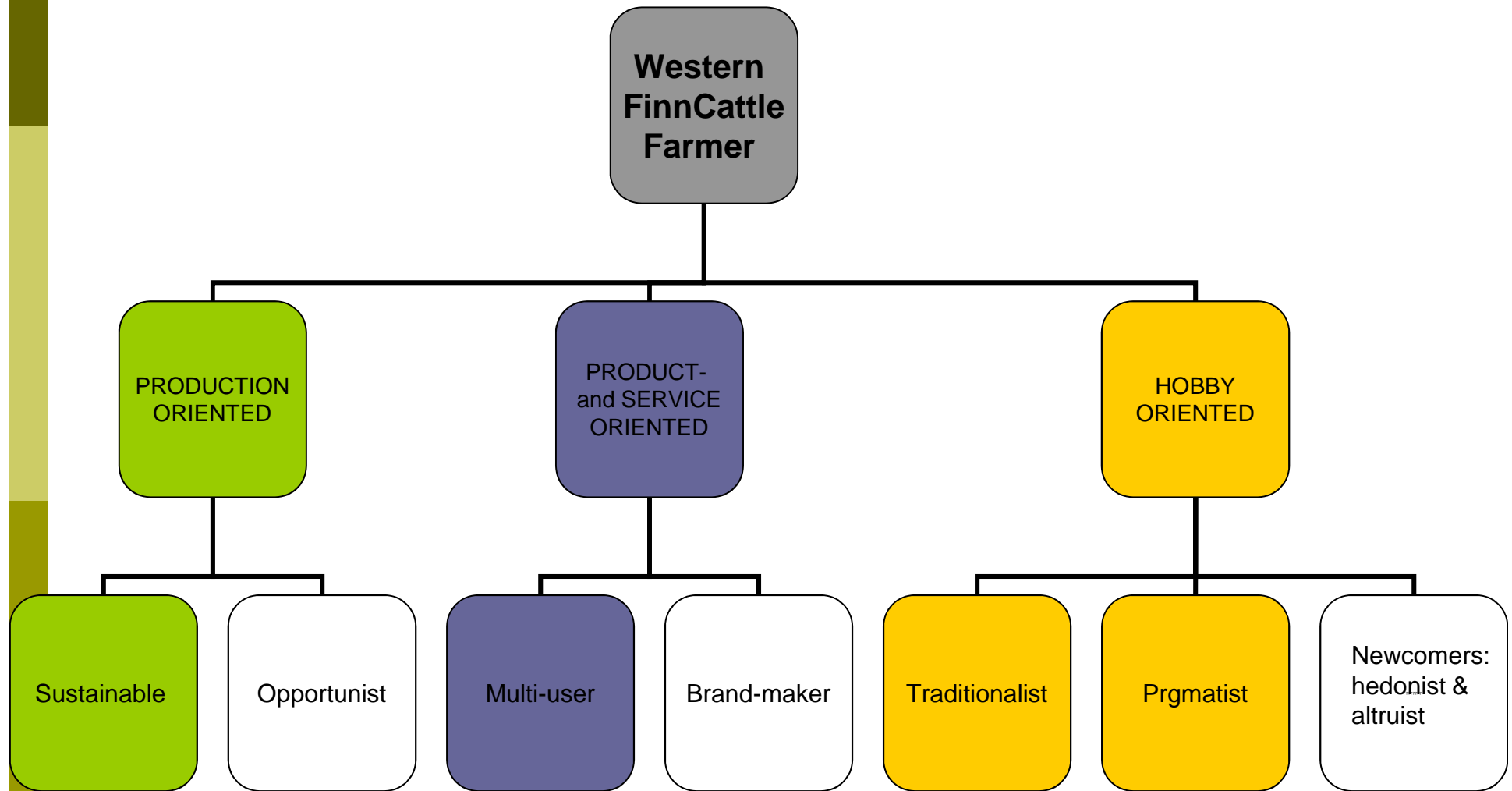
Western Fincattle

- Ca. 3000 WFC individuals
- Closer to the mainstream breeds in production traits => "ordinary"
- Declining

Eastern Finncattle



Western Finncattle



Conclusions from the EURECA

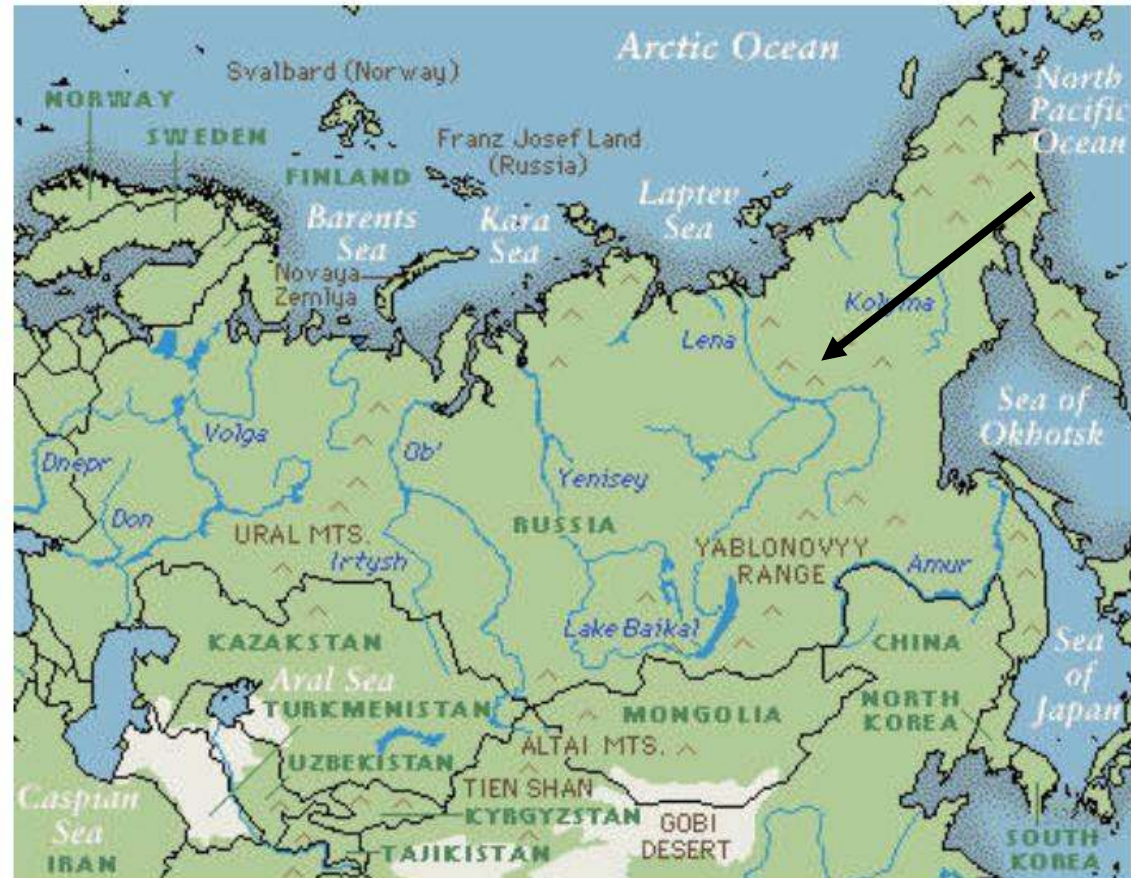
- Several farmer types with different profiles could be found
- The farmer types could be found in all countries
- Farmer types between and within a breed
- Farmers may change from type to type, e.g.
 - sustainable production -> traditionalist hobby farmer
 - Newcomer hobby farmer -> brand maker

Case II: Yakutian Cattle

A population of
ca.1000 heads of

genetically unique
and valuable
Yakutian cattle

in three remote
villages in North-
East Siberia



Share of cattle ownership

- ❑ Private households 70,0 %
- ❑ State enterprises 22,6%
- ❑ Tribal communities 5,9%
- ❑ Family farms 1,4%



Economic and social reasons

- ❑ Food stuff for the family
- ❑ Main/Additional income
- ❑ Work at the state farm
- ❑ To be able to help the relatives and neighbours

"If everything becomes as stable as in the Soviet Union and there's enough money, then why keep cattle... We are forced to keep cattle to pay for the education of the children, and travel expenses are high."

(A teacher)

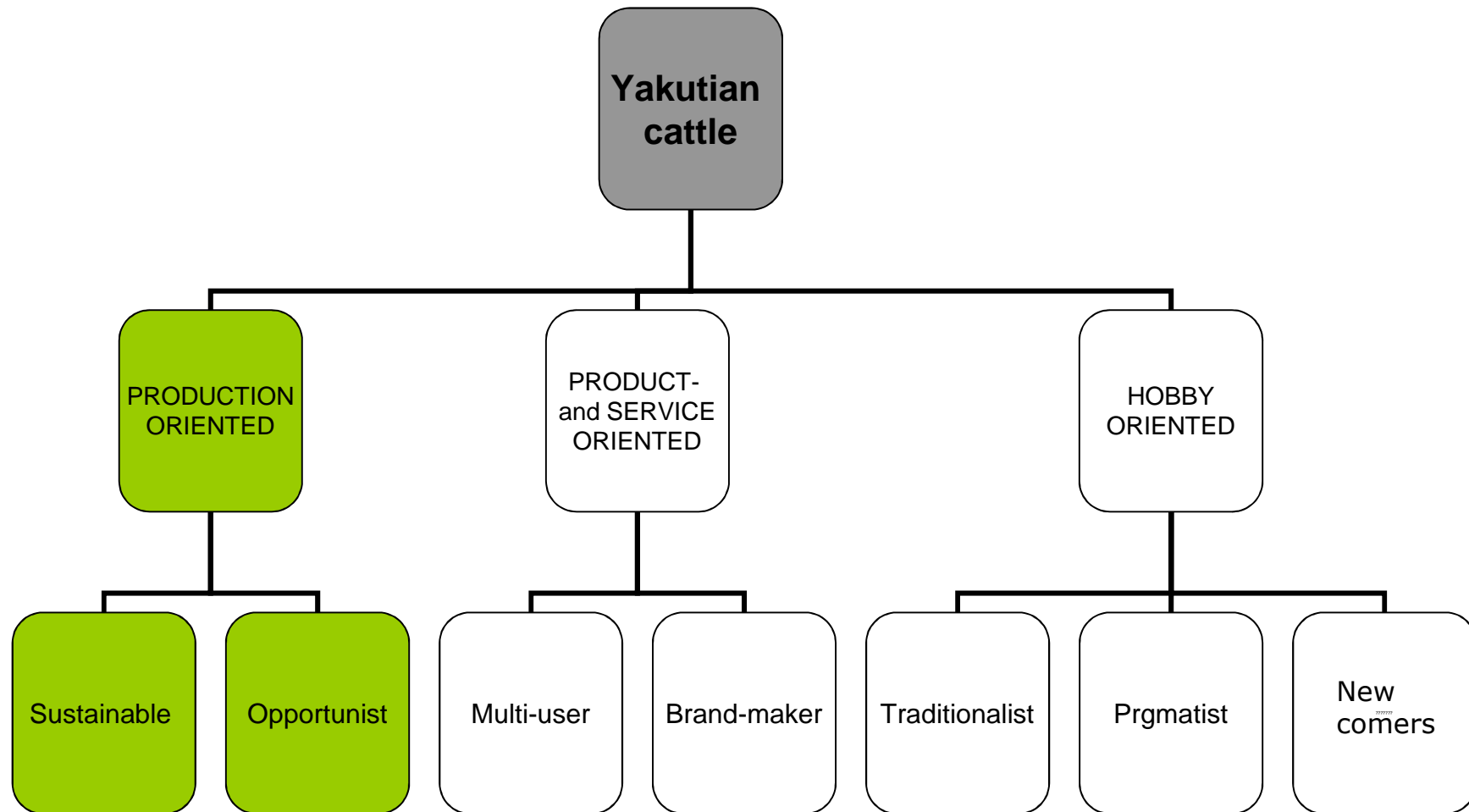
Cultural and identity reasons

- ❑ a part of local way of life (local identity)
- ❑ to provide local food and have traditional dishes
- ❑ to manifestate Yakutian to the vs. Even culture
- ❑ to be able to live in the region
- ❑ to continue the traditions of the family

"my parents uised to have cows"

"Our ancestors lived in the same building with animals: one side for the animals and one for the people. I like the smell of manure. The cattle are a part of our tradition." (Int. 53)

Yakutian cattle



Summary

- The case studies show that there is diversity of farmers, who keep local breeds
 - a strenght considering the future of the local breeds
 - Diversity of the farmer types seems to increse along with the development of the society

- Diversity of local breeds promotes diversity of local culture and vice versa
 - It is important not only to support the breeds but the continuation and reproduction of the local culture

Summary

Diversity of policies are needed for supporting various farmer types, e.g.

1. Production oriented
 1. Sustainable -> respect by stakeholders and society
 2. Opportunist -> more money
2. Product oriented
 1. Brand makers -> support for processing and marketing products
3. Hobby oriented
 1. Traditionalist -> support in byrocracy and farming practices
 2. Newcomers -> support in farming practices and animal breeding

Further research tasks

- Testing the factors and typologisation and defining the socio-economic factors?
- What is the sustainability of cattle breeding in each case?
- What kind of support/policies each farmer type needs?

Publications

- ❑ Soini & Lilja 2010. Diversity of farmer types safeguarding local cattle breeds. *In preparation.*
- ❑ Soini & Partanen 2009. *The golden stock. In Granberg et al. Sakha Ynaga – The Yakutian Cattle. Suomalainen tiedeakatemia.*
- ❑ Gandini, Diaz, Soini, Lilja, Martin-Collado 2010: Viewing differences and similarities across local cattle farming in Europe. In Hiemstra et al. Local cattle breeds in Europe. Development of policies and strategies for self-sustaining breeds. Wageningen Academic publishers.58-76.
- ❑ Gandini et al. 2010. *Motives and values in farming local cattle breeds in Europe: a survey on fifteen breed cases. Agri.*