



Climate resilient farming
and forestry systems
and water management

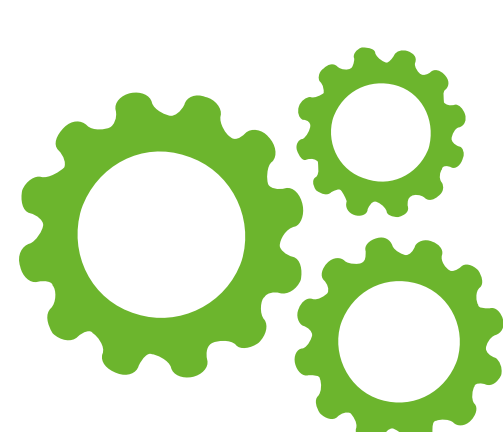


AGRI
Innovation summit 2019

Operational Group

Develop new production techniques for potatoe production in Normandy with fewer chemical inputs

POMTerr'Eco Développer des techniques de production innovantes et économes en intrants pour la filière Pomme de terre de Normandie



Practical problem

Potatoes production with fewer chemical inputs (fertilizers, phytosanitary products...) and a better management of environmental resources (soil, water...).



Partners

Regional chamber of Agriculture, Regional organisation for potatoes production in Normandy



Calendar

Start: 01/01/2018
End: 31/03/2020



Budget

Total amount:
€24,871

Objectives of the project

Potatoes production stakeholders in Normandy wish to move forward new production techniques that can guarantee products quality for consumers and preserve environmental resources and biodiversity, as an answer to social and environmental issues.

The main objective of the Operational Group will be to design new production techniques that will require fewer inputs and an efficient use of environmental resources while ensuring financial sustainability.

Besides the development of innovative techniques, this project aims at engaging changes towards a more sustainable production chain for all potatoes production stakeholders in Normandy: producers, economic operators and distributor networks, as well as to promote Normandy potatoes.

Main activities

- Develop the Operational Group and facilitate exchange between partners: this OG brings together stakeholders directly involved in the potatoes production chain as well as production technicians, agricultural engineer specialised in research and development, professors and researchers.
- Analysis of professional practices and production stakeholder needs: inquiries will be led at producers to identify critical stages in the production process, study their needs, spot innovative practices and prioritize different issues.
- Scientific and technical watch, knowledge capitalisation and innovation spot will draw the scientific and technical bases of the project.
- Pilot experiments at producers

Expected results

The operational group works should led to a research/ experimentation project about potatoes production techniques with fewer input. The OG works will enable to choose the most relevant concepts to study or innovative practices to test as well as partners that should be associated in this project.

The final objective is to draw a new production scheme with a low environmental impact and a high product quality, which will be promoted at the national and international level to identify "Normandy potatoes" on these markets. Technical solutions will thus be introduced to regional producers to reduce chemical inputs, such as a reduction of the frequency and the quantity of chemical fertilizers used on potatoes crops by 30% to 50%.

Results so far/first lessons

Three research themes discussed with the producers have been selected: Adaptation of precision and "connected" agriculture tools. Search is carried out to spot new technologies that can be useful to help the producers have a more efficient use of chemical inputs.

- Adaptation of plant material and use of "bio-inputs". Experimentation protocols are currently studied to test technical procedures with varieties less susceptible to biological pests, reduction of phytosanitary products doses and use of alternatives products. Development of new agronomic practices to improve soil natural fertility and limit erosion. Some producers are experimenting soil conservation techniques, such as permanent cover crop and little tillage. A protocol to reduce soil work and limit erosion will be tested in platforms to assess new practices and their impact on the aspect of potatoes.

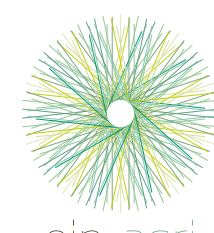
Who will benefit

Final beneficiaries of the project will be the members of the regional organisation for potatoes production in Normandy. This organisation brings together individual producers, group of producers, collectors, packers, marketers, and upstream stakeholders in the chain (plant providers, agri-supply industries...) which are based in Normandy region. Normandy potatoes cultures consist of 15,000 ha and 1,200 producers producing 500,000 tons mostly sold as fresh potatoes (direct sell, supermarkets, export) and also sold to a smaller extent to agrifood industries.

Supported by:



Contact: Valérie Patoux
Mail: v.patoux@calvados.chambagri.fr



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