

Territorial Models for the Valorization of Terroir Products: A Systematic Review of Resilience, Governance Dynamics and Innovation Pathways.

Modèles territoriaux pour la valorisation des produits du terroir : une revue systématique de la résilience, des dynamiques de gouvernance et des voies d'innovation.

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Abstract :

In response to worldwide constraints, the environmentally and economically sustainable enhancement of geographically rooted products demands a holistic comprehension of territorial development frameworks, which this systematic review was performed following the PRISMA methodology on Scopus and Web of Science offers. The assessments of 25 articles demonstrate an expanding corpus of research from 2021 onward, integrating quantitative methods examining the effect of Geographical designations with conceptual frameworks focused on innovation processes and coordinated action. The outcomes confirm that the dynamic resilience of these territorial systems stems from participatory governance that guides developmental pathways in accordance with place-based attributes, emphasizing the requirement for more systemic future investigations on these mutually dependent processes.

Keywords : Origin-based products ; Geographical designation; Place-based resilience; Institutional coordination ; Innovation dynamics.

Résumé :

En réponse aux contraintes globales, la mise en valeur des produits ancrés territorialement exige une approche holistique des modèles de développement territorial, que propose cette revue systématique menée via le protocole PRISMA sur Scopus et Web of Science. L'étude de 25 articles met en évidence un volume accru de recherches depuis l'année 2021, intégrant des méthodes quantitatives mesurant l'influence des indications d'origine avec des référentiels théoriques focalisés sur le processus d'innovation et la coordination collective. Les constats confirment que la capacité d'adaptation résiliente de ces systèmes territoriaux résulte d'une gouvernance collaborative qui guide les trajectoires d'innovation selon les caractéristiques territoriales, mettant en lumière l'exigence de développer à terme des recherches plus systémiques sur ces processus interdépendants.

Mots-clés : Produit d'origine territoriale ; Signe distinctif d'origine ; Résilience régionale ; Coordination institutionnelle ; Processus innovant.

1. Introduction

Over the last twenty years, origin-based products and geographical designations have achieved a key position in academic discourse on territorial growth process, the sustainable performance of agri-food systems, and regional competitiveness.

At first regarded as policy tools for differentiation through quality grounded in geographical origin, these arrangements are increasingly perceived as organizing mechanisms of regional development, able to activate place-specific resources, collective skills, and governance arrangements embedded in institutions.

The academic research highlights that the value enhancement of place-based products goes far beyond the market domain.

Geographical designations and local food system foster the creation of place-based public goods, such as the conservation of rural landscape, the sustaining of countryside activities, the transfer of knowledge, and the consolidation of social solidarity.

Therefore, they are rooted in multifaceted place-based governance dynamics, engaging a diversity of state and market actors and depending on particular institutional frameworks.

Against this backdrop, an expanding corpus of research underscores the prospective contribution of origin-based products in improving regional resilience, defined as the ability of regions to buffer disturbances, adjust to economic, ecological, and social changes, and embark on sustainable development pathways.

Simultaneously, innovation processes, whether they are technological, organizational, institutional, or societal, are progressively acknowledged as central dimensions of these value creation processes, especially in their interaction with place-based governance frameworks.

In spite of the large volume and heterogeneity of studies on place-based products, the scholarly literature continues to be highly fragmented.

Certain studies concentrate mainly on the economic or environmental outcomes of geographical designations, in contrast, other studies prioritize the assessment of institutional structures, regulatory mechanisms, or symbolic and cognitive dimensions of place-based identity.

The literature examining innovation processes frequently adopts a sectoral or instrumental perspective, without consistently connecting it to the territorial arrangements within which it is situated.

This conceptual fragmentation is compounded by a methodological divide within the literature: quantitative studies primarily assess measurable territorial and economic outcomes of place-

based product valorization, whereas qualitative and conceptual contributions emphasize governance, collective action, and institutional coordination.

Taken together, these conceptual and methodological divides restrict a holistic understanding of how governance, innovation, and territorial resilience interact in the value enhancement of place-based products.

Specifically, the existing literature appears to provide limited systematic synthesis of how governance and innovation dynamics contribute to the construction of territorial resilience in the valorization of place-based products, particularly regarding the mechanisms through which these dimensions interact.

Despite this growing body of research, the literature remains divided regarding the mechanisms through which governance and innovation jointly contribute to territorial resilience. Some studies emphasize top-down institutional regulation as the primary driver of resilient outcomes, whereas others argue that resilience emerges mainly from bottom-up, collective, and innovation-driven dynamics.

This divergence, combined with the persistent conceptual and methodological fragmentation identified above, constitutes the scientific gap that justifies the present systematic review.

In this context, this systematic review seeks to synthesize and integrate the extant literature on the conceptual and governance frameworks underlying the value enhancement of place-based products, with particular attention to their contribution to territorial resilience.

More precisely, it aims to examine the evolution of research in this area, identify the dominant conceptual and methodological frameworks applied, and explore the empirical and theoretical contributions concerning the interactions between governance dynamics, innovation pathways, territorial resilience, and the valorization of place-based products.

In this regard, the present study seeks to synthesize current knowledge, identify prevailing research trends and remaining gaps, and provide a conceptual foundation for future research on the governance, innovation, and resilience dynamics underlying the valorization of place-based products.

2. Aim of the study

The present systematic review intends to consolidate extant research on the conceptual and governance frameworks underlying the value enhancement of terroir products, with special attention to their contribution to adaptive territorial resilience.

To accomplish this aim, this research is structured around the following research inquiries :

Q1: How has academic research on the value enhancement of place-based products evolved between 2015 and 2025, considering the conceptual frameworks mobilized and the methodological approaches employed?

Q2: What are the dominant conceptual frameworks and theories, as well as the principal governance and innovation mechanisms, identified in the literature for the value enhancement of place-based products?

Q3: What are the principal empirical findings and theoretical contributions regarding the interaction between governance processes, innovation trajectories, and territorial resilience in the context of place-based product valorization?

By addressing these research questions, this systematic review aims to synthesize existing knowledge, identify dominant research trends and remaining gaps, and provide a conceptual foundation for future research on sustainable and resilient territorial development through the valorization of place-based products.

3. Conceptual Framework

The literature synthesized in this systematic review suggests that governance, innovation, territorial resilience, and the valorization of place-based products should not be understood as independent concepts but rather as interrelated dimensions of an integrated territorial development process. Rather than operating separately, these dimensions constitute a sequential and mutually reinforcing framework that explains how territorial value is created and strengthened.

Territorial governance constitutes the starting point of this process by coordinating the actions of multiple stakeholders, including producers, cooperatives, public institutions, and local organizations, while establishing the institutional arrangements necessary for collective action and the management of shared territorial resources. Such governance arrangements foster trust, collective coordination, and knowledge exchange, thereby creating favourable conditions for innovation to emerge and develop.

Within these governance arrangements, innovation extends beyond technological change to encompass organizational, institutional, commercial, and social innovations that enhance the competitiveness, adaptability, and sustainability of place-based production systems. The literature indicates that these innovation dynamics are more likely to succeed when they are embedded in collaborative governance structures capable of mobilizing territorial resources, collective capabilities, and local knowledge.

Innovation, in turn, contributes to strengthening territorial resilience by improving the capacity of territories to adapt to economic, environmental, and social disturbances while maintaining their productive, institutional, and socio-economic functions.

Through learning processes, diversification strategies, and collective adaptation, resilient territories are better equipped to sustain long-term territorial development trajectories.

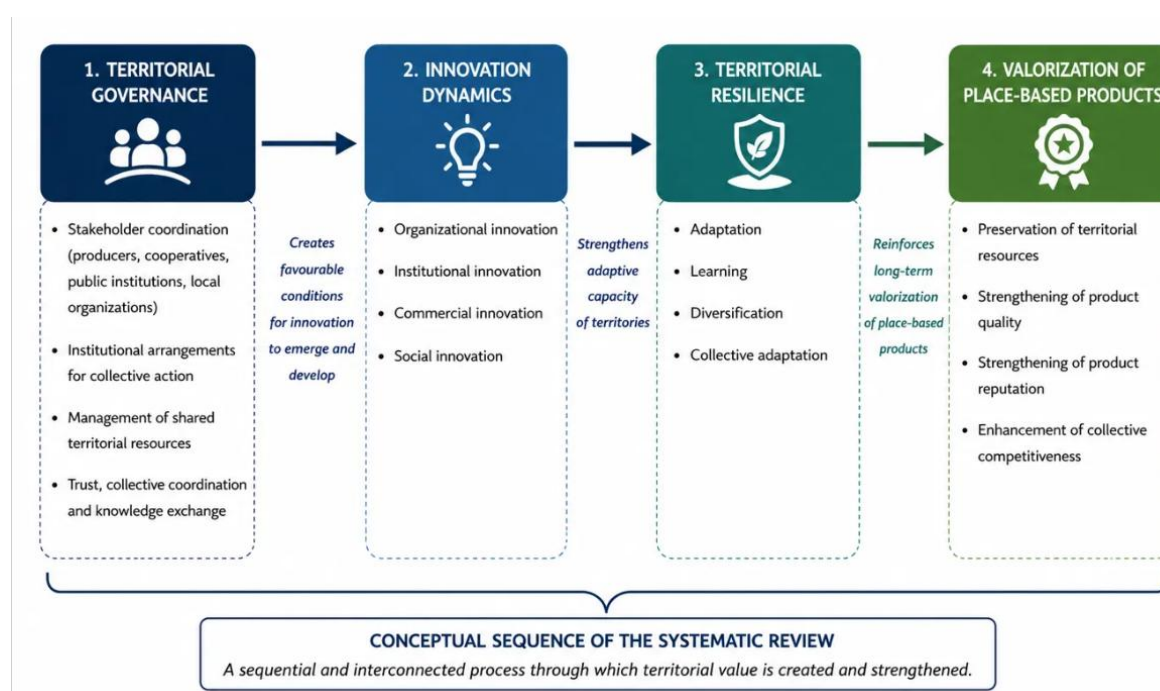
Ultimately, territorial resilience reinforces the long-term valorization of place-based products by preserving territorial resources, strengthening product quality and reputation, and enhancing collective competitiveness.

The synthesis of the reviewed studies therefore indicates that governance contributes to the valorization of place-based products primarily through the intermediary roles of innovation and territorial resilience rather than through a direct effect.

Accordingly, the present systematic review is structured around the following conceptual sequence: Territorial Governance leading to Innovation Dynamics, leading to Territorial Resilience, leading to Valorization of Place-Based Products.

This conceptual framework serves as the integrative analytical lens guiding the synthesis of the reviewed literature. Rather than examining governance, innovation, resilience, and the valorization of place-based products independently, the review analyses how these dimensions interact to shape integrated territorial development models.

Figure N°1: Conceptual framework of the systematic review.



Source: Personal elaboration

4. Methodology

In accordance with established guidelines for systematic reviews (Kitchenham, 2004), the present study was carried out using a structured and replicable approach, describing the main phases of review design stage, conduct, and reporting phase.

This section describes the initial two phases by outlining the data retrieval and screening process.

4.1. Information sources and search strategy

To align the research protocol with the objectives of the study, a structured search strategy was developed to identify the relevant scientific literature. Two interdisciplinary databases, Scopus and Web of Science (WoS), were selected for this review because of their broad and complementary coverage of research in agricultural economics, rural development, and environmental governance, as well as their widespread use in systematic literature reviews. Although publisher-specific databases such as ScienceDirect, Springer, Emerald, and Wiley were not included in the search strategy, Scopus and WoS index a substantial proportion of the journals available through these platforms.

Nevertheless, the exclusion of these databases constitutes a limitation of the review, as a limited number of relevant studies indexed exclusively in these sources may not have been retrieved.

The search strategy was based on the principal concepts underlying the objectives of the review, namely place-based products (or geographical indications), territorial governance and territorial development, with innovation incorporated into the Web of Science search strategy to broaden the identification of studies addressing innovation processes.

These concepts were translated into database-specific search strings using appropriate keywords and Boolean operators.

Although territorial resilience constitutes one of the central analytical dimensions of this review, it was not included as an explicit search term.

Rather, resilience emerged as a recurrent analytical theme during the qualitative synthesis of studies examining governance, innovation, and the valorization of place-based products.

Searches were conducted within the Title, Abstract, and Keywords fields in Scopus and within the Topic field (including Title, Abstract, Author Keywords, and Keywords Plus) in Web of Science.

The search was limited to peer-reviewed journal articles and review papers published in English or French between 2015 and 2025 in order to capture the most recent and relevant literature.

The search strings were deliberately restricted to well-established and frequently used terminology in the geographical indications literature in order to ensure precision, consistency, and replicability.

Consequently, related concepts such as adaptive governance, terroir systems, and endogenous development were not included as explicit search terms. This constitutes a limitation of the search strategy, as relevant studies employing this terminology without explicitly referring to geographical indications, place-based products, territorial governance, or innovation may not have been retrieved.

Table N°1: presents final search queries preliminary results.

Search query	Database	Number s of items
(TITLE-ABS-KEY ("geographical indication" OR "GI" OR "PDO" OR "PGI" OR "place-based product" OR "local food system" OR "terroir")) AND (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("territorial development" OR "rural development" OR "local development" OR "territorial governance"))	Scopus	65
TS= ("geographical indication*" OR "GI product" OR "terroir product" OR "traditional food product") AND TS= ("territorial governance" OR "local governance" OR "collective governance" OR "territorial model" OR "local development model") AND TS= ("innovation" OR "innovative practice" OR "rural innovation system")	Web of Science	124

Source: Personal elaboration

4.2 Data collection process

The data gathering and screening procedure adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, as illustrated in the flow diagram presented in Figure 2. A total of 189 records (65 from Scopus and 124 from Web of Science) were initially identified and imported into the reference management software Zotero, where duplicate records were detected and removed.

After eliminating 60 duplicate records, 129 unique articles remained for title and abstract screening based on the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria.

This stage resulted in the exclusion of 57 articles, leaving 72 articles for full-text assessment.

The full-text assessment led to the exclusion of 22 articles, resulting in 50 studies for detailed eligibility evaluation.

Following a comprehensive eligibility assessment, 25 studies were ultimately retained for the qualitative synthesis because they addressed the interaction between place-based products, governance structures, innovation processes, and territorial resilience within a territorial development perspective.

Although the final sample comprises 25 studies, this number reflects the application of predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria rather than a limited body of literature. Only peer-reviewed journal articles and review papers published between 2015 and 2025, written in English or French, and directly related to the valorization of place-based products within a territorial context were retained.

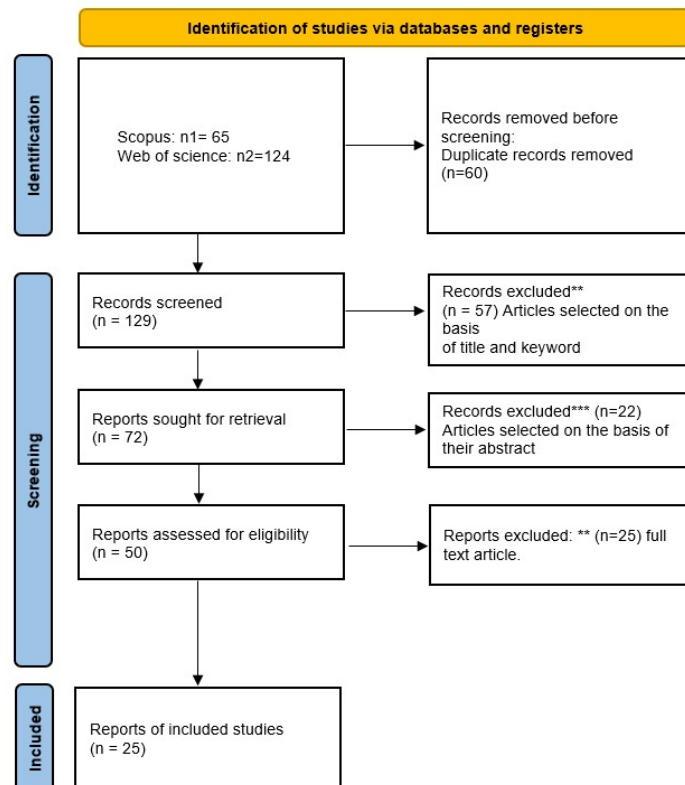
Consequently, the final sample represents the studies that best matched the objectives of the present review.

The qualitative synthesis was then conducted following a narrative thematic approach. Each of the 25 retained studies was carefully examined in relation to the three principal analytical dimensions guiding this review, namely governance mechanisms, innovation dynamics, and territorial resilience.

Through an iterative comparison of the selected studies, recurring patterns, convergences, and divergences were identified and served to organize the findings into these thematic dimensions. This thematic organization provided the basis for the synthesis and discussion of the reviewed literature

4.3 Review selection (DIAGRAM)

Figure N°2: PRISMA flow diagram



Source: Personal elaboration

The selection was performed by applying the following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

Table N°2: Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Criteria for inclusion	Criteria for exclusion
Articles on regional/local products (terroir products) and their role in territorial/regional valorization	Duplicate items
Full text accessible	Articles published before 2015
Sector: Higher Education, Environmental Science, or Economics, Econometrics	Articles published in languages other than English/French Documents other than articles in journals and reviews

Source : Personal elaboration

5. Results

This section focuses on presenting the main findings of the remaining 25 articles.

To this end, this section will be divided into three parts. The first will be devoted to the progression of the articles over time.

Next, we provide an overview of the theories mobilized in the various studies and, finally, the research methodologies used.

To present these various results, we used the output of Excel software.

5.1 Publication history

The graph illustrates the evolution of the number of articles published between 2015 and 2025. From 2015 to 2017, the number of publications remains low and stable, with approximately one article per year. A first increase is observed in 2018, when the number of publications rises to three. This is followed by a sharp decline in 2019 and 2020, during which no publications are recorded.

Since 2021, there is a significant increase in publication output.

The volume of articles reaches a peak in 2021 and once more in 2024, with five articles per year.

Notwithstanding certain variations, such as a modest decline in 2022 and 2023, the general trend from 2021 to 2025 reflects a continuous rise in academic output relative to the preceding period.

The acceleration of publications after 2021 coincides with growing international attention to sustainable food systems and territorial resilience, particularly following the disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

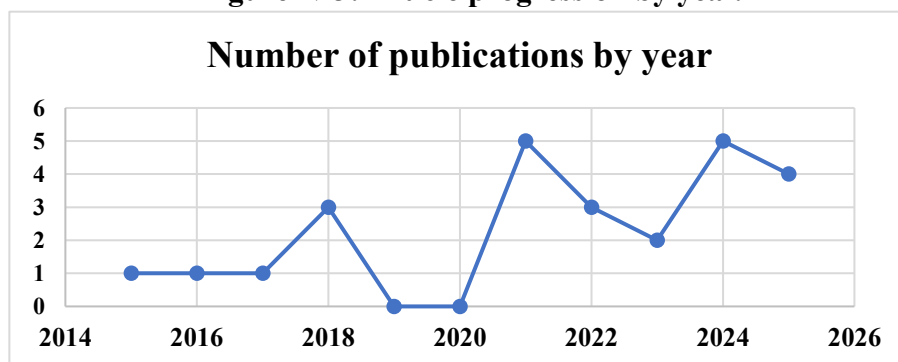
This temporal convergence suggests a possible alignment between broader shifts in agri-food policy priorities and the expanding scholarly interest in the territorial dimensions of place-based products, although the available evidence does not establish a direct causal relationship.

Table N°3: Number of publications by year.

Year	Number of publications by year
2015	1
2016	1
2017	1
2018	3
2021	5
2022	3
2023	2
2024	5
2025	4
Total	25

Source: Personal elaboration

Figure N°3: Article progression by year.



Source: Personal elaboration

5.2 Theory employed

The examination of the selected studies also allowed to detect the principal conceptual frameworks employed to assess place-based models for the value enhancement of origin-based products.

Figure 4 presents the variety of theoretical and analytical approaches employed in the literature. The Schumpeterian innovation theory appears as the most widely employed conceptual framework, with the highest frequency of use.

Drawing on the foundational work of Joseph Schumpeter (1934), this perspective conceptualizes innovation as a fundamental driver of economic development. Within the literature on geographical indications and terroir products, it is frequently mobilized to explain how origin-based differentiation contributes to innovation dynamics, territorial competitiveness, and value creation at the regional scale.

The theory of collective action also holds a central role in the reviewed studies.

This conceptual framework underscores the crucial role of organized coordination, collaboration and collaborative governance among territorial actors in the successful deployment and durability of geographical indication frameworks. It is particularly pertinent for understanding how producer organizations, institutional actors and territorial stakeholders collectively coordinate and administer shared resources and place-based reputational assets.

Additional conceptual frameworks seem relatively more peripheral yet nevertheless supplementary.

These comprise information imbalance and signaling theory of quality, widely used to clarify how geographical indication schemes decrease informational asymmetries between producer and buyers, in addition to the theory of public goods, which portrays origin-based products and GIs as providers of ecological, cultural and social collective goods.

Further mentions to the institutional approach, rural economy studies and sustainable food system perspective demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of the domain.

In general, the conceptual landscape shows a clear focus on innovation processes and collaborative governance, even though other conceptual approach remains less investigated, indicating possibilities for greater theoretical integration in future studies.

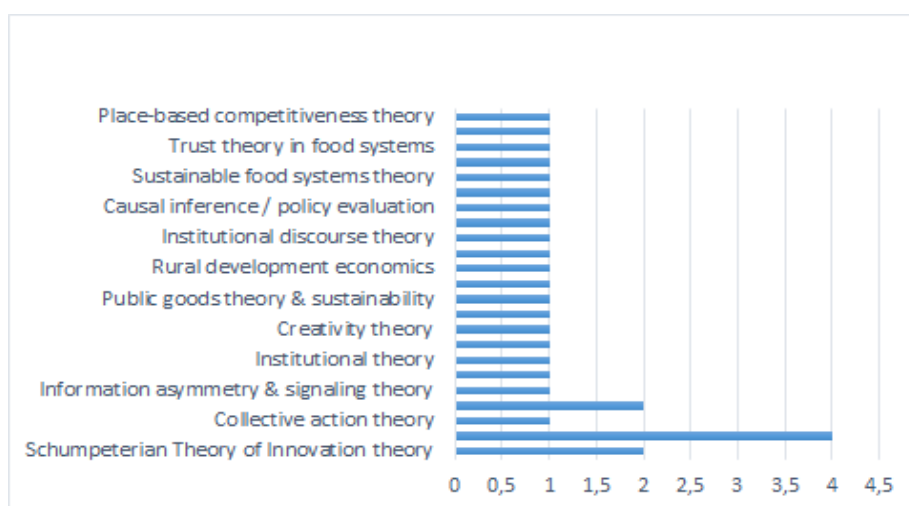
Although these theoretical perspectives are frequently mobilized within the same body of literature, they are rarely combined within a single study.

The Schumpeterian and collective action perspectives, in particular, tend to be used separately rather than jointly: studies grounded in Schumpeterian theory generally emphasize innovation

as an individual or firm-level process, whereas collective action theory foregrounds coordination among territorial actors as the primary driver of outcomes.

This divide suggests a partial convergence rather than a genuine theoretical dialogue, and it reinforces the conceptual fragmentation identified earlier in this review.

Figure N°4: Mobilized theory.



Source: Personal elaboration

6. Research methodology

The research approach employed in the reviewed studies can be categorized into four principal approaches, as shown in Figure 5: review studies, quantitative methods, qualitative analyses, and mixed methods approach.

Quantitative methods predominate in the academic literature, amounting to 52% of the selected studies, demonstrating the considerable focus on empirical evaluation of the outcomes of geographical indications schemes and origin-based products on local development and sustainable development.

Review papers represent 24% of the selected studies, underlining the critical importance of integrating and organizing current knowledge in an interdisciplinary and expanding research domain.

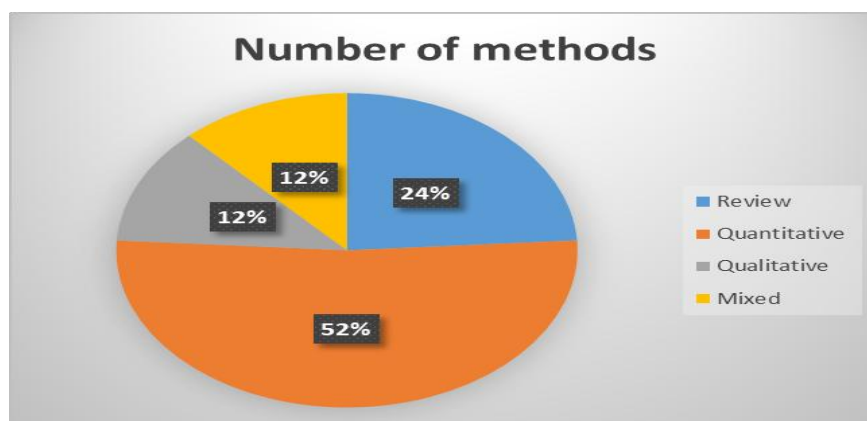
Qualitative approaches make up 12% of the selected studies and are largely based on case-based studies and institutional examinations, offering deeper understanding into governance interactions and local particularities.

Ultimately, mixed methods approach, which likewise represent 12%, integrate empirical analysis with theoretical examination, enabling a more holistic understanding of innovation trajectories and regional resilience.

Table N°4 : Number of methods.

Method	Number of Methods
Review	6
Quantitative	13
Qualitative	3
Mixed	3
Total	25

Source: Personal elaboration

Figure N°5: Methodology percentages.


Source: Personal elaboration

7. Discussion of results

The present section presents and discusses the principal findings emerging from the qualitative synthesis of the 25 retained studies.

Drawing on the narrative thematic approach adopted in this review, the analysis aims to identify prevailing research trends, methodological approaches, and theoretical insights (Stemler, 2001). Consistent with the conceptual framework outlined above, the analysis is organized to examine how governance, innovation, and territorial resilience jointly shape the valorization of place-based products across the reviewed literature.

Accordingly, the findings are presented in line with the research questions, focusing on the evolution of the literature, the methodological approaches employed, the principal conceptual and governance frameworks identified in the reviewed studies, and the main empirical and

theoretical contributions concerning the interactions between governance, innovation, and territorial resilience in the valorization of place-based products.

Table 5 presents the principal features of the selected papers included in this systematic review.

Table N°5: Extracts from selected studies.

Author(s) (Year)	Title	Methodology	Main contribution
Sgroi (2021)	<i>Territorial development models: A new strategic vision to analyze the relationship between the environment, public goods and geographical indications</i>	Mixed	Proposes an analytical model linking GIs, environmental public goods, and territorial development, combining a theoretical framework with a telephone survey of production system actors.
Regolo, Gendre & Poméon (2025)	<i>Does the geographical indications protection policy encourage more sustainable agriculture in the territories?</i>	Quantitative	Provides empirical evidence of the impact of GI policies on territorial agricultural sustainability based on econometric analyses.
Cei et al. (2018)	<i>Geographical indications: A first assessment of the impact on rural development in Italian NUTS3 regions</i>	Quantitative	Assesses the effect of GIs on rural development using regional (NUTS3) data and spatial statistical models.
Takayama et al. (2021)	<i>Do geographical indications preserve farming in rural areas? Evidence from a natural experiment in Japan</i>	Quantitative	Uses a quasi-experimental approach to demonstrate the causal effect of GIs on the preservation of farming activity in rural areas.
Girard (2022)	<i>Can Geographical Indications promote sustainable shellfish farming?</i>	Qualitative	In-depth case study analysis showing how a GI can support environmental and institutional sustainability in aquaculture.
Guareschi, Mancini & Arfini (2023)	<i>Geographical Indications, public goods and sustainable development goals: A methodological proposal</i>	Qualitative	Develops a methodological framework linking GIs, public goods, and the SDGs, based on a

			conceptual and institutional analysis.
Brunori et al. (2016)	<i>Are local food chains more sustainable than global food chains?</i>	Review	Critical review of sustainability assessment approaches for local food chains, frequently mobilized in studies on terroir products and GIs.

Source: Personal elaboration

The analysis shows a marked predominance of quantitative methodologies, especially in studies seeking to evaluate the territorial, economic, and environmental effects of geographical indications (GIs). Articles by Cei et al. (2018), Takayama et al. (2021), and Regolo et al. (2025) draw on econometric, spatial, and quasi-experimental approaches to provide empirical evidence on the effects of GIs on rural development, agricultural sustainability, and the preservation of farming practices.

This methodological orientation indicates a growing need in the academic literature to move beyond normative statements and produce quantifiable and policy-relevant evaluations of geographical indication schemes at regional and territorial levels.

In parallel with these quantitative studies, qualitative and theoretical contributions play an essential role in structuring the institutional and governance dimensions of the valorization of terroir products. Girard (2022) relies on an in-depth case study to illustrate how GIs can contribute to long-term resource management and collaborative governance in the shellfish farming sector, highlighting the critical role of local institutional structures and stakeholder coordination. Similarly, Guareschi et al. (2023) propose a methodological framework linking geographical indication systems to the provision of public goods and global sustainability, highlighting the multifunctional dimensions of GIs beyond market differentiation alone.

These contributions provide deeper insight into governance processes and collective coordination mechanisms supporting territorial resilience.

A mixed-method approach is illustrated by Sgroi (2021), who combines a theoretical analysis grounded in public goods theory with a telephone survey of actors involved in production systems. This research design facilitates a more comprehensive analysis of the relationship between environmental public goods, GIs, and territorial development.

Mixed-method approaches are particularly relevant for capturing both measurable outcomes and the contextual and stakeholder-based dimensions of terroir product valorization. Furthermore, Brunori et al. (2016) provide a broader analytical perspective on the sustainability of local and global food supply chains, offering conceptual tools that are also relevant to studies of geographical indications.

Comparing these contributions reveals both convergences and divergences across the reviewed literature. Quantitative studies such as Cei et al. (2018), Takayama et al. (2021), and Regolo et al. (2025) converge in identifying measurable positive effects associated with geographical indications on rural development outcomes, yet they differ in the mechanisms considered decisive, ranging from direct economic effects to the institutional preservation of farming activities.

Qualitative contributions such as Girard (2022) and Guareschi et al. (2023), by contrast, offer a more nuanced perspective by showing that such outcomes are not automatic but depend substantially on the quality of local governance arrangements, a contingency that quantitative approaches may be less equipped to capture. This contrast raises the possibility that the predominantly positive findings reported in quantitative research may partly reflect the characteristics of the territories and cases examined, which may differ in terms of institutional and governance conditions, rather than indicating a universally generalizable effect of geographical indications.

This methodological contrast also echoes the theoretical divide identified earlier in this review between Schumpeterian and collective action perspectives. Studies grounded in econometric and quasi-experimental designs tend to isolate measurable effects consistent with an innovation-driven and competitiveness-oriented interpretation of geographical indications, whereas qualitative contributions foreground the collective and institutional dimensions of governance.

However, these approaches should not necessarily be regarded as competing explanations.

Rather, they illuminate different levels of the same territorial process: quantitative designs are better suited to identifying whether geographical indications are associated with measurable territorial outcomes, whereas qualitative approaches provide greater insight into how these outcomes are produced through institutional coordination, collective action, and local knowledge.

This distinction suggests that methodological fragmentation in the literature is not merely a technical issue but also reflects different conceptions of what constitutes evidence of territorial value creation and resilience.

The predominance of quantitative impact evaluations may therefore make the outcomes of geographical indications more visible than the governance and innovation processes through which those outcomes are generated.

The review consequently points to the need for more integrative research designs capable of connecting measurable territorial effects with the institutional, collective, and innovation processes that underpin them.

Taken together, the findings reveal that the scholarly literature on the valorization of terroir products is marked by methodological diversity, with a clear predominance of quantitative impact evaluations complemented by qualitative and mixed-method approaches examining governance processes, public goods, and institutional frameworks.

Although considerable progress has been achieved in assessing the impacts of geographical indications on rural development and sustainability, the review highlights the need for further integrative research combining rigorous empirical analysis with a deeper understanding of innovation trajectories and the processes through which territorial resilience is constructed and sustained.

The synthesis also suggests that several broader theoretical perspectives from territorial development research could provide useful complementary lenses for interpreting the relationships identified in the reviewed literature.

The preservation of territorial resources and the strengthening of product reputation, frequently reported as outcomes of governance and innovation processes, resonate with the Resource-Based View (Barney, 1991), which explains sustained competitive advantage through the possession of valuable, rare, and difficult-to-imitate resources, and with the concept of Territorial Capital (Camagni, 2009), which extends this logic to place-specific assets embedded in a given territory.

Similarly, the institutional dimensions of governance highlighted by Girard (2022), Guareschi et al. (2023), and Sgroi (2021), including coordination rules, collective structures, and public goods provision, echo core insights from Institutional Theory (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983) and Social Capital Theory (Coleman, 1988), both of which emphasize the role of shared norms, trust, and relational networks in sustaining collective action.

More broadly, the sequential relationship between governance, innovation, and resilience identified in this review is consistent with the perspective of Neo-endogenous Development (Ray, 2006), which frames territorial development as the outcome of interactions between local resources and external institutional and policy influences, rather than as a purely internal or purely externally driven process.

Finally, the limited attention given in the reviewed literature to how territorial actors jointly generate innovation, rather than adopting it individually, points to the relevance of the Innovation Ecosystems perspective (Adner, 2017) as a promising direction for future research on the valorization of terroir products.

8. Final considerations

The primary objective of the present study was to undertake a qualitative systematic review of the literature in order to provide a comprehensive overview of scholarly research on the valorization of place-based products, with a particular focus on governance processes, innovation trajectories, and their role in territorial resilience.

Grounded in pre-established inclusion and exclusion criteria, the review examined peer-reviewed publications published during the period 2015–2025 and indexed in leading academic databases. From the initial dataset retrieved using the PRISMA protocol, a selected subset of relevant studies was retained to address the guiding research questions and analyzed through a comprehensive qualitative synthesis.

The findings reveal that the value enhancement of place-based products has gradually evolved from a mechanism of quality differentiation into a broader territorial development strategy. The analyzed literature emphasizes that governance and innovation dynamics linked to geographical indication schemes and localized agri-food systems play a central role in territorial development by leveraging collective resources, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, and producing both economic and non-market benefits.

In this regard, governance emerges as a key component within these territorial development dynamics, influencing the ability of regions to coordinate collective action, manage common resources, and reconcile economic outcomes with environmental and socio-cultural objectives. Moreover, the analysis indicates that innovation represents a central driver in the valorization of place-based products. The majority of studies highlight that innovation extends beyond technological development and encompasses organizational, institutional, and social

dimensions. These innovation trajectories facilitate the renewal of production practices, the enhancement of product reputation, and the reinforcement of territorial identities.

Nevertheless, the success of innovation processes largely relies on their alignment with local governance frameworks. When innovation is place-based and managed collaboratively, it can strengthen adaptive capacities and foster long-term resilience.

From a resilience standpoint, the analyzed studies indicate that place-based territorial frameworks can strengthen the capacity of rural and peri-urban areas to manage economic, environmental, and institutional uncertainties. Through income diversification, the reinforcement of local networks, and the preservation of territorial specificities, these dynamics foster more resilient and adaptable development pathways. However, the literature also highlights that resilience outcomes are not guaranteed and remain strongly context-dependent, particularly with regard to governance frameworks and power dynamics among stakeholders.

Notwithstanding these contributions, this study presents certain limitations. To begin with, the analysis is limited to articles published in selected databases, which may omit relevant studies available in alternative sources or formats. Secondly, the qualitative orientation of the review, although it allows for thorough analysis, constrains the capacity to generalize findings across diverse territorial contexts. Moreover, multiple studies examine governance, innovation, and resilience independently, emphasizing the necessity for more integrated analytical frameworks explicitly connecting these dimensions.

In summary, this systematic review adds to the academic literature by providing a structured synthesis of studies on the valorization of place-based products and by elucidating the relationships between governance processes, innovation trajectories, and territorial resilience. It emphasizes the significance of adopting an integrated and territorial perspective when examining terroir product valorization processes. Future studies may benefit from comparative and longitudinal qualitative research, together with enhanced theoretical integration of governance, innovation, and resilience frameworks within regional development and agri-food governance research.

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