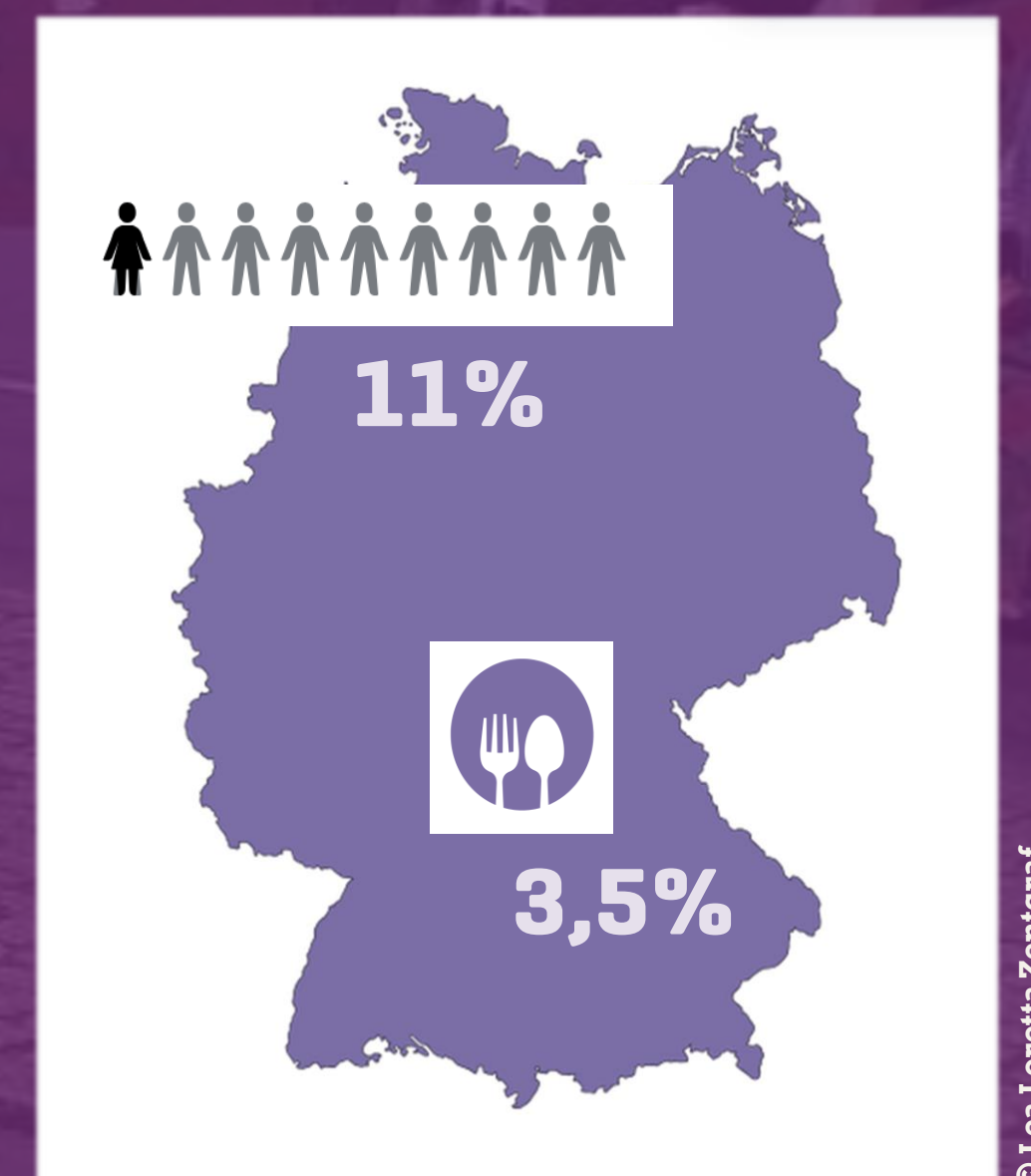


BMBF JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP FOOD FOR JUSTICE

Gender. Power. Food.

Socio-ecological transformation and unheard voices of rural women in food movements in Germany

By analyzing **gender inequalities** in the food system, structural and multidimensional injustices become visible. In the neocolonial, patriarchal and capitalist global food system gender influences what you grow, buy and eat. In terms of concrete actions such as cooking, shopping and harvesting, women worldwide do four times as much food-related work as men [Miranda, 2011]. In Germany, only 11% of farm managers are women [Pieper et al., 2023]. Women are more often affected by poverty than men [Destatis, 2024]. Material food poverty affects approximately 3.5 percent of the German population, meaning three million people in total [Birner et al., 2023]. However, in recent years, Germany has witnessed a **growing movement** of actors coming together to address these critical issues and mobilizing for a just socio-ecological transformation [Motta, 2021, 2022].



Analytical concept „Food Movements“

“This denomination does not exhaust its agendas and histories, aiming instead to combine a variety of actors engaged in transforming food systems. Social innovations and mobilizations around food form a privileged instance to observe social change because they are actively engaged in transforming food politics and the food system [Motta, 2021: 7].



Research questions

- I. Which gender inequalities in different dimensions such as structural forces, intersectionality and multiscalarity are addressed by food movements in Germany?
- II. Which knowledges and social technologies are being created as alternative food practices and politics?

Methods

- Mapping
- Semi-structured interviews
- Participant observation
- Focus group discussion
- Document analysis
- Social media content analysis

First results

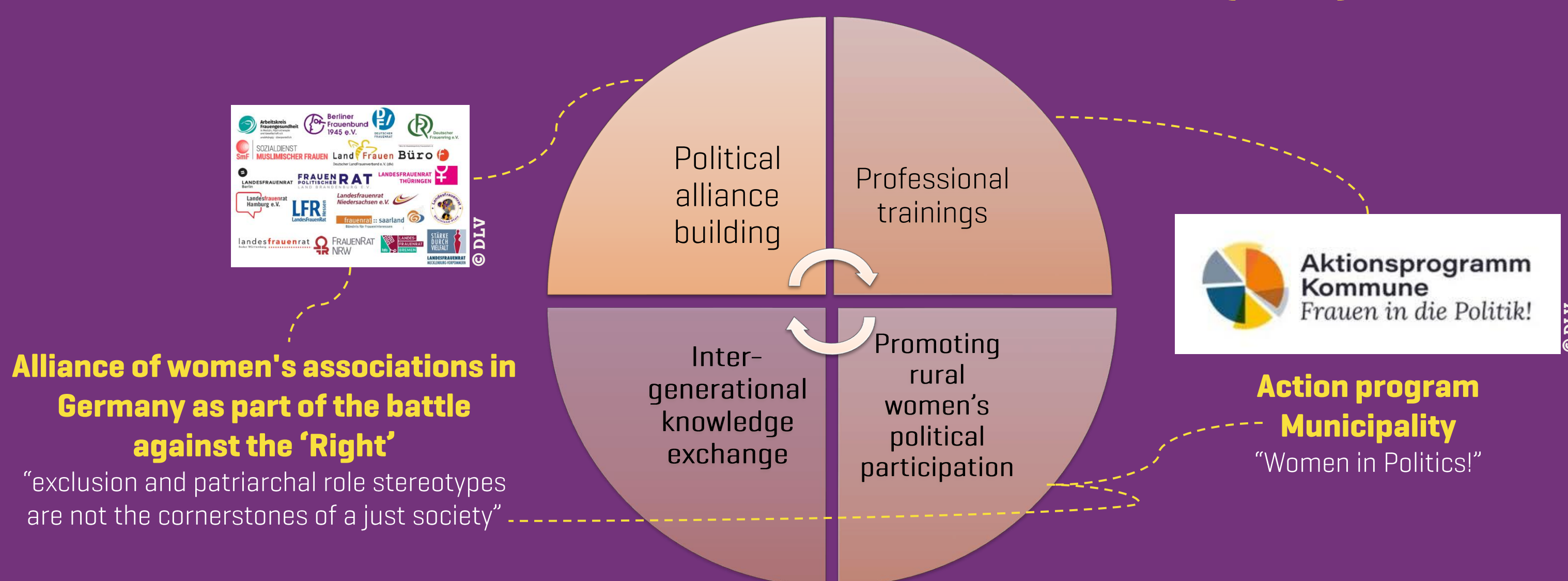
Social mobilization in Germany focuses more on class and interspecies justice, as well as political and environmental inequalities - **gender still plays only a subordinate role** [Zentgraf & Motta, 2024].

Nevertheless, some food movements denounce:

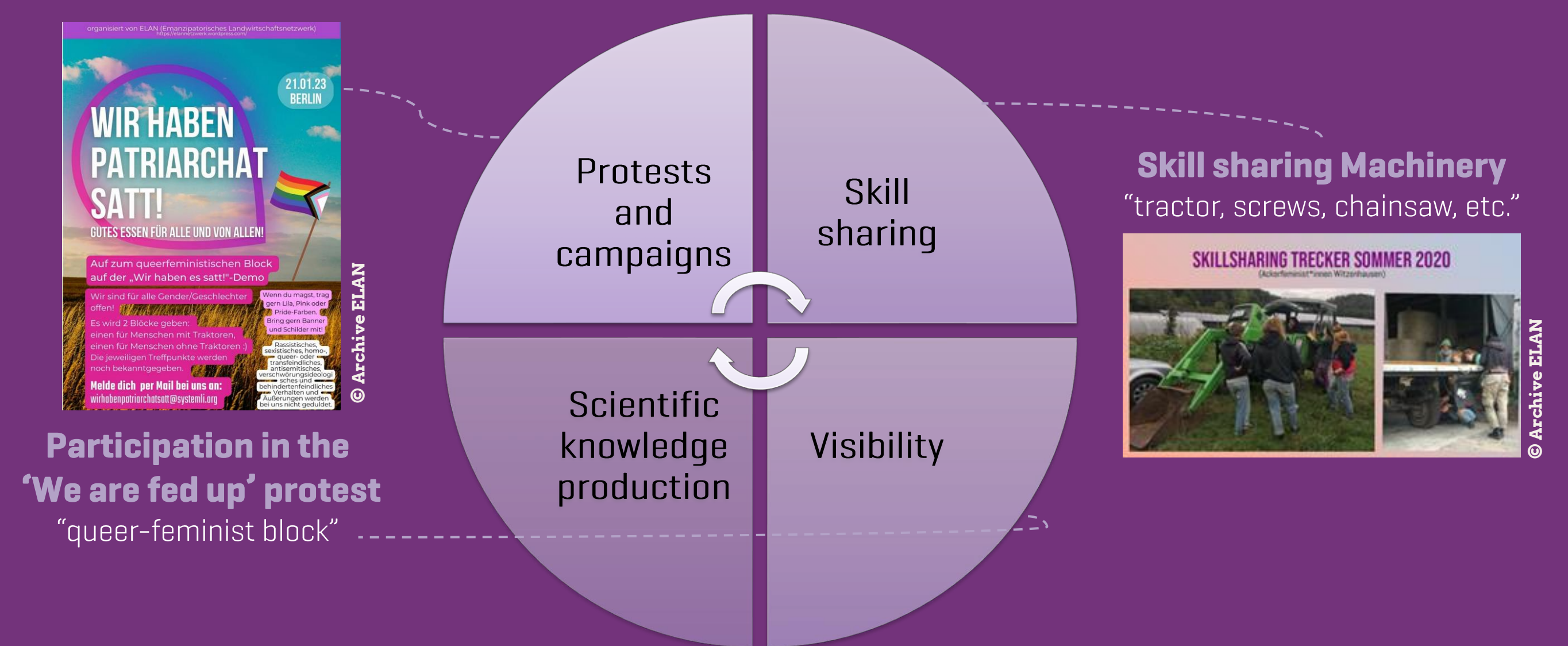
- sexism and sexist violence against women in agriculture: no safe working conditions
- gender pay gaps in agriculture and food industry
- the gendered divisions of food-related [care] work
- lack of social security for [migrant] agrarian workers
- Not enough power in political and economic decision-making

However, these inequalities are often addressed in solidarity with women in the ‘Global South’ and not necessarily situated in unjust food labor and politics in Germany [ibid].

Case Study I: reformist transformation approach German Association of Rural Women [DLV]



Case Study II: radical transformation approach Emancipatory Agriculture Network [ELAN]



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