

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FRANCE : A PILLAR FOR THE AGROECOLOGICAL PROJECT

In France, vocational training is delivered in 806 agricultural colleges, ranging from secondary education to higher technical diploma.

Higher education in agronomics, veterinary sciences and landscaping involves 17,000 students is delivered in 18 public and private institutions providing training to Master's and Doctorate levels (PhD).



Agricultural colleges located within France

Besides a training mission, the agricultural educative system is also involved in applied research extension, rural development, inclusion of young people into the society and job market and international cooperation

85%
Employability rate

211,678
Students,
pupils and apprentices

SINCE 2014, AGROECOLOGY IS A DRIVER FOR THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM, THROUGH A SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN « ENSEIGNER À PRODUIRE AUTREMENT » - « TEACHING HOW TO PRODUCE DIFFERENTLY »

It considers the need of developing new skills for the French agroecological project, which is a pillar of agricultural policy in France :

- ▶ A new thinking framework to integrate uncertainty and complexity
- ▶ More capacities to observe, to design new solutions based on natural process and to experiment them



SOME MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE ACTION PLAN "ENSEIGNER À PRODUIRE AUTREMENT"

- **Transition in 191 public educative farms (18,900 cultivated ha)**
 - ▶ Every farm is involved in the Agroecological project (reducing the use of pesticides, antibiotics, promoting organic farming...)
 - ▶ More than 60% develop organic farming and 22% of the whole surface is managed under organic farming (+74% since 2013)
 - ▶ 64% of the farms are active participants in working groups of farmers towards reducing the use of pesticides
- **Renewal of diplomas & pilot projects for innovation in teaching practices** through multidisciplinary teams 15 pilot colleges produced innovative teaching materials and methods which are now available for all.
- **Involvement of educative farms in multiactors projects or thematic networks**, with researchers, extension services, farmers, local authorities, ... 50 public educative farms are involved in R&D projects.
- **European cooperation**: coordination of Euro-EducATES project (Erasmus+) on "Teaching agroecology in the transitory period" with partners from 5 European countries.



AND NOW ... A NEW PLAN FOR DEEPENING THE DYNAMIC WITH 4 MAJOR GUIDELINES :

- Encouraging initiatives from the learners: they are welcome to get involved in transitions related to agroecology and to communicate about it
- Continuing the renewal of diploma and get the whole educative community being involved
- Continuing transition of educative farms and educative processing plants: as educative assets, they have to be inspiring examples for the future
- Spreading agroecological approach, skills and tools towards rural and agri-food players

THE FRENCH NATIONAL FOOD CONFERENCE

- A national food conference that brought together **all stakeholders**, from July to December 2017
- Divided into **two broad work areas**:
 - creation and distribution of value,
 - healthier, safer, more sustainable and affordable food for all.
- Leading to:
 - a **national roadmap for food 2018-2022**
 - a **law**



- A national food conference that brought together **all stakeholders**; the farming and fisheries world, agrifood companies, retail distribution, consumers, institutional catering, elected representatives, social partners, actors in the social and solidarity economy and in the health sector, NGOs, charities and international food aid, banks and insurance companies:

- **5 months of work**
- **14 thematic workshops with more than 700 participants**
- **1 public consultation with more than 156 000 views**
- **17,000 contributions**
- **74 territorial events**



AFTER THE NATIONAL FOOD CONFERENCE: WHICH ACTIONS ?

1/ INTERBRANCH ORGANISATIONS PREPARED STRATEGIES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTOR



To complete the legal framework, the Government asked each agricultural and food sector to write its **own strategy as a concrete mobilisation** for the success of how to reach

- 1° the creation and share of value and
- 2° Healthy, safe and sustainable food and reachable for every one

35 road maps for the different sectors i.e. beef, milk, wine, fruits and vegetables, seeds... with the **objectives to improve the quality of the products** (including through indications of quality and origin), **product range segmentation** (build on specific specifications to add value to the products) and **how to improve exportations**.

2/ A LAW FOR BALANCED COMMERCIAL RELATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTORS AND FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD, ENACTED ON NOVEMBER 1ST 2018.

The law must **clarify contractual relations into the agricultural and food sector**, between each actor, all along the supply chain by reversing contractualisation, from the upstream to the downstream, to reduce unbalanced negotiations between producers and retailers. **The aim is to build a fair price for the farmer, taking account of production costs.** It also includes measures to **strengthen the sanitary, environmental and nutritional quality of products and to promote a healthy, safe and sustainable diet for all.**

- Two parts:
 - a) Enabling balanced commercial relationships in agricultural and food sector. Giving assurance for food sovereignty by maintaining production capacities and fair incomes;
 - b) Strengthening sanitary, environmental and nutritional quality of products to provide a safe, sustainable and quality food. Giving guarantees to all consumers to get a safe, sustainable and quality food and reducing social inequity.

■ MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAW

ENABLE FARMERS TO HAVE A DECENT INCOME BY BETTER DISTRIBUTING THE VALUE



System for **forming prices** using production costs and market prices.



Raising the **minimum mark-up on food loss leaders to 10%** and placing controls on promotional offers.



A core task for interbranch representative bodies: to build **"indicators of reference"** for production costs and market indicators.

IMPROVE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF PRODUCTION



A **ban on neonicotinoids** and other products with identical modes of action in order to protect biodiversity and bees.



Separation of sales activity from advisory services for **plant protection products**. A ban on rebates, price cuts and discounts.

STRENGTHEN ANIMAL WELFARE



A **ban** on entry into production of all new farm buildings for **caged laying hens**.



Trials of **CCTV use in slaughterhouses**.



Extension of the offence of maltreatment of an animal. Penalties to be doubled.

PROMOTE A HEALTHY, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE DIET FOR ALL



50% of local products or origin and quality-labelled products (including organic) in public-sector institutional catering by 2022.



Restaurants to be obliged to supply **doggy-bags**.

REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC IN THE FOOD SECTOR



A **ban on plastic containers** for cooking, warming and serving food in local government catering services by 2025.



A **ban on plastic stirrers and straws** in restaurants, take-aways, canteens and food shops by 2020.



A **ban on plastic bottles** in school canteens by 2020.