

Growing Innovation: Business Models for Sustainable Regional Development in Skåne, Sweden

Aim

The paper provides insights into the potential of Sustainable Business Model Innovation (SBMI) for organic primary producers which, in turn, contributes to sustainable regional development in Skåne. It also reveals the mismatch between policy strategies and practitioners, aiming to address the following research question:

How can business model innovations in organic agriculture contribute to sustainable regional development?

Conclusion

The paper concludes that sustainable regional development in Skåne can be enhanced through innovations in digitalization, material and energy efficiency, and closed-loop systems, while fostering collaboration and strengthening social structures. Policymakers should align regional and national strategies, address practitioners' needs, and foster dialogue, promoting environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Technological innovation for sustainable regional development

- Innovations related to digitalization, maximizing material and energy efficiency, waste reduction, and closed-loop systems, while **fostering collaboration and social structures**.
- Innovations replacing existing processes with renewable ones, improve animal welfare/health standards, offer more sustainable produce, and **reduce environmental impacts and production costs**.

Social innovation for sustainable regional development

- Biodiversity, soil health, and transparency in organic farming enhance **environmental stewardship** and **promote sustainable food production**.
- Premium products, eco-tourism, and e-commerce systems for organic food delivery **improve market access, economic viability, and regional growth**.
- Events reconnect consumers with regional food production **boosting public trust**.



Figure 1: Map of Skåne county (Source: Google Maps (2025))

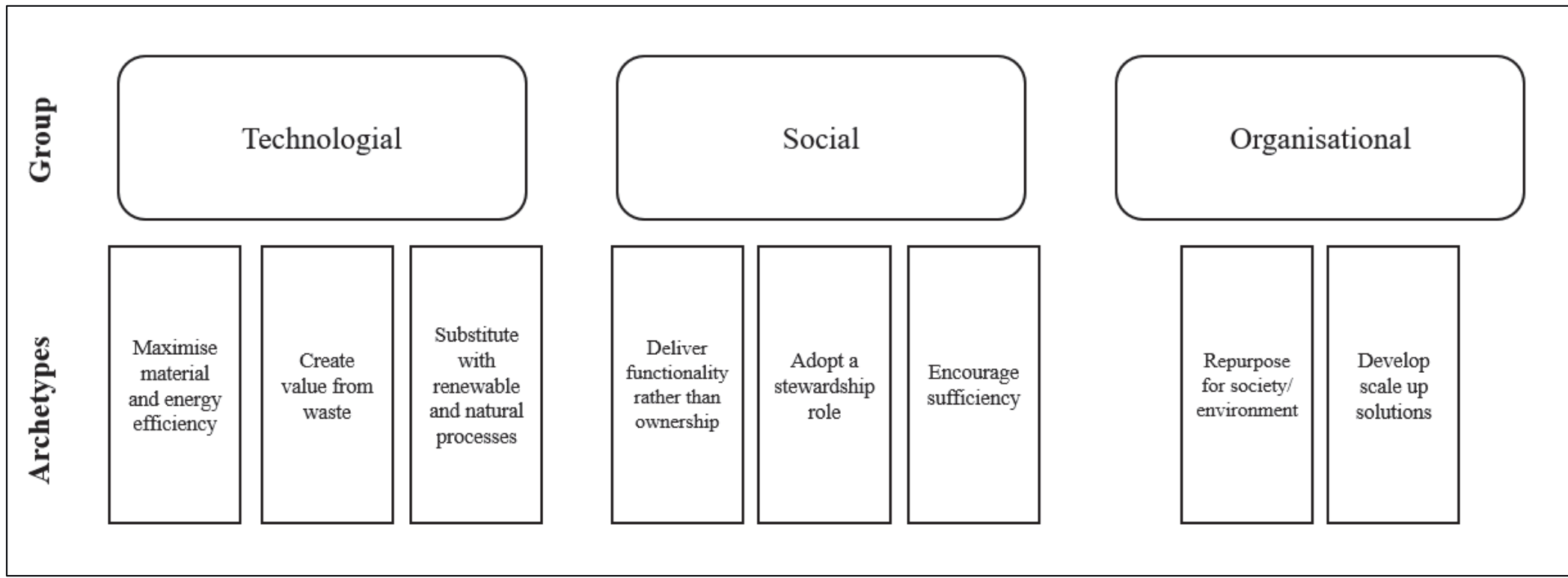


Figure 2: Adapted Bocken et al.'s (2014) framework

Organizational innovation for sustainable regional development

- Social integration projects, community-supported agriculture, and educational programs enhance the regional social economy **through job creation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial skills**.
- Regenerative agriculture, drought-resistant seeds, and biodiversity initiatives **create positive environmental impacts and enhance social and economic capital**.
- Alternative selling schemes, farm diversification, and direct marketing platforms **boost resilience, reduce market risks, and promote sustainable regional development**.

ID	Technological			Social			Organisational		
	Maximise material and energy efficiency	Create value from waste	Substitute with renewable and natural processes	Deliver functionality rather than ownership	Adopt a stewardship role	Encourage sufficiency	Repurpose for		Develop scale up solutions
							Society	Environment	
#1	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
#2		x	x		x	x	x	x	x
#3					x				x
#4	x		x			x			x
#5	x	x	x		x	x	x		x
#6	x	x	x		x				
#7		x			x		x	x	
#8	x								
#9	x							x	x
#10	x					x	x		x
#11	x	x				x		x	x
#12					x				
#13	x				x				x
#14					x			x	
#15		x	x		x	x		x	
#16					x		x	x	x
#17	x						x		
#18			x		x	x		x	x
#19							x		x

Table 1: Overview the interviewees' responses to each archetype