

# Projects for collective engagement in rural development

FRANCE KEYSER / AGENCE MYOP

# Mid-term achievements

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## 15 active projects

**AGIS**: inclusive agriculture: greater participation to promote the setting up of farms and the passing on of agricultural traditions – **Terre de Liens**

**AgroEcoDom**: the inter-regional engagement of rural areas in the local development of agro-ecological practices in the French Overseas Department – **Cirad**

**AgroPastoM**: collective innovation to increase support for agro-pastoralism as a territorialised economy in a mountainous area – **Suaci**

**Altérité**: national and regional alliances structured around meeting the challenges of agro-ecology and food governance – **UNCPIE**

**CAPDOR**: the capitalisation and dissemination of knowledge gained through partnership-based research schemes concerned with agricultural and rural development – **INRA**

**CLUST**: business inter-clusters, the potential for reciprocity between town and country – **France Clusters**

**COLLAGRO**: the farming collectives' network for ecological transition – **FNCUMA**

**DEAPNA**: developing agricultural entrepreneurship in individuals who do not come from a farming background so as to meet the challenges of generational renewal in farming – **CIAP44**

**DecoAgroEco**: decompartmentalising and contextualising regional agro-ecology – **ACTA**

**Innovez'Bio**: innovation in agriculture and organic food – **ITAB**

**JEUNES**: focusing on young people in farming and rural development – **MRJC**

**MOOC**: the creation of a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in agricultural cooperation – **Services Coop de France**

**RnPAT**: the establishment of a national network for a jointly-designed and shared regional food project – **Terres en Villes**

**RRAF**: developing a French rural agro-forestry network – **AFAF**

**USAGES**: innovation through practice, a driving force for agro-ecology and rural dynamics – **L'Atelier Paysan**



## New partnerships in rural development

- Over 150 organisations involved in fifteen projects for collective engagement in rural development (MCDR).
- A great variety of organisations (associations, research organisations, foundations and federations) in terms of status and areas of activity.
- According to the projects' promoters, the success of these partnerships relies on:

Success factor	Rate
Familiarity between organisations and working practices	6
The partners' sense of motivation	5
The diversity and complementarity of the partners	4
The expectations of external stakeholders	3
The structuring of the project and the distribution of tasks	3
The partners' experience and expertise	2
The leader's ability to work with the EAFRD	2
Support from MAA*	2

\*The Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- Considerable interaction between MCDR projects: 14 organisations (including 6 leaders) are participating in at least two projects. This interaction ranges from mere contact to involvement in joint activities.
- Lasting partnerships: 14 leaders stated that they would like to continue in their dealings after the period scheduled for support for the project.

**The strength of the leadership, coupled with the partners' sense of motivation, is the key to a project's success and enables obstacles, particularly administrative ones, to be surmounted.**

# Original and varied output

## Examples of deliverable output taken from dozens of achievements:

### AGIS – Terre de Liens

Guide to farming settlements for use in the design of appropriate living environments. Action fact sheets addressed to communities to encourage them to take control of their land so as to protect its natural resources and evaluate its agricultural potential.

### AgroEcoDom – Cirad

Videos presenting agro-ecological alternatives for addressing the specific challenges of tropical areas.

### AgroPastoM – Suaci

A white paper on agro-pastoralism to disseminate tools for the development and promotion of agro-pastoralism.

### Altérité – UNCPiE

The organisation of events and meetings on the subject of sustainable food with regard to institutional catering and farmers' adoption of agro-ecological practices.

### CAPDOR – INRA

Research into food governance, the circular economy and land as a vehicle for links between urban and rural environments.

### CLUST – France Clusters

Handbooks on the new working environment and the links between clusters and regions for boosting local economies.

### COLLAGRO – FNCUMA

The distribution of methodological supporting documentation to assist groups in agro-ecological transition. An analytical report on the eligible measures contained in programmes for regional rural development.

### DEAPNA – CIAP44

The creation of cooperatives for those setting up in traditional farming and the development of legal and financial tools to assist the promoters of projects.

### DecoAgroEco – ACTA

The updating of agro-ecological assessment, a learning aid for providing assistance in the agro-ecological transition.

### Innovez'Bio – ITAB

An analysis of groups involved in organic innovation.

### JEUNES – MRJC

Ventures into Farming, Dreams of setting up: a game which helps young promoters of projects prepare for the establishment of their business in a rural environment.

### MOOC – Services Coop de France

Two online course sessions on farming cooperatives.

### RnPAT – Terres en Villes

The creation of a network of stakeholders for the joint designing of regional food projects (PAT). A guide to PAT funding options.

### RRAF – AFAF

The creation of a network of stakeholders in agro-forestry. A guide to agro-forestry.

### USAGES – L'Atelier Paysan

Plans and tutorials involving the tools and self-build constructions suitable for agro-ecological activities.



# Contributions to topics in the call for projects



## Agro-ecology

Agro-ecology is at the heart of the legislation on the future of agriculture, food and forestry (LAAAF) of 13th October 2014. Through their work, eleven MCDR projects are contributing to the foundations of agro-ecology: collective intelligence and good agro-ecological practices which, in particular, enable farms to adjust to climate change and promote biodiversity and better water management.

In terms of collective intelligence, COLLAGRO is working to assist groups of farmers with the agro-ecological transition. The Innovez'Bio project is focusing its research on groups of stakeholders in organic agriculture, and one of AgroPastoM's initiatives consists of facilitating the collective management of mountain pasture grants from the PAC. DEAPNA is supporting new farmers by involving them in regional ecosystems and USAGES is organising the sharing and dissemination of skills.

Five MCDRs are promoting the transmission of good agro-ecological practices: land cover, nitrogen fixation, cropping/livestock synergies, energy management and bio-monitoring are being highlighted by AgroEcoDom and through DecoAgroEco's agro-ecological assessments. AgroPastoM is supporting agro-pastoralism, the externalities of which satisfy these objectives, as does agro-forestry which is being promoted through the RRAF.

Finally, AGIS is supporting the setting up of organic farms, Altérité is focusing on farmers' adoption of new ethical practices and JEUNES is raising agricultural college students' awareness on the subject of agro-ecology.



## Local food governance

RnPAT promotes the joint design and implementation of regional food projects, whilst bearing in mind all the different aspects of food systems: economic, social, environmental, heritage, health and urban planning. Altérité is working more specifically on group catering, JEUNES on local supply chains for community education trips and AgroPastoM on the upgrading of local agro-pastoralism networks. Finally, CAPDOR is shedding a more scholarly light on the subject.



## Links between urban and rural environments

Several projects are encouraging reciprocal relationships between urban and rural stakeholders. AGIS is working on citizens' involvement in the management of agricultural land and CLUST is focusing on the links between business clusters and regions. DEAPNA is applying methods developed in the rural environment to the urban environment, in order to set up urban and peri-urban farms. The subject of food, dealt with by RnPAT and Altérité, brings these projects to the attention of consumers and producers.



## The circular economy

The CAPDOR project documents regional circular economy initiatives. USAGES encourages the reuse of materials in self-build construction and agro-forestry (RRAF) is consistent with this spirit in its promotion of timber produced on farms.



## The social and inclusive economy

The cooperative business model is contained within the statutes of a number of partner organisations. AGIS is encouraging setting up using this model (SCAEC<sup>1</sup>). DEAPNA is carrying out research into the possibility of adapting the CAE<sup>2</sup> for agriculture. Finally, the MOOC in agricultural cooperation aims to raise awareness concerning this form of organisation.



## A cross-sectoral theme: setting up

This subject was not targeted by the call for projects but it lies at the heart of three MCDR: DEAPNA is creating new cooperatives to assist promoters of projects who do not come from farming backgrounds in setting up. AGIS is working on access to agricultural land and is validating successful experiences. Finally, JEUNES is organising trips to aid young people thinking about setting up businesses in rural areas.

1 Agricultural Joint Farming Cooperative Society  
2 Business and Employment Cooperative

## Tools and resources that meet the various challenges in rural development:

**Being open to stakeholders:** projects mobilising over 150 named organisations in various fields of activity. They constitute new networks and are supported by stakeholders on the ground. AGIS is encouraging participation from citizens on farming issues.

**Improvements in the quality of the implementation of rural development programmes (PDR):** certain projects are identifying eligible measures for their field of activity, such as COLLAGRO for groups of farmers undergoing agro-ecological transition. Others are offering to improve the PDRs, as in the case of agro-pastoralism, where AgroPastoM is working on support for agro-pastoralism.

**Support for innovation:** certain projects are transferring agronomic innovations (AgroEcoDom) or methods for coordinating activities (DecoAgroEco), others have created innovative systems for assisting promoters of projects (DEAPNA) or frameworks conducive to the creation of innovations (the French Rural Agro-forestry Network). Innovation is sometimes contained within the project itself (MOOC).

**Highlighting future challenges:** the JEUNES and AGIS projects deal with the balance between the professional and personal lives of farmers. In the case of agro-pastoralism, AgroPastoM is working on the creation of new labels to promote products. Finally, CLUST is focusing on new working environments and cooperation between business clusters and regions.

**Decomartmentalisation of agricultural and rural issues:** the wide range of stakeholders involved in the projects makes it possible to create connections between agricultural, rural and urban environments. Through their work on the subject of food, RnPAT and Altérité are bridging the gap between producers and consumers. To assist in the setting up of urban and peri-urban farms, DEAPNA is applying methods developed in rural areas to urban areas.



## Triple performance

- **Environmental:** through the dissemination of agronomic practices which respect the environment, AgroEcoDom and Innovez'Bio are supporting agro-ecology and organic agriculture. Altérité is combating food waste and CAPDOR is working on the circular economy.
- **Social:** the projects are promoting employment in rural areas through the setting up of new farms and, as in the case of AgroPastoM, the maintenance of activities in mountainous areas. RnPAT is focusing on food insecurity and USAGES is aiming to enhance the status of farmers and improve their working conditions through self-build construction.
- **Economic:** the projects are contributing to the boosting of regional economies by stimulating agricultural production, by developing local food supply chains and by stimulating cooperation between business clusters and regions.

**Gender equality:** USAGES is working on innovation through practice, by and for women farmers. DEAPNA points out that 50% of promoters of projects supported by the CIAP are women.

## Links are continuing to be developed and need to be strengthened

- **with the Regional Rural Networks:** 12 of these are in contact with 12 MCDRs and links are gradually getting stronger.
- **with the LEADER local action groups and the European Partnership for Innovation (PEI) task groups:** links are still tenuous but their leaders are demonstrating their willingness to strengthen these.
- **with Europe:** AgroEcoDom has tabled a proposal for a PEI focus group, AgroPastoM has submitted a bid for cooperation to the European Rural Network (ENRD) and several projects have participated in European events, but there is a need to expand these links.

## Information on the EAFRD

The projects are helping to provide recipients and the general public with information on the EAFRD via the dissemination of their work – particularly on the PDRR measures – and during the events that they organise.

# Find the latest information on MCDR projects on the Rural Network website: <http://www.reseaurural.fr/Projets/MCDR>

This document is the result of the mid-term progress report on MCDR projects, available on the French Rural Network website, which was carried out by Léa Le Souder, a student from the Faculty of Political Science responsible to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for the capitalisation of MCDR output.

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