



Co-designing crop diversification strategies from plot to sociotechnical system to manage root-knot nematodes in Mediterranean market gardening systems

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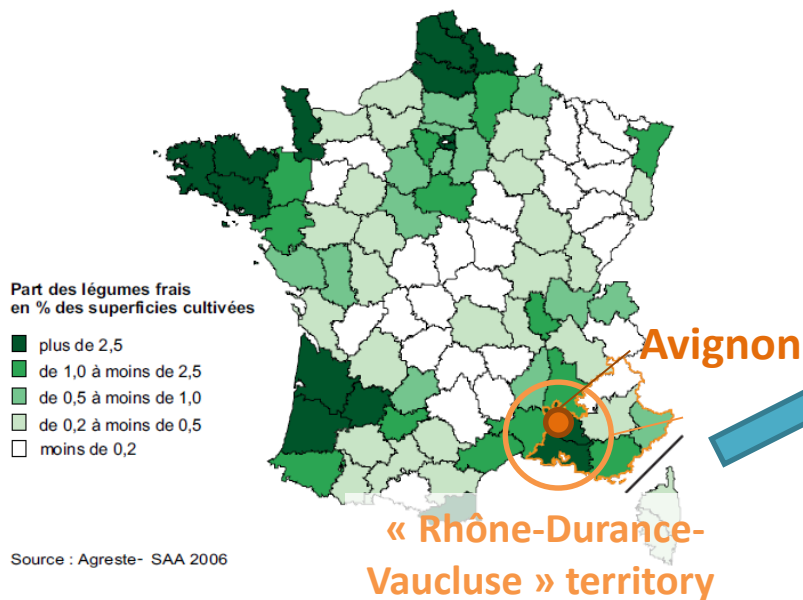
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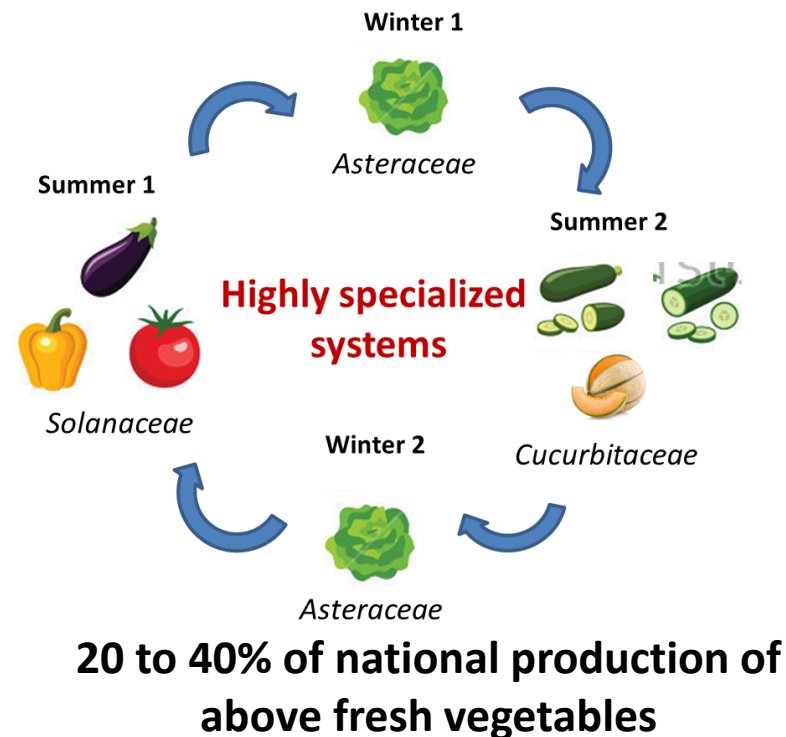
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« Rhône-Durance-Vaucluse » territory : a specialized vegetable production bassin

Share of fresh vegetable in departemental arable surface



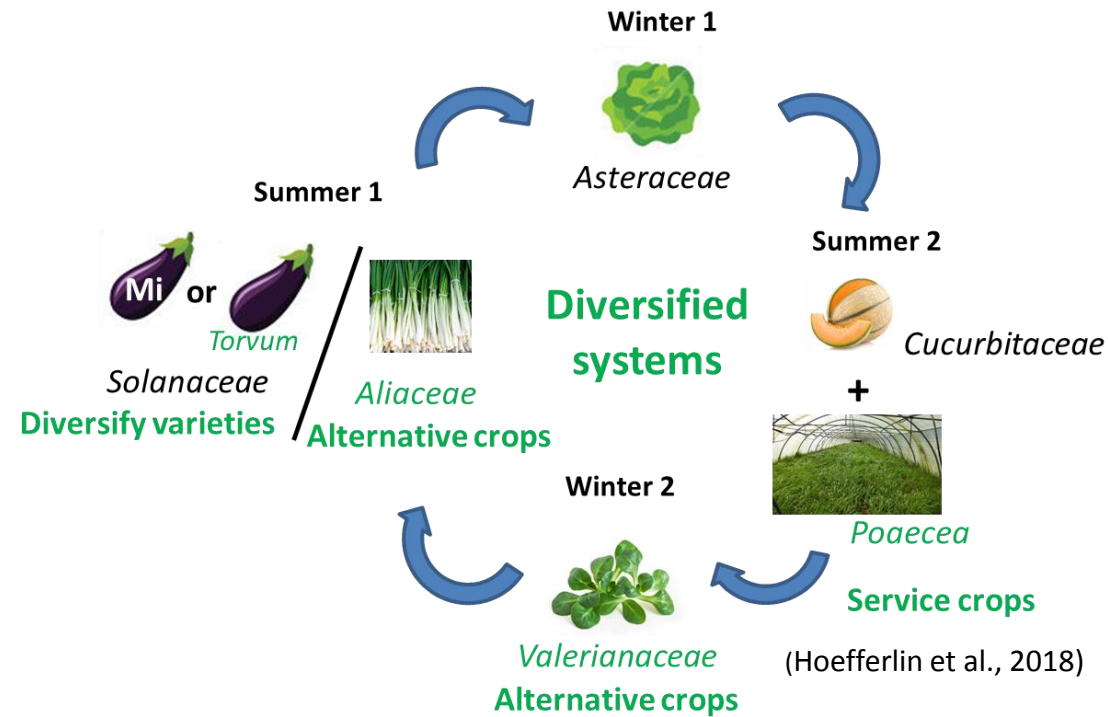
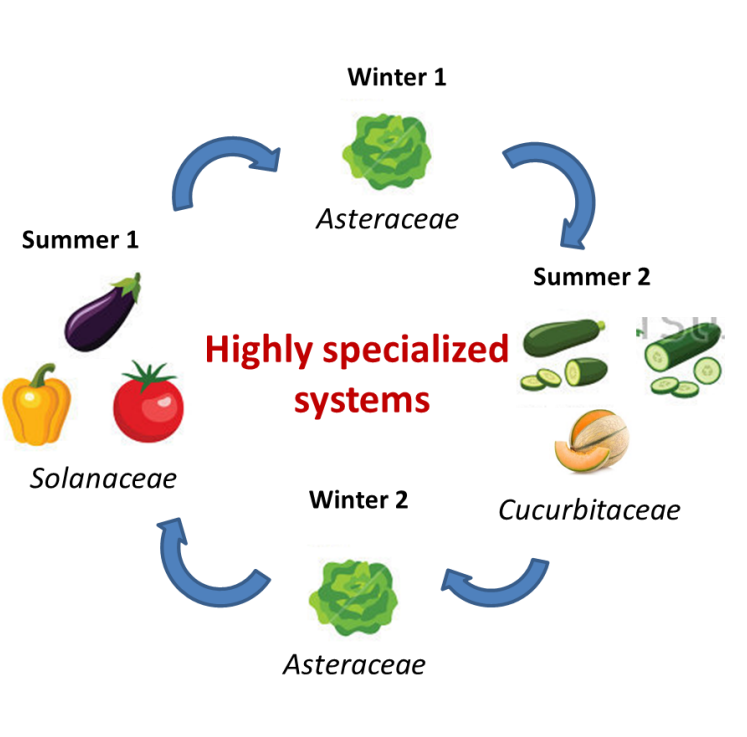
~1/3 of French sheltered vegetable production involved mostly in long value chains



Soil-borne pest and diseases

Ex: 40% farms with root-knot nematodes issues
(Djian-Caporalino, 2010)

« Rhône-Durance-Vaucluse » territory : a specialized vegetable production bassin



Soil-borne pest and diseases

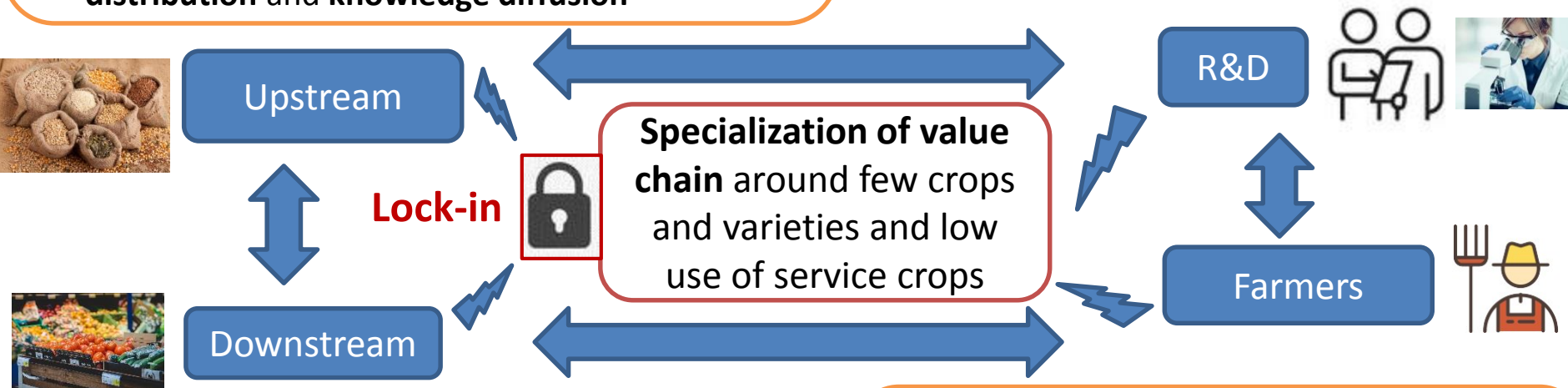
Sociotechnical lock-in around crop specialization in conventional sector

(Geels, 2004)

Context : highly competitive, low market prices, small farming sector (low investments)

- Historical **large investments in few vulnerable varieties of main crops** and chemical fumigation
- **Low investments in service crops and resistant commercial varieties**
- Little diversity in **development, production, distribution and knowledge diffusion**

- Historical **large investments in optimizing specialized cropping systems**
- **Low investments in diversified systems management**



- Require **big volumes of few varieties** with **standard quality** (scale economy)
- Fitting **low market prices**
- Fitting **consumers specialized demand**

- **No space and time** for crop diversification
- **Lack of knowledge** on diversified crops with **low willingness to pay** for it
- **Lack of equipments**
- Fear of **collective action**

Co-designing strategies from plot to sociotechnical system

Co-designing “coupled innovations” is needed

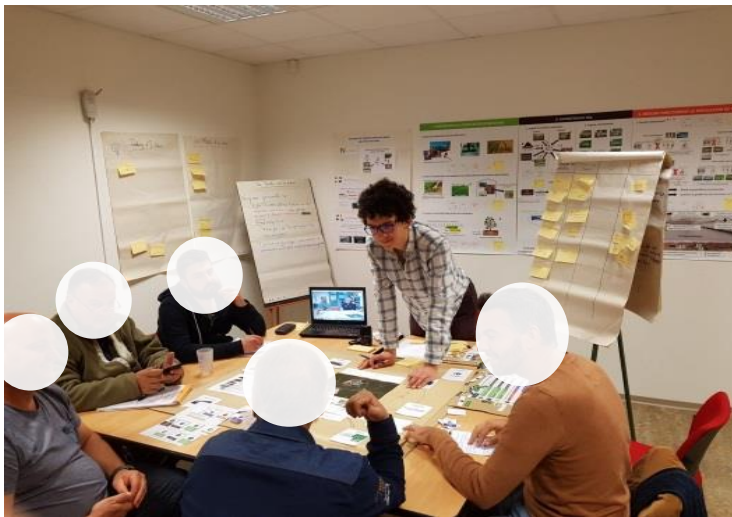
(Meynard et al., 2017 ; 2018)

1- Farmers workshops

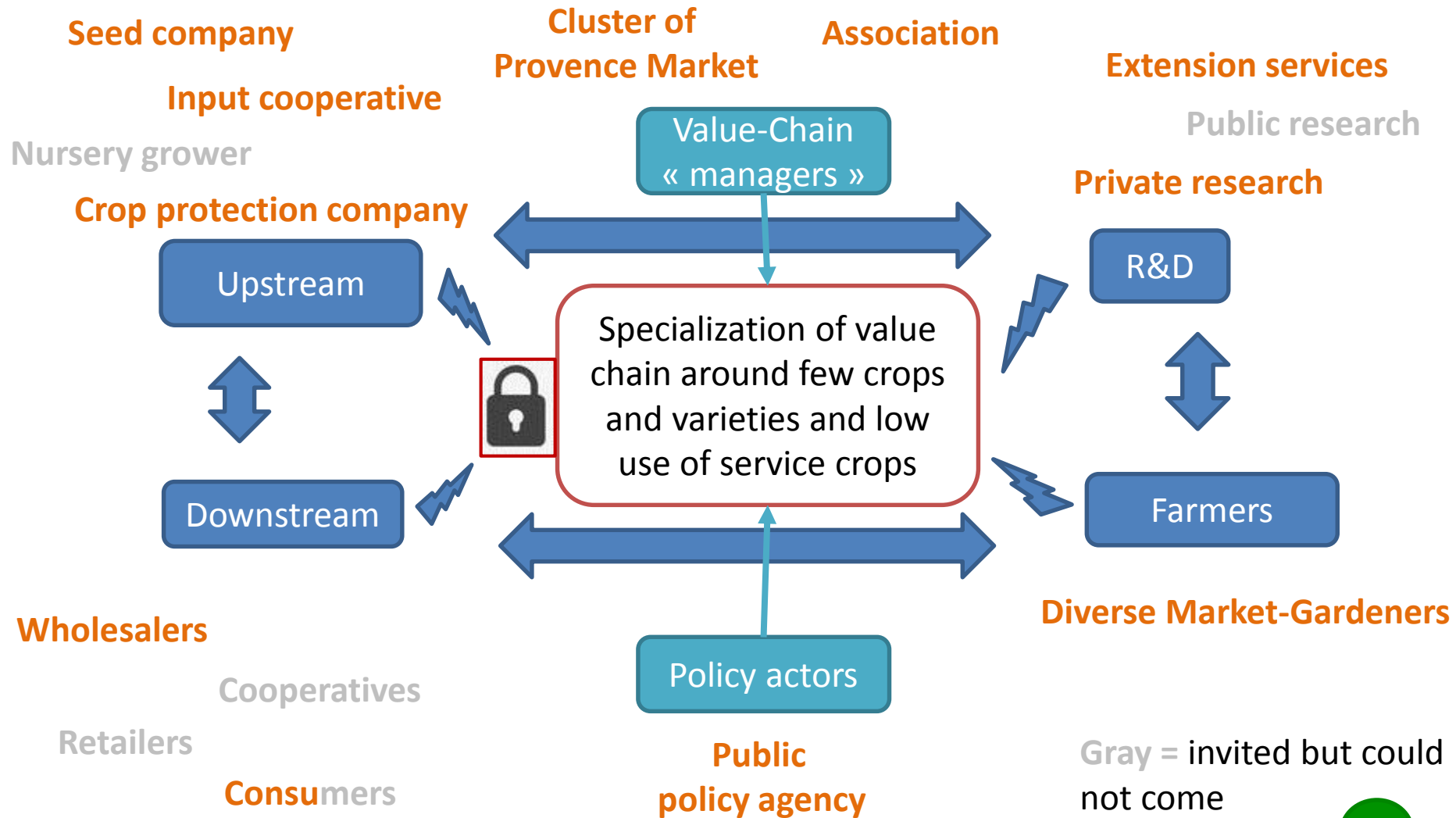
- 1st actors to involve
- Knowledge phase
- Farm-centered strategies

2- Sociotechnical system (STS) workshop

- Share lock-in analysis
- Make stakeholders work together
- Explore STS level strategies



Co-designing strategies – Which actor involved ?(Workshop 2)



Strategies concept designed with stakeholders

- Strategies based **farm-level leeways within dominant sociotechnical regime** (Wksp 1)



Using short value chain



Valuing unused space

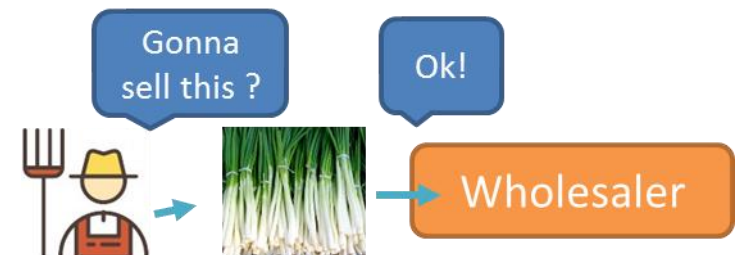
- Strategies at STS level (Wksp 2)
 - Between few actors **within dominant sociotechnical regime**



Exchanging plots



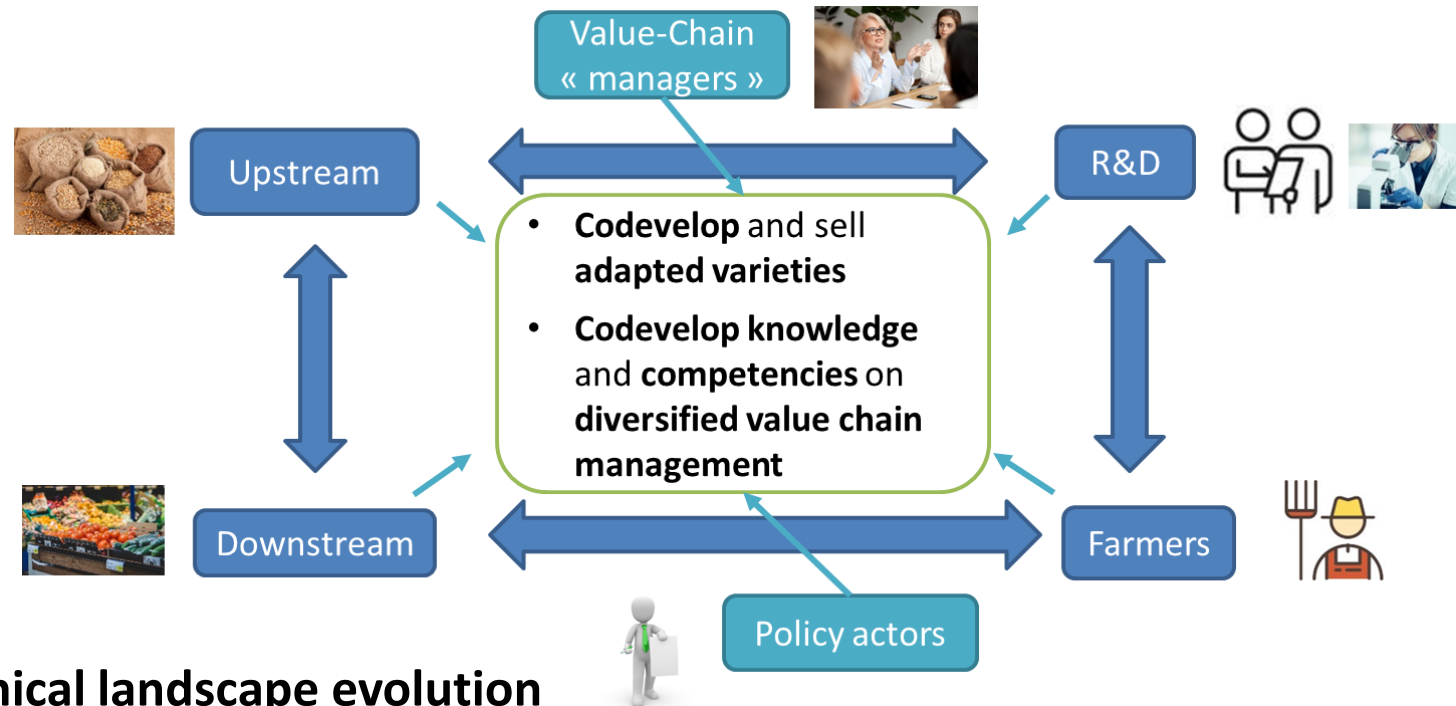
Pooling equipments



Opening new reference

Strategies concept designed with stakeholders

- Strategies at STS level (Wksp 2)
 - Between most actors for **dominant sociotechnical regime transition**



Discussion



Strategies are mostly cooperation-based → how to foster it ?



Organic systems are not as locked as conventional from downstream and R&D : inspiration source ?



From strategies' « Concepts » to « Projects » : precisising and evaluating



Crop diversification need to be combined with other levers to implement agroecological soil management

Thanks for your attention !



Questions ?

References

Articles

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Illustration

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- <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/excuses-for-bad-eating-habits-busted-as-myths/news-story/2e46cd735261980da08dee3e1cf34d36>