

# THE REVIEW

of the French Rural network

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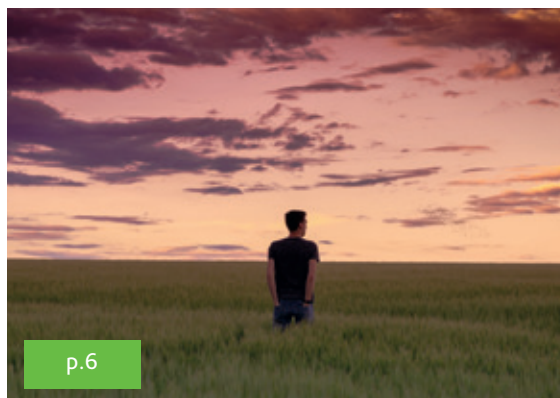


## THE DOSSIER GENERATIONAL CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

This latest issue of the French Rural Network Review is devoted to generational change in agriculture. This is based on the observation that this change is a key issue for French agriculture and a challenge to be taken up, given the continuing ageing of farm managers, even if this is less marked than elsewhere in the European Union. In response to these challenges, the FRN wanted to highlight the range of solutions implemented in France, both at the institutional and association levels.

At the institutional level, a large number of support and incentive schemes for installation and transmission are planned, mobilised as part of, yet outside of, the CAP. The Young Farmers' Endowment (Dotation jeunes agriculteurs - DJA) is undoubtedly the best known of these schemes. It supports around one third of all installations, or 5000 installations annually on average. But this is not the only scheme available: whether it is access to land or access to financing, the Ministry of Agriculture has a range of different levers at its disposal. In conjunction with the European Investment Fund (EIF), it had introduced the National Initiative for French Agriculture (Initiative Nationale pour l'Agriculture Française - INAF), which was finalised at the end of 2019, thus completing the regional schemes already implemented by two regional councils and the EIF in Occitanie or Nouvelle-Aquitaine via the rural development programmes. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has a programme for Support for Installation-Transmission in Agriculture (Accompagnement à l'Installation-Transmission en Agriculture - AITA), with an approximately €13.5 million budget, aid from which is intended to support the installation, professional training, follow-up of candidates, and the transmission of agricultural businesses.

Beyond these institutional mechanisms, the French Rural Network has also included this theme in its calls for proposals for Collective Mobilisation for Rural Development (Mobilisation Collective pour le Développement Rural - MCDR) projects. Thus, Terre de Liens, with its TERREAU project, or the Coopératives d'Installation en Agriculture Paysanne (CIAP) in the Pays de la Loire and its HAPPYTERR project promoting renewal, round out the range of institutional tools. But other players in the rural world have also taken up the subject, such as the Operational Groups of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP), or even ELARD Local Action Groups (LAG), as the issue of agricultural installation also involves the issue of local rural development (the promotion of local products, short food supply chains, etc.) and the attractiveness of rural areas.



## 4-9 THE DOSSIER

### Generational change in agriculture

An issue which all of the Member States share, generational change in agriculture is one of the major challenges facing the rural world. What tools or mechanisms might help encourage the transmission of farming businesses and the installation of agricultural assets? Here are some elements of the answer, and sample solutions.

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## GENERATIONAL CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

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An issue shared by all of the Member States of the European Union, generational change in agriculture is one of the major challenges facing the rural world. What tools or mechanisms might help encourage the transmission of farming businesses and the installation of agricultural assets? How can we support the significant role of the latter in the attractiveness and vitality of rural areas, food or even the environment. This issue offers elements of the answer and sample solutions provided by local authorities or actors in the rural world, supported by the French Rural network.



### Encouraging the next generation of farmers with the MCDR Terreau project

Led by the association Terres de Liens, the MCDR Terreau project encourages agricultural installations, guarantors of the revitalisation of rural hubs, high-quality food and national food security. An update on the issues and perspectives for rural areas with Vincent Jannot, director of the association

"More than 5,000,000 ha may change hands over the next five years, or almost 20% of our usable farming land area. At the same time, a quarter of farming businesses might disappear," warns Vincent Jannot, director of Terre de Liens. But despite this alarming observation, the installation of new arrivals can still sometimes be an obstacle course: "There are many obstacles," Vincent Jannot continues. "First of all financial, then the endowments are sometimes difficult to obtain, but also the psychological barriers, particularly for new country dwellers or new farmers coming in from urban areas. It is sometimes a struggle to establish a rural-urban dialogue."

« Cooperation », is the watchword that Terreau and its partners (RENETA, RELIER, CIVAM, FADER and CREFAD) chose in order to ensure agricultural succession. "We are looking to encourage installations and facilitate access to land. We act to ensure the transfer of farming land, encourage the transmission of farms, particularly between farmers and new country dwellers, while offering ongoing and durable support during the installation," explains the programmes and partnerships director at Terre de Liens.



*Farmers above all work with living things and they can become the environment's best allies if they are given the means*

#### Restoring the image of agricultural professions

"There is a real image issue which underpins the vocational crisis," underlines Vincent Jannot. MCDR Terreau therefore advocates working in schools, from primary school onward, highlighting agricultural trades in order to restore the image of these professions which have not always received good coverage. "Against the background of global warming, it is essential to remember that farmers above all work with living things, and they can become the environment's best allies if they are given the means," the Terre de Liens director continues.

"Even more so, the climate and health crisis as well as the war in Ukraine have recently highlighted the issue of our agricultural resilience, and our food security. What agricultural model do we want for tomorrow? Terreau campaigns to make good-quality food accessible to all, which is respectful to the environment and non-polluting, enabling farmers to properly establish themselves on their land, have control over their prices and see high-quality products along a short food supply chain."

#### Revitalising rural areas

"Ensuring installations and agricultural renewal also means guaranteeing the vitality of rural areas," adds Vincent Jannot. Agricultural jobs allow the re-ruralisation of spaces which become more accessible and more attractive. The new arrivals participate in rural development, and in maintaining public services and the railway routes. They strengthen social ties. Opening businesses such as bakeries contributes to the safeguarding of the food heritage of rural areas and to defending our French culture of eating well."

More information...

<https://terredeliens.org>

## Installation and transmission: focus on action in the Pays de la Loire region

Interview with Lydie Bernard, President of the commission for agriculture, agri-food, food, forestry, fisheries and the sea for the Pays de la Loire Regional Council.

### What does agricultural installation mean for the Pays de la Loire region?

Installation-transmission – we see the two as inseparable – is the top priority for regional agricultural projects. If we do not ensure generational change and the installation of young people, our activities in terms of changes in practices and agro-ecological projects, the modernisation of businesses or “eat local” will lose their importance. In addition, the agricultural world is right at the centre of the rural ecosystem – of the food system, of the environment and of social cohesiveness: if you lose your farmers, you lose a huge part of the vitality of your rural area.



*If you lose your farmers,  
you lose a huge part of the vitality  
of your rural area*

Moreover, we want to preserve the family agricultural model that we have today, and avoid the emergence of giant farms. We are attracting a lot of newcomers as a region: in 2020, around 1000 new farmers settled in, of which 650 received assistance, in particular with the Young Farmers' Endowment (DJA)\*. Our renewal rate is 57%. Every year, almost 2000 agricultural company leaders close down their businesses. Our aim is to reach a renewal rate of 65%.

### What schemes do you use to encourage installation and transmission?

Our strategy revolves around two major approaches. The first is traditional, and provides support for the installation of young farmers via the DJA. This support also translates into subsidised assistance for Enterprise Competitiveness and Adaptation Plan (Plan de compétitivité et d'adaptation des entreprises - PCAE) investments for the projects managed by the young farmers. Another way of promoting installations is to facilitate access to land for young farmers. In this direction, we work with SAFER, for which we provide up to 200,000 Euros in financing annually in order to reserve land for young farmers. We are also partners in the CIAP Pays de la Loire (see page 9), which we support for the development of agricultural test areas. Project managers who are not eligible for the DJA, we have schemes such as the Pass bio or the sponsorship course.

Our second major initiative is more innovative. In 2020, in collaboration with the Chamber of Agriculture and ten



communities of municipalities (Châteaubriant-Derval, les Mauges, les Coëvrons, L'Huisne Sarthoise, inter alia), we launched the “Pilot Territories for Transmission”. The principle is that each territory develops a roadmap and a plan of action which is adapted to their specificities together with their actors (elected representatives, young farmers, agricultural organisations, etc.). The aim is then to share best practice across the territories. We have seen very interesting initiatives such as speed-dating, discussions to raise awareness about transmission among farm managers or agricultural businesses.

### Why is raising awareness about transmission a significant issue?

First of all, there's the challenge of spotting those who are leaving their land and assessing their state of mind: not all of them are willing to sell. It is then necessary to support them, because transmission can take time, and be difficult to go through. Sometimes, there isn't even any buyer. So you shouldn't wait until two years before retirement to prepare for your departure. Then, there is the question of the plans that the buyers have. Although in the majority of cases, the youngster continues with existing production, it can happen that their project is quite different from that of their predecessor. For example, a breeder's son who wants to introduce a short food supply chain whereas his father was happy with long supply chains will need to make preparations beforehand, in particular by selling some of his animals. We have to work on this issue of progressive installation.

\* Source: Regional Transmission / Installation Observatory - data for 2020

More information...

[www.paysdelaloire.fr](http://www.paysdelaloire.fr)

### Happyterr, a tool panel to support and secure NIMA installation

The Happyterr closing seminar took place in Nantes on 24 March last year. The aim of this MCDR project: to work on the renewal of agricultural assets. In particular, the partners developed three support systems for project managers from outside of the agricultural sector (non-issus du milieu agricole - NIMA).



Securing the installation of project managers from outside of the agricultural sector (NIMA): this was the aim shared by fifty or so advisers and guides in agricultural installation who met in Nantes on 24 March last year. **The day marked the closing seminar for Happyterr: Innovative, territorial farming alliances for the successful renewal of the agricultural environment.** At the heart of the work of this MCDR project led by the Coopérative d'Installation en Agriculture Paysanne (CIAP) Pays de la Loire: the renewal of agricultural assets and support for project managers, and NIMAs in particular. *"To renew agricultural assets, NIMAs are crucial, it's a simple matter of mathematics. But the latter are unfamiliar with the way things are done, don't know the land that they are taking up, and don't have the support of the banks or CUMA: it is necessary to support some as they develop their entrepreneurial skills, integrate into the area and complete their installation process,"* explains Patrick Baron, Deputy Managing Director of CIAP Pays de la Loire.

In particular, the seminar provided the opportunity to take stock **of the three agricultural installation support systems for project managers** created by CIAP Pays de la Loire and their partners: the Creative Farmer training scheme, test spaces in market gardening and livestock breeding as well as temporary business support. Trialled across the great Western region (Normandy, Brittany, New Aquitaine, Centre-Val de Loire, etc.), the three tools were the subject of feedback from project partners. Kattalin Sainte-Marie, from the association Trebatu, thus ensured that *"test spaces allow project managers to face the realities of the profession, to put their skills into practice or to start to acquire equipment or livestock. It was also an opportunity to collect initial technical and economic references, as well as to gain legitimacy with our peers within the territory."*



*To renew agricultural assets, NIMAs are crucial, it's a simple matter of mathematics.*



Patrick Baron,  
Deputy Managing  
Director of CIAP  
Pays de la Loire

Another system in the spotlight: the temporary business support – a legal, accounting and administrative home for the budding agricultural business – the role of which as a launchpad is underlined by Etienne Michel, from CIAP Pays de la Loire: *"The NIMAs do not have any family anchorage on which they can rely for access to land, to financing or means of production (fodder, building fittings, greenhouses, livestock, etc.). This project support allows easier access to these elements, as well as to test production on site, identify bottlenecks and distribution channels, and to test the economic dimensions of the business."* Currently being tested by the CIAP 22, Centre-Val de Loire, Pays de la Loire and the association Trebatu, this temporary business support is showing promising results: 90% installation once support ends.

With 200 trainees graduating each year and final installation of almost 70%, **the Creative Farmer training is also a tool with a very good balance sheet.** This training in agricultural entrepreneurship combines internships, collective training and individual follow-up. It also invites the trainees to create a local support group (GALO), a group of people which is intended to advise and support the project manager throughout their career. *"The GALO is a powerful tool for territorial inclusion and integration. It helps save time, but also builds confidence and legitimacy"* assures Sandra Bernardini from CIAP 35. To contribute to the nationwide recognition of the Creative Farmer training, the Happyterr partners established the "Entreprendre en Agriculture Paysanne" professional skills certification, validated by France Compétences on the day of the seminar. One more step towards the professionalisation of NIMAs.

More information...

<http://ciap-pdl.fr/reseau-interregional-happyterr/>



## Pays d'Arles: LEADER supports the installation of future farmers

Closely involved in the agricultural development of its region, the LAG Pays d'Arles has supported the implementation of a variety of measures to promote the installation of young farmers, supported by the LEADER programme. Sophie Croquette, project manager at the Pôle d'Équilibre Territorial et Rural du Pays d'Arles, tells us more.

France's leading producer of tomatoes, lettuces, courgettes, peaches, nectarines, pears, olives and rice, the Pays d'Arles has a diversified and abundant agricultural sector: 62% of the agricultural production of the Bouches-du-Rhône region comes from this area, of 200,000 hectares and 2,000 farming businesses. However, the issue of agricultural generational change is still significant: "Our renewal rate for farmers is quite worrying, and the numbers are indicative: over 10 years, only 40% of our farming businesses might be taken over," says Sophie Croquette, project manager at the PETR du Pays d'Arles, a support structure for the LAG Pays d'Arles. "If we do not manage to allow producers to make a better living from their activities and to encourage farming as a profession, we will not be able to consolidate sufficient local agricultural production for our region," she warns. Since 2018, Pays d'Arles has also been involved in a Territorial Food Project (Projet Alimentaire Territorial - PAT) to develop local, durable, equitable, high-quality food which is accessible to all.

The region has thus implemented initiatives to promote the installation of farmers. Financed in particular by the LEADER programme, they form part of a charter and agricultural strategy drafted in 2017. "One of our main objectives is to maintain the region's agricultural production capacity, which naturally involves support for settling in, securing the way forward and facilitating access to land" explains Sophie Croquette. Thus, thanks to the LEADER programme, Pays d'Arles as the example financed the establishment of a test agricultural space in Eyragues. Led by the Maison familiale et rurale d'Eyragues, in cooperation with the Chamber of Agriculture and the municipality, the test space was launched in 2021. It has already benefited two young farmers who wanted to get involved in organic market gardening.

The issue of access to land, a real challenge when settling in young farmers, has been addressed as part of two projects. Also funded by LEADER, the aim of these was to evaluate the land available

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*Maintaining an agricultural production capacity in particular involves support during settling in, securing the way forward and facilitating access to land*

within the region and to raise awareness about transmission among stakeholders (farmers, elected representatives, project managers). Led by the Parc Naturel Régional des Alpilles, the Chamber of Agriculture and SAFER, the first project enabled a study of the agricultural and land dynamics within the PNRA region and the organisation of various information and awareness raising sessions using different formats: information cafés, ciné-debates, etc. "The second project led by ADEAR consists of enhanced support for owners in five municipalities and networking with project managers. Local support groups have thus been organised in order to promote transmission, create exchanges between owners and future farmers and remove certain blockages" explains the project manager. PETR is also a member of the SCIC Terre Adonis, "a very interesting territorial land tool: it makes it possible to buy land to offer to farmers who can then buy it – at the original value – within 7 to 15 years, once they have established their business."

More information...

<https://pays-arles.org>



© PETR du Pays d'Arles

## The European LEADER seminar is fully booked

At the beginning of March, more than 300 actors from rural areas from across Europe participated in the European LEADER seminar. Organised by Leader France as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the event underlined the role of Europe in the promotion of local development.

Ploeuc-L'Hermitage, in Brittany, provided the venue for a European rendezvous for the European LEADER seminar. Held on 7 and 8 March by Leader France as part of the French presidency of the Council of the European Union, the event brought together almost 300 participants, including technical experts and elected representatives from European LAGs, and hosted 21 European delegations. Marked by the participation of Joël Giraud, Minister of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, Janusz Wojciechowski, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Marion Eckardt, President of Elard\*, and Yves Le Breton, Director General of the ANCT, the seminar highlighted the contributions of the LEADER programme and the role of Europe in local development by local actors.

*"Innovation, crisis management, social integration: we can do a lot of things with the LEADER multi-level governance structure"* attested Marion Eckardt in particular. Further testimony is also underlined how the programme represented *"a transducer for local energy to enable regions to adapt"*, *"the expression of a rural world with a future"* et *"a vector for cooperation between agricultural and rural, as well as between rural and urban"*. For his part, Joël Giraud also shared his vision of the programme: *"The EAFRD rural development fund should not be a CAP adjustment variable, but continue to serve the regions and their projects."*

Organised in the form of round tables and exchange workshops, the seminar also provided a reminder of the importance and the role, both today and tomorrow, of rural regions: *"It is here that resilience, autonomy, and sovereignty will be played out"* assured Yolaine de Courson, president of the "Issues of Rurality" study group at the French National Assembly. *"Rural regions such as*



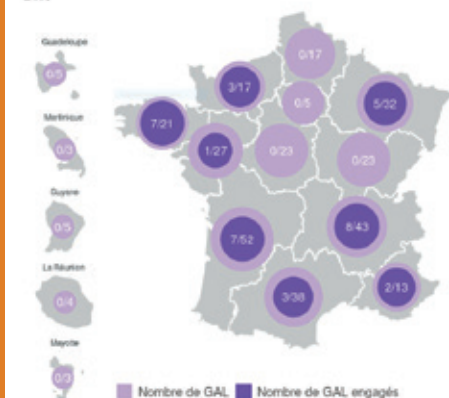
*Brittany are on the front line facing the major challenges of food and energy security"* confirmed Loïc Chesnais-Girard, president of the Regional Council of Brittany and representative of the Régions de France. The end of the event was marked by a ceremony to award the "European LEADER prize for gender equality". Three projects received awards: the Eco-museum of Salt and Mamas Shingos at Bandréle (third prize - LAG Ouest Grand Sud de Mayotte), the CONCILIA interregional cooperation project (second prize - LAG Monegros - Spain), and the OneGoal project (first prize - LAG CLLD Hallan - Sweden).

\* European Leader Association for Rural Development

More information...

<https://Leaderfrance.fr>

Répartition régionale des GAL français engagés dans au moins un projet de coopération CTN



## New edition of the LEADER cooperation barometer

For example, this tells us that 45% of French LAG co-operation projects are on the topic of "Tourism and culture", that 287 LAGs are participating in transnational or interregional cooperation projects, or that 73% of services projects for the population focus on young people... The February 2022 edition of the barometer produced by ATMAC (Assistance technique et méthodologique aux activités de coopération LEADER) network is based on a data collection initiative started in June 2021 in the regions..

This quantified summary provides a **snapshot of the cooperation situation in France**, particularly on the nature of such cooperation (interterritorial, transnational or preparatory support), the partnerships put in place and the themes of the projects carried out.

More information...

[www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr)

## LAGs receive video production training



Two days were enough to train 11 of the 12 LAGs in the region, as well as representatives from the managing authority and the managers of European cooperation projects. The training in video production using a smartphone offered by the Rural Network was a hit in April in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. "The training was eagerly awaited, explains Christel Francart, facilitator at the regional Rural Network. The regions have a real need to promote their projects as part of the conclusion of a program and to have new tools for the next one." After having previously attended a remote training module, the participants met for an entire day, from 9 am to 5:30 pm, for a video filming and editing exercise in pairs. "The training was very popular because it is specific and easy to put into practice. Videos are now an essential tool to promote a project to as many people as possible."

"Communication is an important part of my work. This training is very functional and we quickly got the theoretical basics that we acquired beforehand into practice."

Our priority this year is to promote the projects that we carried out as part of the 2014-2022 programme.



Accompanied by a communications trainee, I will go out into the field to interview a dozen or so project managers on three themes: services to the population, short supply chains and the promotion of heritage. The videos will highlight the benefits of ELARD and will initially be broadcast as part of our annual public event: the fête du Parc."

Salomé Delille, Officer in charge, LEADER, LAG Alpes et Préalpes d'Azur

## 7 LEADER-themed booklets for inspiration

Their objective: to share the inspiring initiatives of the LAG regions as widely as possible. Seven booklets produced by the Rural Network invite you to discover a large number of innovative projects supported thanks to EAFRD's Measure 19 in France and Europe. The result of a project consolidation initiative led by the 339 LEADER regions during the course of the 2014-2020 programme.

Published on a monthly basis, three of the booklets are already available. They offer foci on regional marketing, on new forms of economy and also on tourism, la culture and heritage. Over a total of 8 pages, each of the booklets comprises testimonies from project managers, key figures, and resources to find out more... The perfect opportunity to discover, for example, an eco-cycling centre established in the region of the LAG Nord-Ouest Vendée, a musical and sensory yurt for people with disabilities located in the heart of the LAG Pays Dignois or even a hat shop whose business was relaunched by a SCIC with support from the LAG Haute-Vallée de l'Aude.

These themed booklets report on the importance of European funding for rural development and illustrate regional and territorial best practice. The next issues will focus in particular on ecological transition, urban/rural links and services to the population. Videos are also currently in production which will give more details on the projects and allow actors in the field to have their say.

More information...

[www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr)





## The directors of the CAP national strategic plans meet in Toulouse

The directors of the Common Agricultural Policy national strategic plans met from 20 to 22 June in Toulouse for a technical meeting organised as part of the French presidency of the Council of the European Union. On the agenda for the meeting: discussions and workshops focusing on the continuities and ruptures between the current CAP and the new CAP for 2023-2027, as well as site visits to find out more about projects supported by the EAFRD and the LAG for the Occitanie region.



The participants spent three days together enhancing the exchange of experience and collaboration in rural development, and more broadly, on future planning for the CAP. The **European Commission (DG-AGRI) and the directors of the national strategic plans of the 27 Member States** met at the end of June at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, in Toulouse and its surrounding areas at the proposal of the Occitanie region. In order to adapt to the next CAP which will come into force in 2023, the event, which has been held since 2008 at French initiative in the form of a meeting of directors of rural development, has become “the meeting of the directors of the CAP national strategic plans” for this new programme. One of the many technical meetings organised between January and June 2022 by the French presidency of the Council of the European Union. The next meeting will take place in the Czech Republic, which holds the presidency of the European Union from 1 July until 31 December 2022.

After a morning devoted to the EAFRD report on the programme which is coming to an end (2014 – 2022), the directors took part in three workshops focused on a common question: **how will future**

**national strategic plans meet the challenges of food resilience and sovereignty in the EU?** These moments for discussion and exchange provided the opportunity to share and develop thoughts on topics such as investment, the eco-regime and the measures to promote installation. As strategic planning documents drafted by each of the 27 Member States, the national strategic plans must specifically enable the use of European agricultural funds to be adapted to local conditions. These form part of the objectives of a CAP which is “fairer, greener and more focused on results”.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 21 June, three field visits allowed the participants to find out more about project supported by three regional LAGs: LAG Sud toulousain, le LAG Terroirs du Lauragais et le LAG Plaines et coteaux d'Ariège. These trips made it possible to provide concrete illustrations of EAFRD support for economic, cultural and tourism dynamism in rural areas.

## The field visits in pictures

At Castelnaudary, the visitors first of all found out about Arterris. Cofinanced by EAFRD, this agricultural co-operative has set itself a single objective: to gradually bring to an end the use of phytosanitary products and integrate new, bio-responsible solutions in their coating processes. It was thus decided to dedicate a building to the treatment and conservation of organic hybrid seeds, as well as to invest in a **new eco-responsible seed coating machine**. This tool still allows coating with traditional products, but in particular the use of bio-stimulant and bio-protective products.



Ten or so kilometres further on, the Moulin du Vivier has for several years been the subject of a complete site rehabilitation and modernisation project with a tourist development associated with the safeguarding of the architectural and cultural heritage. Thanks to LEADER, work at **this last windmill along the Canal du Midi** has restarted: with the setup of a shop selling local products, the commissioning of a stone millstone for flour production, and the opening of a stopover gîte for tourists.



A cultural residence rooted in a rural environment, in Cintegabelle, Le Tracteur notably welcomes performing arts companies and training groups. Simultaneously a venue for creativity, a residence for artists, shows and performances, workshops and artistic internships, this converted former farm also represents a resource



centre serving regional culture and citizen collaboration. Led by a SCIC, Le Tracteur in 2020 became a Social and Supportive Economy structure, the objective of which is to act as a **catalyst for cultural cooperation projects within the Pays Sud Toulousain**. This ambition has been developed in close collaboration with the Théâtre du Grand Rond in Toulouse, and benefited from the support of the LEADER rural development programme..



Another regional SCIC supported by LEADER, Laines Paysannes aprovided the structure for a **local industry focusing on the wool of sheep from the Pyrenees**. By connecting with breeders, creators, artisans and industrialists within a 350 km range, this agricultural business offers collections of clothing, duvets or carpets

which can be traced from the sheep through to the consumer. Its purpose: to adapt its activities to the rhythm of the seasons, to work on a human scale, to value people and their know-how, to encourage local life and to adapt to individual realities.



Located in the heart of the town of Saverdun, the Hôtel des Arts offers a **local cultural and artistic** venue to all of the inhabitants and tourists in this rural region. Various spaces are made available to the community's cultural associations (visual arts, photography, dance, theatre, music, inter alia) as well as common spaces intended to encourage

exchanges between the different practices to be found in this single venue. The Hôtel des Arts aims to offer a high-quality venue around a renewed identity. It also strives to lead the region with a traditional and contemporary cultural programme for all segments of the public.

More information...

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr>



## "EIP-AGRI fosters the creation of original partnerships"

Co-leader of the EIP working group for Régions de France, Fiona Bouvet Agnelli, innovation officer at the Agriculture and Forestries directorate of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Regional Council, gives her views on the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) and provides an assessment of the mechanism. Interview.

### What is the future of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI)?

**Fiona Bouvet Agnelli:** We are currently in a transition phase between the end of the current programme and the new programme, which will start in 2023. Most of the Regions have completed their programmes, even if some – such as Normandy, New Aquitaine, the Grand-Est, Occitanie or Bourgogne-Franche-Comté – issued calls for tenders in 2020 and 2021. Overall, it has been a great success: many EIP-AGRI projects and Operational Groups have been set up across all of Europe. For the European Commission, the issue of the ecosystem around innovation and dissemination of knowledge to farmers and foresters has been paramount: EIP-AGRI will continue in the Regions which take it up. Many of them recognise its benefits and flexibility – each Region can adapt it to their needs, issue calls for tenders on specific themes or not... – despite the administrative burdens, which is something we are working on. In the next programme, the Regions are for example working on introducing funding advances.

### What is your assessment of the system?

EIP-AGRI is still young and still not sufficiently recognised in the world of innovation and agriculture. Although there is still a need to become accustomed to the system, it is still however increasingly visible. In France, there are more than 300 Operational Groups. The results are really positive, in particular in terms of co-operatives dynamics in the regions. One of the virtues of EIP-AGRI is that it finances the skills that the projects need, and hence it encourages a wider variety of partners. It is very open. Alongside chambers of agriculture, research institutions (IDELE, INRAE...) and farmers' groups, you for example come across actors in SSE or digital start-ups. EIP-AGRI fosters the creation of original partnerships. It also addresses project engineering needs: it recognises and funds the time spent on cooperation.

### What other benefits does EIP-AGRI offer?

The tool supports the operation of projects but also, and this is less well-known, their emergence. This is a real strength for the regions, because it gives actors who have ideas but no contacts time to network, find partners and fine-tune their needs. This emergence phase provides reassurance: it encourages small project managers to get started and generates more successful and ambitious projects. But the main benefit of EIP-AGRI is that it promotes projects in the field. The system really has the capacity to start from the needs and problems of farmers and bring together the chambers, research and agricultural development actors around them.

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*One of the virtues of EIP-AGRI is that it finances the skills that the projects need*



Fiona Bouvet Agnelli,  
innovation officer  
at the Agriculture and  
Forestries directorate of the  
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
Regional Council

More information...

[www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr)





## How can we attract the younger generation to the farming professions?

Led by INRAE between October 2019 and December 2021, the Attractiveness of Farming Industry Professions working group of the Farming Future GIS focused on the question of generational change in agriculture. Through its recommendations and surveys, the mission brought together many players, including Idele, AgroParisTech and the Chambers of Agriculture.

With half of French farmers expected to retire by 2030, the issue of generational change in agriculture is becoming crucial. In the beef sector, for example, no less than 50% of farmers active in 2018 may have left the sector by 2028. Here is another figure highlighted by the Farming Future GIS working group: the number of new entries in dairy production is already twice as low as the number of exits.

### Identifying the brakes acting on agricultural installation

More alarmingly, farming professions attract few young people, and only 15 to 29% of them would consider it a career. In order to understand this lack of attractiveness, the GIS surveyed large numbers of young people, including students at Agrocampus Ouest and AgroParisTech, to gain a better understanding of their expectations. It emerged that low pay and quality of life were the two main obstacles mentioned by potential candidates. Financial instability, the costs of starting up, the actual cost and the lower capital in certain sectors can act as a foil for the younger generation, who are already very concerned about maintaining clear boundaries between their private and professional lives. Another important element is the lack of recognition, reputation and visibility in the various farming professions among younger people. These professions do however have assets which attract the new generation, in particular the values associated with them: these are professions with know-how, contact with nature, versatility and autonomy...

### A field of possibilities

In order to better understand the evolution and future of farming professions over the next 10 to 15 years, the GIS also performed a prospective study which comprised four imaginary scenarios. Named "Less but better", the first of these envisages a drop in the consumption of animal products at the same time as a greater demand for quality products which emphasises short supply chains, labelling, appellations and the well-being of animals. A second scenario, "The liberalisation of production", imagines a world in which the size of farms increases in order to meet the needs of mass production within a competitive system with no market regulation. The third scenario envisages a rise of veganism and a drastic drop in the consumption of meat. The last, which the GIS considered the most likely, envisages a diversification of the modes of production and market segmentation: the major agri-food industries become increasingly concentrated while smaller structures share the remainder of the territory.



By way of conclusion, the GIS formulated several recommendations intended to enhance the attractiveness of farming professions, some of which were discussed during the feedback day on 20 January. In order to improve the welcome and induction given to farmers from outside the agricultural world, Vincent Jannot, director of the association Terres de Liens, proposes *"putting in place coherent and co-operative pathways between the different association, cooperative or institutional structures in order to improve the quality of support for all audiences. The CUMA play an essential role in this, by enabling the sharing and pooling of agricultural equipment."* The other recommendations included a proposal to reduce the administrative burden on breeders by means of management or accounting training. Introducing a CSR or environmental policy also constitutes a means of attracting the younger generation, who are aware of these issues. Working conditions must also evolve, by for example involving agricultural workers more in decision-making and by promoting their prospects for development.

More information...

[www.gis-avenir-elevages.org](http://www.gis-avenir-elevages.org)

## Installation of new entrants in agriculture: what are the lessons to be learned in Europe?

Newbie's sole French partner, RENETA shares its views on this European project which ended at the end of 2021 with a seminar in Montpellier. Funded as part of Horizon 2020, Newbie brought together structures from nine countries to focus on the issue of the installation of new entrants in agriculture.



The Newbie partners visit the Mas de la Victoire, an organic olive farm in Hérault, in October 2021.

The Newbie\* closing seminar took place in France, and, more particularly, in Montpellier, from 26 to 28 October 2021. Supported by the Horizon 2020 programme, Newbie is a network that between 2018 and 2021 brought together ten organisations from nine European countries, including the French National Agricultural Test Space Network (Réseau National des Espaces-Test Agricoles - RENETA). The focus of their work? The installation of new entrants in agriculture. Over the course of these four years, the partners met several times, exchanged views, made field visits and analysed no less than a hundred routes taken by new entrants : what are their motivations, business models or marketing networks? What obstacles did they encounter, and what support or guidance did they receive? How did they access their means of production? This work resulted in certain notable achievements, such as a map

listing 71 experience sheets for dealing with the obstacles faced by new entrants (access to land, to capital, to knowledge, to markets, etc.), a roadmap for creating a "0 kilometre" network, a tool sheet for creating the business model best suited to the potential of the farm and another for testing agricultural activities, in which RENETA specialises.

*\* New Entrant netWork : Business models for Innovation, entrepreneurship and resilience in European agriculture*

### RENETA: promoting the exchange of practices and experiences

Established in 2012, RENETA brings together sixty or so agricultural test spaces. Agricultural test spaces, which first appeared in France in the early 2000s, are tools which are intended to secure the installation paths of new entrants in agriculture, by guiding them and enabling them to test their activities with limited risks. "Our main objective is to encourage the exchange of practices and experiences" explains Jean-Baptiste Cavalier. The network therefore organises several meetings over the course of the year, such as national meetings or equinox meetings, and leads working groups. Members discuss subjects such as knowledge transfer, collective activities testing, economic models, CAPE contracts (Contrat d'Appui au Projet d'Entreprise - Enterprise Project Support Contract)... RENETA also offers a range of support services in the form of training as well as feasibility studies and mentoring. "It's all about personalised support: our objective is not to duplicate a model, but for each region to develop their own."

More information... <https://reneta.fr>



### "Consolidating our links with players across Europe and promoting agricultural activity testing"

By Jean-Baptiste Cavalier, National facilitator-coordinator, RENETA

"In the same way as the MCDR projects in which we are involved (USAGER-E-S and HAPPYTERR), Newbie has given us the means to work in multi-partnerships and organise numerous meetings on a common issue: generational change in agriculture. The project has allowed us to create and consolidate our links with players across Europe and to promote agricultural activity testing. Our Bulgarian, Slovenian, German and Scottish partners are very interested, for example, and we are currently considering how to continue our cooperation. Thanks to Newbie, we have also developed links beyond the network: with Graines de Paysans in Wallonia and RETA in Spain. This project has also been an opportunity to question our

practices and to take a step back from the French reality: we are ahead of the pack, in particular on the issue of access to land with the activities of Safer and Terre de Liens."



## TransAgriDom: movers and shakers in agricultural innovation meet in Guadeloupe

From 16 to 22 May, around 150 people from the overseas agricultural world met 2022 in Guadeloupe and Marie-Galante as part of the final annual meeting of TransAgriDom, a project coordinated by Cirad. Workshops and field visits punctuated the week-long event, intended to meet the innovation needs of farmers and agricultural businesses in France's overseas territories. The purpose: to strengthen ties and share experiences in order to meet the challenges of agro-ecological transition overseas.



Having met in Martinique in 2016, Réunion and Mayotte in 2017 and Guyana in 2019, Guadeloupe was the venue for the Agricultural Innovation and Transfer Networks (Réseaux d'innovation et de transfert agricole - RITA) actors involved in the TransAgriDom project since 2018. These researchers, engineers, teachers, technicians and production representatives from the Antilles, Guyana, La Réunion, Mayotte, Polynesia, Wallis-et-Futuna and France itself had been invited to discuss shared agronomic and agricultural topics of interest over the course of a week.

*"How to improve production and quality by diversifying and promoting agricultural production, and ensuring better control over imported inputs? How to promote local food thanks to fodder and meadows? This interDOM meeting in particular provided the occasion to organise our institutional colloquium on the subject of food sovereignty",* explains Frank Enjalric, national RITA co-host and head of the TransAgriDom project. The remainder of the week was punctuated by numerous workshops and collective work sessions and visits to farms, as well as technical and research centres. It was the perfect opportunity to discover concrete and innovative solutions implemented by Guadeloupe's farmers. *"They were delighted to welcome us to their farms. Our visits were seen as a form of recognition of their practices and convictions",* the project leader testifies.

### 25 field visits and 10 workshops

Divided into themed groups (animal or plant production), the participants for example visited the premises of ASSOFWI, a fruit producers' association which experiments with and develops alternative practices in organic farming: manure, vermicompost, crop associations, agroforestry plots... Thirty or so kilometres away, Miguel Hery, a banana producer transitioning to organic farming, welcomed a group of visitors: *"Beekeeping in banana plantations, grass cover managed with sheep, studies for a soil profile... this farmer talked about his courage and will to become involved in organic farming"*. Further north, in Lamentin, Félix Combes, an organic egg producer, demonstrated his infrastructure and poultry runs in the undergrowth, and explained his marketing system in great detail.

In total, the group made 25 field visits throughout the week, to breeders, market gardeners, and producers of vanilla, coffee, cocoa, cassava, etc. The event was completed by ten workshops devoted to the management of soil fertility, the characterisation and quality of honey, animal health and welfare, chlordecone pollution, agritourism and short supply chains... Plenty of exchanges, work and shared views between players in agro-ecological transition, intended to facilitate the deployment of innovations and their appropriation by the farmers of France's overseas territories.



Soil profile study and explanation by Loïc Normand, from the Institut Technique Tropical (IT<sup>2</sup>), in a banana plantation.

More information...

[www.cirad.fr](http://www.cirad.fr)



## Uniting breeders and territorial players around extensive livestock breeding in wetlands

On 15 March, at the Grande Arche at la Défense, the Forum des Marais Atlantiques (FMA) organised a seminar to present its experiment, "Preservation of extensive livestock breeding, wetland management". It was an opportunity to involve breeders and experts, and to draw lessons from the measures taken over the past four years at the pilot sites.

*"Wetlands play an ecological and climate regulation role that is widely recognised today. As an interface between land and water, they shape our landscapes with a remarkable diversity"* stated Marie-Laure Metayer, Deputy Director of Water and Biodiversity at the Ministry of Ecological Transition, in her introductory remarks. She also made a point of recalling the benefits of extensive livestock breeding, *"which is of major importance to the preservation of wetlands, natural resources and water quality as well as the biological diversity of these spaces."* Marie-Hélène Aubert, Inspector General of the CGEDD, and Yves Brugière-Garde, rapporteur of the CGAAER, for their part praised *"the richness of the FMA mission in terms of knowledge. A human adventure which has been able to highlight the actors in the field and the breeders."*



*Wetlands play a major ecological role and help regulate the climate. Working to preserve them is essential.*

Following the introductory speeches, Florence Thinzilal, head of the agro-ecology hub at FMA, introduced the different pilot sites involved in the MCDR project: the Cotentin and Bessin marshlands, the Picardie maritime plains and the Brouage marshes in Charente-Maritime. She also gave more detail about the various lines of work that had been put in place: public aid, land, promotion of livestock breeding practices, sensible pest management, local involvement, etc.

### Encouraging the installation of breeders

The day's roundtables then addressed ways of encouraging extensive breeding practices and bringing breeders together in a sustainable and long-term approach, by introducing public aid tools (MAEC, PSE) and their new allocation terms. The territories themselves were also not short of ideas for encouraging the

installation of breeders, such as the Association Foncière Pastorale (AFP) in the Brouage marshes. Established in 2019, this body brings owners and breeders together with a view to their mutual benefit, which makes it possible to reduce the pressure of the cost of land. *"Our body brings together approximately 1600 owners spread across 4825 plots with a surface area of 7500 hectares,"* explained Carlos Origlia, AFP's administration and financial manager. *"We have brought about the restoration of the water network, and we are planning for the restoration of the pipelines starting from 2023."*

### A haven of biodiversity

The seminar also provided an opportunity to bring to mind the significant diversity of flora and fauna in the wetlands. Extensive livestock breeding on natural grassland promotes harmony between species. Thus, the Brière, the Poitevin and Breton marshes are home to 90% of the French breeding population of the black-tailed godwit, a species of wading bird which is under threat in Europe. However, if flora and fauna can be found in abundance in wetlands, so are parasites. *"The wetlands contain a wide diversity of ubiquitous or specific parasites"*, mentioned veterinarian Anne Barbier, before underlining the importance of sensible pest control as a guarantor of biological equilibrium and the ecosystems in these particular environments.

### Towards the creation of a future network

To round off the day, Mélanie Bordier, head of the MCDR project at the FMA, presented the results of a survey carried out on all of the partners and contacts established over the course of the project in order to determine the future direction of experiments. *"% of respondents favoured the creation of a national network of players in extensive livestock breeding in wetlands. This would help to promote the sharing of knowledge and all experience between regions,"* she reported. *Although the criteria for selecting and integrating the regions are yet to be specified, we can assume that the Breton marshes, the Brière, the Escaut basin in the Hauts-de-France or even the Camargue are interested."* Continuing the mission of the FMA, this network should see the light of day in 2023.

### More information...

<https://elevation.forum-zones-humides.org>

| Livestock breeding in the Brouage marshes, one of the experimental pilot sites.



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## RnPAT: a strengthened, well-equipped network

Supported by the two MCDR calls for tender (2015 and 2018), RnPAT promotes the networking of actors in regional food projects (Projects Alimentaires Territoriaux - PAT) in order to generalise their co-construction, implementation and evaluation. A look at the network's figures confirms its dynamism.

A network that has not stopped expanding, a PAT observatory (OnPAT) which is recognised as "essential" by the Directorate General for Food, four in-depth analyses of the PAT (PATNorama), four workshops on the method for evaluating the PAT (EvalPAT), three forward-thinking workshops (PATLab)... In total, the National Network of Regional Food Projects (Réseau National des Projects Alimentaires Territoriaux - RnPAT) organised no fewer than 17 events, produced almost thirty deliverables and listed several hundred resources and tools for developing, financing, deploying, leading and even evaluating a PAT. This is the outcome of this MCDR project piloted by the Terres en Villes network, in cooperation with the French Chambers of Agriculture (APCA) and the ten other founding members of the network. **"A positive feeling prevails at the end of this project**, confides Marc Nielsen, Director of Terres en Villes and RnPAT project manager. *The adoption of PATs intensified with the France Relance plan: the country had a total of 197 labelled PATs as of 31 December 2020, but today, there are 393 (including 373 which are MAA-labelled). This dynamic contributes to the vitality of the RnPAT and confirms its relevance."*

Governance, economic models, innovation, food justice, social accessibility, environment, urban-rural or inter-PAT cooperation, nutrition-health... these are the dimensions that the partners have explored throughout the course of the MCDR project. The latest subject of discussion: the PATs which emerged in 2021, following the second labelling wave. *"As part of PATnorama no. 4, we are studying 20 or so new PATs. In particular, we have noted an increase in rural PATs: an urban-rural rebalancing has taken place. There is also an increase in PATs supported by inter-municipalities, project regions (PNR or PETR), municipalities and departments: **this portends better coherence and articulation of the different levels of food policy**"* As part of this qualitative study, the RnPAT is also interested in the impact of the relaunch plan on existing PATs : *"For example, we are going to look at what type of project has emerged thanks to the 77 million Euros provided for in the plan."*

*"In the last few years, we have also updated the PAT Bank and integrated the two labelling levels which differentiate emerging and advanced PATs,"* Marc Nielsen continues. Among the latest deliverables currently being developed, the partners are working on a summary of the four EvalPAT workshops devoted to **evaluating the PAT system and its effects on the regions**: *"The last workplace took place on 22 March. The aim of the publication is to report on what is being done in terms of evaluation approaches. The challenge is to gain a better understanding of the effects of the PAT mechanism on the regions and for PAT leaders to improve the effectiveness of their policies."*

“

*We have noted an increase in rural PATs: an urban-rural rebalancing has taken place*

The final meeting for the network members: in Paris, for the annual RnPAT Forum. *"It is the opportunity to hear the contributions of the regions in terms of impact and to confirm **a declaration which first of all aims to underline the usefulness of the PATs** – action contre la précarité alimentaire, amélioration de la qualité nutritionnelle des aliments, mise en place de modèles économiques innovants... - action against food insecurity, improving the nutritional quality of food, the implementation of innovative economic models... – but also to provide recommendations: the PATs have room for improvement. This declaration forms part of a particular context of formalising a national network of PATs, beyond MCDR financing and focusing on the ambitions of the Climate and Resilience Law."*

More information... <https://rnpat.fr>



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

## Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

### Making the phenomenon of poverty in rural areas more visible

Launched in 2019 by Cap Rural and the Laboratoire d'Études Rurales de l'Université Lyon 2, the "Poverty and Precariousness in Rural Areas" project resulted in a range of actions and work intended to better take into account the realities and needs of rural areas.

*"Poverty in rural areas is still an insufficiently recognised phenomenon" says Patrick Grimault, project manager at Cap Rural, Rural network for Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. "This is partly to do with the wide variety of audiences affected, who live in very heterogeneous spaces. The rural world also has specific problems, in particular in terms of mobility with the lack of public transport and must also face a precarious housing situation. In particular because in rural areas, housing unfit for habitation is often taken up with a certain degree of resignation."*

Faced with these findings and in order to mitigate the lack of visibility of these issues, Cap Rural had initiated a project on the topics of poverty and precariousness in rural areas driven by a unifying, dynamic spirit: *"We organised two regional days in 2019 and 2020 with the aim of bringing together actors in local development and the social sector. This also provided the opportunity to observe the realities on the ground and to share the actions and feedback from the various actors. Bringing together more than 170 participants, these meetings made it possible to decompartmentalise approaches and to engage in collective reflection on the means to be implemented in order to improve economic and social conditions in our regions."*

Cap Rural's commitment continues today as part of a working group dedicated to rural areas as part of the national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty. Patrick Grimault is the co-leader of this group in partnership with Claire Delfosse, director of the Laboratoire d'Études Rurales (LER) at Université Lyon 2: *"More than 50 entities answered our call for expressions of interest. These included State and Regional services, Department-level Councils and communities of municipalities. In addition to the agricultural and business world, the association sector was also strongly involved, as exemplified by the Compagnons Bâisseurs or integration and emergency aid actors."* The working group that was thus constituted developed a roadmap which defined several intervention axes: mobility, employment, access to culture, leisure or quality food and living well in rural areas.

More information...

[www.caprural.org](http://www.caprural.org)

## Grand Est

### Local Action Groups gathered in Strasbourg for a day on rural youth

On 24 May, the Grand Est rural network organised a "Rural Youth" day at the Lieu d'Europe in Strasbourg. Thirty or so actors from the LAGs came together, both physically and virtually, to share and discuss the involvement, citizenship and training of young people.

The morning started with a presentation by Conseil régional des jeunes, a body which brings together 72 male and female volunteers aged between 15 and 29 years of age on an equal basis. Meeting twice a year in a plenary session, they talk about projects related to the environment, involvement, equality or even inter-religious dialogue. *"The objective is to train them in decision-making so that they can become proactive in regional projects that meet their aspirations"* explains Clémentine Laurent, co-host of the Grand Est rural network.

Another actor in popular education, the international association Solidarités Jeunesses also presented its projects in the Grand Est, including the rehabilitation of a former tile factory into a living space focusing on social, cultural and intergenerational diversity. The morning ended with a presentation on the regional and European tools and mechanisms for young people hoping to gain autonomy, or to get involved in or bring to life a project: the LOJ'-Toit and



Do you speak Jeun'Est regional platforms, calls for proposals for regional civic service projects in rural areas such as Erasmus+, Centre Europe Direct, etc. The exchanges then continued during a friendly visit to the European Parliament.

*"The LAGs are asking for events focusing on youth, as part of the drafting of their strategy for the next CAP programme," assures Louise Blum, co-host of the regional rural network. "In Grand Est as in other regions, a demographic loss and a problem of attractiveness can be observed: it is a question of ensuring that young people do not move away after finishing their studies, or even of giving them the opportunity to return to settle in their region of origin. Throughout the day, we wanted to specifically highlight the training and involvement mechanisms which make it possible to launch many projects in our rural areas."*

More information...

[www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr)



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

## Brittany

For years now, the Brittany rural network has been interested in the topic of youth in rural areas, and specifically on ways to meet the expectations of young people and encouraging their activity in the region. Today, the Réseau is co-host to one of 16 projects in the Breton Plan for Youth Mobilisation.



In 2021 and 2022, close to 80 young people and youth professionals came together to participate in a research activity on third places as part of TELA, an Erasmus+ youth dialogue project led by the Rennes association Keur Eskemm.

Enabling young people from rural areas to build their own projects and to flourish in their countryside. It was with this objective that the Brittany rural network has since 2018 made rural youth one of its main working themes. This is a target which affects a large portion of the rural population, as a recent Insee study highlighted (see box). How can we give young people in rural areas a voice and involve them in local life? How can we support them and meet their needs? These two issues have guided the work of the rural network which initiated two major activities in response: an outreach cycle and the Rural'Idées 2 calls for proposals.

In order to provide answers, resources and examples on expressing and taking into account the voices of young rural people, the Brittany rural network launched an outreach cycle dedicated to young people. It was particularly interested in two Breton experiences - the "Nerzh" operation in the Pays Centre Ouest Bretagne (COB) and the "co-operative youth" approach in the Pays d'Auray - and organised meetings between the two regions. These connections led to the creation of a "who does what" mental map in terms of supporting young people, and to a day of discussions on the topic of mobility, a priority issue for young rural people. By way of summary as well as to provide further depth, the Brittany rural network finally published a booklet devoted to "support initiatives and mechanisms for young people in rural areas in Brittany, France and Europe".

"Young people need places in which to meet, collaborate and co-construct projects." This observation, brought to light by the outreach cycle, is at the origin of the Rural'Idées 2 calls for proposals, "Third places for rural youth". Five winners from among 26 applications were guided and supported as their projects emerged: the Parallèle (Redon - 35), the Bistrot Lab' (Coësmes

## Rural youth: focus on a Brittany priority

- 35), the Plougonven Mayor's Office (29), Familles Rurales Vivre Ensemble in Plumelin (56) and Familles Rurales Guissény. To follow up on this support, the rural network produced five summary sheets on the different key methodological elements for creating a third place for young people: "Experimenting with the creation of a third place for young people", "Youth mobilisation", "The power of young people to act", "Resource mobilisation and the partnership strategy" and "Calling on local public institutions".

Building on this experience, the Brittany rural network is now involved in the Breton Plan for Youth Mobilisation (2020-2025). In particular, it is the co-host of project 12, "Developing a differentiated regional approach". Its objective? Promoting access to rights and services for young people, regardless of where they live: rural areas or "urban policy" neighbourhoods.

More information...

[www.reseaurural.fr](http://www.reseaurural.fr)



## Insee study: "In Brittany, more than half of young people live in a rural community"

Published in January 2022, the Insee study on the life paths of young Bretons growing up in rural areas noted in particular that 51.4% of Bretons between three and 24 years of age lived in a rural community. This region-wide proportion, the second highest after Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, differs according to age, however: it drops sharply at the age of 18, when part of these rural young people move to urban areas, mainly to continue their studies. At this age, the proportion of young people living in rural areas drops to 38.7%

More information...

[www.insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr)

# NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

## Wallonia

## Social farming: in Belgium, farms “heal”

Bringing well-being and benchmarks to “fragile” people with stays on the farm. That is the goal of social farming. In Wallonia, this concept has been widely developed over the last 10 years, in particular thanks to the support of the Walloon rural network. In April, this led to the first Festival of Social Farming.



More than 1000 people flocked to the Abbaye de Floreffe in Namur on 30 April to participate in the first Walloon Festival of Social Farming. This was a success for the Walloon rural network, which has been working for more than 10 years to raise awareness of the concept of social farming and to support the emergence and development of the sector. *"In 2009, the LAG Haute Sûre Forêt d'Anlier launched a pilot project, « Social integration farms » in order to experiment with ways of welcoming fragile people on farms – those suffering from social exclusion, those with disabilities or dependence – monitored by social and medical bodies"* explains Xavier Delmon, coordinator of the Walloon rural network. **The aim of this social accommodation on farms: to allow the members of the public that they welcome to get their bearings, and achieve well-being.** *"There are many benefits for the individuals, but also for the host farmers and social workers. For the former, this allows them, among other things, to get out of an institutional setting, to come into contact with nature and animals, to gain autonomy and self-confidence... for the farmers, this enhances their work and know-how, while giving them back a key role within society. On the institutional side, this is a new framework of experience which offers opportunities for observation outside of the institutional context,"* explains Xavier Delmon.

In order to support this dynamic, the Walloon ministers of agriculture and social action and health acted in 2014 to create

Workshops to learn how to make bread or wicker baskets, concerts, screenings, debates, puppet and dance shows... the Festival of Social Farming provided the opportunity for the farming world and civil society to re-establish links.

Measure 16.9 on the "diversification of farming and forestry activities in the health sector" as part of the 2014-2020 Walloon rural development programme. With 3,809,900 Euros of funding from EAFRD, the measure enabled **the emergence of 15 social farming projects and the hosting of 551 individuals.** *"Sponsored by social institutions or LAGs, these projects are very diverse, both in terms of the audiences that they receive and the ways in which they receive them (occasional or regular, individual or collective, short or long term, etc.)."* On the farm, the farmers offer to share their daily lives – laying straw, feeding and brushing the animals, picking, planting, cooking – but also time together, coffees, meals... *"They are not educators, we call them 'life experts'. Creating social accommodation on a farm requires the presence of guides to monitor the accommodation conditions and the suitability of the individual's capabilities and the activities that are offered"* explains the coordinator.

What happens in the event of an accident? What insurance is there to cover the risks? What safety measures are put in place and what follow-up is there for the individuals? Many questions arise when a social farming project is being set up. To guide the project managers, the Réseau Rural Wallon in 2016 created a working group, "Social farming and forestry", and organised seminars,



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS



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workshops, field visits and study trips within this framework. In 2019, this working group was also **involved in modifications to the Walloon Farming Code, to include the concept of "rural social accommodation"**. *"This was a real step forward for our ambition to institutionalise social farming and to have its therapeutic contributions recognised,"* emphasises Xavier Delmon. To find out more, all of the activities of the Walloon rural network as well as feedback from project managers and testimonials from beneficiaries are detailed in a themed notebook *thématique*.

More information... <https://agriculture sociale.be>



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## Recommended reading: Social farming in Wallonia

This fifth Notebook from the Walloon rural network offers an overview of social accommodation on the farm, European benchmarking as well as initiatives, profiles of the actors, recommendations, resources... 64 pages in which to discover social farming in Wallonia in depth.



The French Rural Network brings together all the stakeholders in the rural world at the national and regional level to enable them to exchange and work together. The objective is to facilitate the implementation of projects linking agriculture, forestry, trade and commerce, tourism, the environment, services, etc. In the course of its work, the Rural Network offers tools, methods, analyses and recommendations.

## RESSOURCES



### Urban exodus? Small flows, major impacts – Residential mobility in the (post-)Covid era; FRN and Puca; February 2022

A first summary of the national survey led by French Rural network and Puca, this 12-page publication focuses on "the hidden meaning of the expression urban exodus". In particular, it details the impact of the health crisis on the attractiveness of rural areas and on French investment behaviour. The result of work carried out by three research teams brought together as part of the POPSU Territoires programme.

<https://popsu.archi.fr>

### Rural culture and development – A guide for project managers and elected representatives; FRN, Jean-Luc Pouts and Jean-Michel Tobelem; 144 p.

Commissioned by the French Rural network in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the ANCT, a survey performed in 2021 enabled the analysis of 30 cultural projects in order to observe and identify the conditions for their development in rural areas. As the result of this work, this guide notably offers methodological benchmarks for culture and tourism project managers: elected representatives, technicians, associations, entrepreneurs...



<https://www.reseaurural.fr>



### In their boots; Jeunes Agriculteurs Aveyron; 39 episodes

Who are these farmers? Why did they choose this profession? A series of podcasts published between 2020 and 2022 by the Jeunes Agriculteurs Aveyron allows farmers interviewed on their farms to speak out. Market gardeners, breeders, winegrowers and cereal growers share their stories, doubts, ideas and vision about their profession and agriculture.

<https://podcast.ausha.co>

### A history of farmers, drivers of progress; France Culture; 4 episodes

From the Fertile Crescent, the farmland of the world's first empires, to farming destinies under the Ancien Régime, four France Culture podcasts invite you to explore the history of farmers as drivers of progress.



<https://www.radiofrance.fr>

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