

THE REVIEW

of the French Rural network

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THE INTERVIEW
ANNIE GENEVARD
NATIONAL MOUNTAIN
COUNCIL



LE DOSSIER
**MOUNTAIN
AREAS
IN TRANSITION**

The diversity and agriculture of mountain areas are the focus of the article in issue 19 of the Rural Network Review.

Mountain areas have become a tourist and leisure sector in their own right: skiing, hiking, paragliding, rural holidays etc. Previously tourism and leisure activities were seen by farmers as being an economic sideline, now tourism represents an important asset in the development of farming and local production. As the "Avenir Montagnes" plan appeared in 2021, the Rural Network Review will highlight these areas and their challenges.

Challenges for agriculture, which in these areas are the essential local source of added value for economic activity and use of space, but also the driving factor for the preservation of biodiversity and maintenance of tourist attractiveness.

Challenges for mountain areas at the centre of current transitions, foremost among which is adaptation to climate change. From this perspective, the conversion to other modes of tourism is closely related to agricultural practices: agro-ecological practices, short supply chains, pastoralism, tourist diversification, farm visits etc.

With the "Avenir Montagnes" plan, the objective is to boost investments for the transformation of these areas. 150 million Euros from State credits in the form of Bpifrance loans, guaranteed by the Caisse des dépôts (national public bank), and the same amount from the six regions concerned, will add massively to the investments that the mountain stakeholders and project engineering team will use for the areas that need it and to accelerate the ecological transition of mountain tourist activities.

With Annie Genevard, deputy of the Doubs region and new president of the CNM (National Mountain Council) permanent commission as a witness, the Review will set out a vision of the elected representatives from mountain areas, on the transitions in progress in these areas, tourism economic challenges, opportunities opened up by mountain area agro-tourism, mountain area law, taking into account the specific characteristics of the areas etc. Simone Saillant, Director of the ANCT program, will explain the "Avenir Montagnes" plan and its implementation.

Finally, considering that one out of six farms are in mountain areas, this article would not be complete without the opinion of the farming profession on the advantages of the PAC in mountain areas through all of its priority interventions of which the ICHN representing 680 million Euros (2019) yearly and which will be continued for the next period 2023-2027. Other PAC schemes are targeted such as quality labels used as development tools and the consolidation of networks or support for pastoralism. All this works towards a project dynamic that the National Rural Network contributes to for its development..

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THE INTERVIEW

"In the context of climate change, mountain areas have a role to play"

Doubs parliamentary representative, Annie Genevard was named president of the permanent commission for the National Mountain Council (CNM) in April 2021. She will remind us about the role of this authority, its challenges and the assets of mountainous areas as well as any on-going changes in Mountain law II and the Avenir Montagnes plan, launched in May 2021.



What is the role of the National Mountain Council?

This is a consulting authority set up by the first Mountain law, dated January 9th 1985. This authority chaired by the Prime Minister and, by delegation, the minister in charge of land development.

The CNM submits proposals, offers opinions and keeps track of topics relating to the policies and future of mountain areas. Its aim is to suggest actions associated with these subjects and be a place where discussions between government and the area's representatives concerned can take place: members of regional and departmental assemblies, members of parliament, representatives

of French mountains and consulate agencies, economical and associative representatives. Currently, the assembly has 58 members, elected and professional, who are appointed by decree and gather at least once a year.



Mountain areas have a lot of natural assets but are also fragile as a result of their characteristics.

What are the specific characteristics of mountain areas?

They cover around a quarter of the national area. Mountainous environments are a reservoir of biodiversity that must be protected. They also represent an excellent resource for other areas. Mountain areas also have a lot of natural assets but are also fragile as a result of their specific characteristics: steep gradients, altitude, a sometimes harsh mountain climate etc. These aspects make the construction of road, rail and even digital infrastructures more difficult and more expensive and these are absolutely essential as a non-equipped mountain is a by-passed mountain. However, investments made then allow the full development of all natural resources, such as agriculture and livestock farming in particular.

In this context, the National Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (ANEM) - that I chaired from 2018 to 2020, after having been the general secretary for two years - is a stable and dynamic structure that plays a vital role in mountain environment management.

What are the main current challenges for mountainous areas?

In the context of climate change, mountain areas have a role to play: their climate remains cool during heat waves and the wide areas are perfect for various activities all year round, sports in particular. I don't think snow activities should be put aside prematurely. They still represent a powerful factor in economic development. One of the largest challenges for this sector is to grow tourism services by focusing on innovation and moving upmarket. This means catering for clients requests which are more demanding today, they are looking for high quality accommodation in holiday cottages and guest houses. This will involve renovations for outdated holiday accommodation.



Farming is the primary economic activity in mountain areas.

This development is one of the subjects in the "Avenir Montagnes" plan, launched in May 2021 by the Prime Minister. It plans a total budget of 650 million Euros for mountain areas, increased by the State and Regions, in order to develop a durable tourist model and to compensate for the negative impact of Covid-19 on resort visits. Indeed, this has caused large losses for the tourism and winter sports industry.

The plan also includes measures to expand tourist activities throughout the year. In this context, the development of mountain agro-tourism and improvement of the cultural heritage of mountainous regions are promising areas for future development.

How is farming changing in mountain areas?

Farming is the primary economic activity in mountain areas. It is currently experiencing major challenges due to significant natural constraints it is faced with, particularly water supply during periods of increased drought. Compensatory Allowances for Areas with Natural Handicaps, paid as the Common Agricultural Policy (PAC), are one solution to this problem.

Maintaining pastoralism is another essential challenge. Livestock farmers are now living in a period of incertitude due to pressure put on their activities by the predation of wolves, a highly protected species at European level.

What changes will be introduced by the Mountain law II dated December 28th 2016?

This new law is an updated version of the first law dating from 1985, in which some provisions had become obsolete due to the appearance of new subjects, such as challenges linked to the digital boom. Also, school mapping was reviewed so that National Education inspectors could take into account the specificities of mountain areas more efficiently. Similarly, concerning health, the new law will improve medical care, as access to care is sometimes complex in certain mountain areas, particularly during the winter.

Also, experiments allowed to be carried out by the first law, concerning land planning for example, were continued by the new law if they had been successful, still in keeping with the land differentiation path..

Her biography:

Vice-president of the National Assembly since 2017.

Les Républicains Deputy for Doubs since 2012.

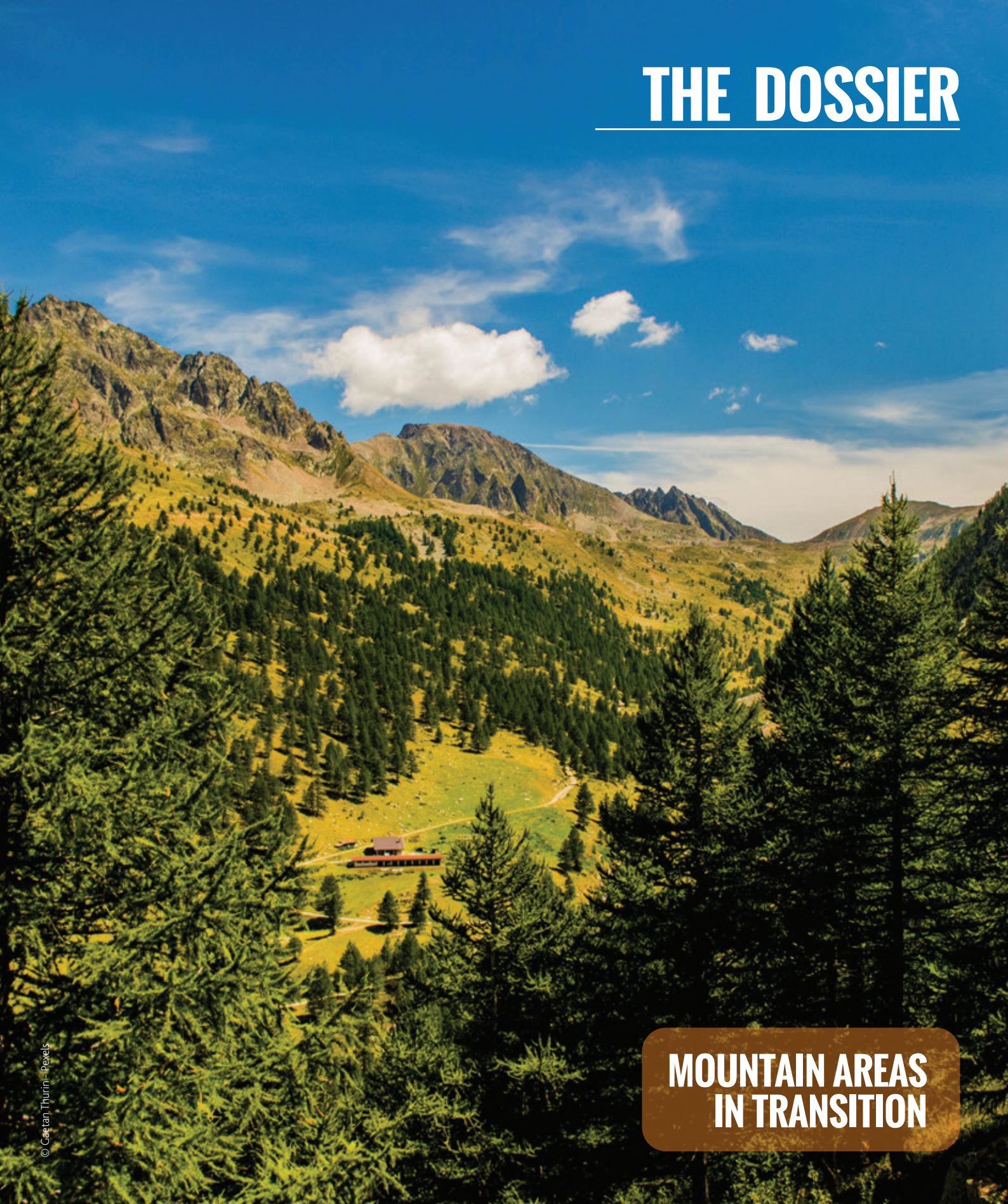
Mayor of Morteau from 2002 to 2017.

Member of the National Association of Elected Representatives for Mountain Areas (ANEM) since 2002. Chaired this authority from 2019 to 2020 after being the General Secretary from 2016 to 2018.

Rapporteur of the Mountain Law project in 2016.

More information...

Le CNM : www.cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr
L'ANEM : www.anem.fr



© Gaetan Thurin - Pexels

MOUNTAIN AREAS IN TRANSITION

As a popular tourist destination, particularly in this health crisis period, mountain areas face profound economic, climatic, demographic transitions. How do the French massifs adapt and overcome these challenges? What are the challenges for the preservation of their natural resources, their local know-how and their agriculture? Guidance from experts and local representatives.

Avenir Montagnes: an ambitious support plan in two phases

"Avenir montagnes", an investment support government scheme, will enable mountain areas to finance projects to develop a more sustainable and resilient tourist industry. It will also integrate an engineering phase, ran by the ANCT, to bring operational support to 60 areas.



The objective of "Avenir montagnes" is to support key players in mountain areas in developing varied tourist activities that are more sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change. Launched in April by the Government, this investment support scheme for mountain areas, mobilises nearly 650 million Euros of public funds (including 300 million Euros in investment aid). With this budget, the massifs will be able to develop projects for the protection and improvement of biodiversity, mountain path renovation, tourist accommodation renovation, experimentation for sustainable mobility service solutions, diversification and deseasonalisation of tourism towards the well-being sector in thermal spa resorts and outdoor sports for example. The scheme also integrates reinforcement of the financing tools for the recovery plan such as the tourism loan. *"Avenir Montagnes has appeared in the context of a health crisis that has greatly impacted the economy of mountain areas. But for several years mountain tourism has dealt with structural challenges requiring support for the areas to move towards a different model. The main one is the impact of climate change which reduces the amount of snow cover or makes it unpredictable, when tourist economy is very reliant on snow sports"* says Simone Saillant, director of the Mountain Rural Program at the ANCT.

In keeping with the identity and distinctive characteristics of the areas, established by the Mountain Law, Avenir Montagnes is the result of meetings and a diagnosis shared with all the representatives of the French massifs - elected representatives, tourism professionals, farmers, forest workers etc. *At the heart of the scheme there is the Avenir Montagnes fund with 331 million Euros, including 300 million Euros in investments, divided equally between the State and the Regions, for area projects. This amount will be integrated into the future State-Regional contracts, the State-Regional inter-regional (CPIER) project contracts with the massif committees. It will in fact double the amount of the CPIER"* says Simone Saillant.



We will provide a whole catalogue of services



Simone Saillant,
director of the Mountain
Rural Program
at the ANCT

The remaining 31 million Euros will be used to finance the scheme's engineering phase: "Avenir montagnes ingénierie". Run by the ANCT, its purpose is to provide operational support to 60 mountain areas that have limited engineering means and that wish to rethink their tourist strategy. *"Our support will first consist of co-financing the project manager's salary, up to 75%, for two years. We will then provide a whole catalogue of services, skills and facilities supplied by public partners such as the Banque des territoires, as well as Atout France, CEREMA or the INRAE as well as ministers for Ecological Transition, Tourism, Sports and Interior (National Police force)"* says the director. The winning areas will, for example, gain support to develop their action plan in a cooperative and citizen-centred way, use the Climsnow tool to quantify the reliability and variability of their snow cover, and Outdoor Vision to measure the number visits to their sports routes etc. *"Our range of services offer which is being finalised will be expanded and will adapt according to the identification of new requirements and partner contributions."* The selection of "Avenir montagnes ingénierie" winning areas will be in two phases of 30 areas: the first phase in Autumn 2021 and the second in Summer 2022.

More information...

www.cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr

Questioning the future of tourism in the Vosges mountains

In the Vosges mountains the area's representatives are reviewing their tourism strategy with regard to the health crisis. Objective: to support the adaptation of the mountains and its inhabitants to the on-going climatic, ecological, societal and economic transitions.



Joining nature, human and economy together. This is the challenge for the two large projects conducted by the Vosges mountain representatives. Since 2018, this area, straddled between the Grand Est and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté regions, has committed to update its tourism strategy and a public discussion about its future inter-regional scheme for the Vosges mountains: "Projects conducted according to the same participative method: digital surveys, meetings, public workshops etc.", emphasises Christophe Lerouge, project manager for the Vosges mountains tourist destination. "Our tourism strategy was part of a destination contract until 2019. We therefore had to anticipate the end date, especially in the context of changes and continuous adaptations." Here the project manager is referring to climatic, economic and societal transitions, some of which have been intensified by the health crisis. "It is a matter of adapting to new tourist behaviour observed during the crisis: people who are unaware of mountain codes or safety or overcrowding of certain sites, such as the Hohneck peak, with environmental impacts on lakes, waterfalls, meadows etc."

Politicians, associations, tourist professionals, scientists, natural area administrators, planners, farmers, citizens, companies etc. A multitude of representatives participated in the development of the new Vosges mountain tourism strategy. They contributed to the development of the action plan centered around three themes: ecotourism, nature discovery tourism and open air activities. "Tourism is a multi-partner approach. We want to encourage cooperation to optimise these networks and stay close to these challenges, insists Christophe Lerouge. Climate change is at the heart of our preoccupations. We are seeing warning signs, in particular about the short-term future of resorts. How can we adapt to better support Nordic activities and jobs? Which services, offers and economic model will be resilient for tomorrow's resorts? The key players in the Vosges region are closely following the transition and diversification method carried out by the Metabief resort, which is considering the end of alpine skiing by 2030-2035.



It is time to look at the meaning of tourism and its practices in a different way.



Christophe Lerouge, project manager for the Vosges mountains tourist destination

"Faced with the extent of the changes, we cannot act alone. All our questions lead to a change in the tourism model in which governance is essential", explains Christophe Lerouge. He is the project manager who hopes to organise a project area conference with the PETR, groups, natural parks, LEADER territories etc. "It is also time to look at the meaning of tourism and its practices in a different way for the environment, population and tourists to live together." After a specialist assessment carried out during the health crisis, the Vosges mountain commission already chose to adopt a new strategic position called "montagne buissonnière." "The guiding principal is to promote a family based, interdependent, local tourism and develop the area's advantages more efficiently: diversity of natural zones, sports activities, trades and industrial expertise (Baccarat, Garnier-Thiebaut, Duval, Meisenthal glassworks etc.)"

Key statistics for tourism in the Vosges mountains

14 million overnight stays
358 hotels and 131 camping sites
280 million Euros in economic benefits
Around 10 000 direct jobs

More information...

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The ICHN: “An essential aid to maintain the vitality of mountain areas”

Interview with Christine Valentin, 1st Vice President of the APCA, President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Lozère, representing the National Mountain Council at the CSO (Higher Council for Advice on Agricultural Economy).



The ICHN is economic aid with social and environmental impact

The ICHN is essential for mountain areas. It is economic aid with social and environmental impact: it contributes to maintaining agricultural activity and therefore life in the areas, but also landscapes particularly by grazing. The annual budget of the ICHN (1.1 billion Euros per year) should be maintained in the future CAP and this aid should be recognised more as environmental under the 2nd pillar.

How does agricultural activity contribute to the vitality of mountain territories?

Livestock farming is the main agricultural production activity in mountain areas. These areas would not be inhabited without this activity. Mountain agriculture is essential. It guarantees the areas' vitality. Behind the animals, there are men, women, villages, shops, schools etc. It is essential to maintain the man-animal relationship for the upkeep of areas, maintaining open landscapes and biodiversity, and territorial development. This is why public area planning policies must support the social fabric that revolves around farms and promote renewal.

**areas where farming is hindered by geography, topography or climate.*

What constraints are mountain farmers facing?

Altitude, cold conditions, steep gradients, isolation etc. In mountain and high mountain areas and in less developed areas, it is not as easy for farmers to produce as in the rest of the territory. They have to deal with more difficult production conditions. Insulating a livestock building, renovating a roof to support snow or digging: these operations are an additional investment cost. The CAP represents a very important part of the financial support for farmers. It helps them to adapt a building, modernise agricultural production or improve livestock autonomy through funding such as the PCAE (Competitiveness and Adaptation Plans for Agricultural Holdings) or the ICHN (Compensatory Allowances for Areas with Natural Handicaps), specific aid intended for disadvantaged territories which require financial compensation to be competitive.

What role does the ICHN play for farmers?

Founded in France in the 1970s as a Special Mountain Allowance (ISM), the ICHN is allocated to places in disadvantaged areas: high mountains, mountains, foothills and less developed areas*. This key part of the 2nd pillar of the CAP and of the rural development policy brings mountain territories closer to the competitiveness of lowland areas. It can represent up to 60% of farmers' income in some regions and allows them, for example, to sell their products at the same price even though their production costs are higher.

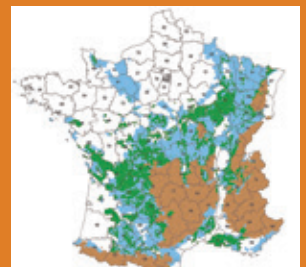
The ICHN in statistics

16 120 French towns classified under ICHN zones in 2019

About 100 000 beneficiary holdings in 2020, with an average amount received of 12 000€ per year

Compensation that varies between 35 and 450 Euro per hectare, capped at 75 hectares per holding

75% of funding provided by the EAFRD (65% from 2023)



More information...

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/quest-ce-que-lichn>

ClimPasto: adapting pastoral practices to climate change

Impacted by climate change, mountain agriculture is changing constantly. The ClimPasto project, supported by the French Rural network, studies the consequences of this change in the French massifs and is interested in the way in which livestock farmers and farmers adapt their practices.



Sharing experiences, learning, knowledge sharing, consolidating already existing programs etc. These are the objectives for the ClimPasto project, supported by Suaci in partnership with Idele, INRAE, pastoral services and around ten Chambers of Agriculture. Started at the beginning of the year for a two year period, this was requested by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to work on climate change and its impact on pastoralism. "Our region covers three massifs: Jura, Alps and Massif central. We realised that each of them had their own climate change projects, with many similarities" says Anne Castex, director of Suaci Montagn'Alpes. Following this observation, we decided to launch an inter-massifs project, grouping together the AP3C (Massif central), Alpage Sentinelle (Alps), Resysth (Jura) and OPCC (Pyrénées) programs.

Observing and monitoring the impacts of climate change

ClimPasto is based on three areas, starting with the observation part. Its objective? Sharing agroclimate indicators from each massif area and observing if any of them are the same, or if some of them can be coordinated etc. "It is a real challenge to share experience to understand the choices made in each area, coordinate methods and eventually draw-up a recommendation guide. At the same time we are working on setting up observatories, monitoring indicators and what is shown from them, the way we analyse results", explains Marielle André, project leader. Each of them will develop their own strategy. For example Massif Central is collaborating with a climatologist to carry out climatic forecasts, while Jura is organising participation workshops with farmers.

Determining the resilience of pastoral environments

The second area of the project, called "pastothèque", consists of identifying and characterising the different types of pastoral environments. It gave rise to the creation of 70 presentation sheets. "This is a project which already existed and which was financed by European funds but which was not sufficient to cover all of our pastoral territories. Funding from the National Rural Network will enrich our knowledge of the departments of the Northern Alps or the Ardèche, for example, so that classification is comprehensive", specifies Anne Castex. The aim here is to determine the vulnerability and resilience of each environment to climate change.

Adapting methods

The last area, supported by the Chambers of Agriculture, focuses on adapting methods. As part of this, forty-six surveys will be carried out by the end of the year in each department participating in the project. Although these surveys have not yet been launched, it is still possible to have ideas for adapting methods: changing the transhumance route, variation of ascent dates in summer, creation of rotating pastures etc. "Pastoral methods can vary in many ways depending on each farm and the local context. They can be put in place and tested immediately as the livestock farmers must find solutions rapidly. The idea is to then share good ideas and best practices with the livestock farmers", says Marielle André. Anne Castex continues: "We also have to identify what is required to facilitate these solutions and the leveraging tools to encourage and promote these adaptations."

More information...

www.suaci-alpes.fr

AOC, PDO, PGI, etc. Labels that are energising mountain areas

They guarantee the origin and quality of a product, promote local know-how, maintain the diversity of agricultural production in an environmentally responsible way. Labels of origin and quality (SIQO) participate in the economic development of rural areas. Focussing on three of them in mountain areas with their representatives' accounts.

"The PDO has enabled cooperative members to become masters of their own destiny"

Chrystelle Hustache, coordinator for the Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage sector

"We won the PDO for the Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage cheese in 1998. It is a small sector that groups together 35 dairy farms of which nine are processors. The majority are grouped together in the Vercors Dairy cooperative. With the PDO, livestock farmers wanted to enhance the value of their milk by adding a historic cheese and keeping agriculture alive in our mountain areas where collection costs are high. This label has allowed cooperative members to become masters of their own destiny: in 2003 they purchased the only processing unit in the area. The dairy now employs 45 people and is one of the five largest companies in the area. There were no farm processors before the PDO. Today, there will soon be ten, including a young farmer who has set up on his family farm. Maintaining this type of agriculture has many benefits: preserving the local Villarde cow breed, maintaining our landscape heritage, contributing to the tourist appeal of the area and preserving our biodiversity, especially the flora, which gives organoleptic qualities to our cheeses. Our speciality is the Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage cheese."

More information... www.vercorslait.com

"The AOC is a driving factor for federation, communication and area development."

Jeanne-Véronique Davesne, coordinator of the Interprofessional Committee for Chartreuse Wood

"Obtained in 2018, the AOC Bois de Chartreuse certifies natural factors - land with steep gradients and significant rainfall - which creates a very productive forest and expertise, in particular uneven-aged forest management. This preserves a constant forest cover, maintains the massif's landscape, biodiversity, soil and water quality and limits landslides and avalanches. The objective of the AOC was to structure the sector, create a dynamic between the representatives

and maintain jobs in the territory. Foresters, loggers, landing men/women, sawyers, carpenters and architects: we have more than 350 professionals in the sector. The AOC is a driving factor for federation, communication, area development and a sign of identification. It has improved the reputation of our wood, with its large knots which have wrongly been considered as fragile. The AOC has also brought investment momentum with a project for the creation of a new sawmill. And finally it is where people can exchange their ideas. For example, we are organising AOC "live my craftsman life" days to educate the general public about the forest and its management as well as the use of wood in construction."

More information... bois-de-chartreuse.fr

"The PGI has become a regional emblem with a great impact on tourism"

Cécile Richaud, project manager of the CESAR association, an organisation for the defence and management of Sisteron lambs

The Sisteron slaughterhouse is the leading specialised sheep slaughterhouse in France. With our PGI (Protected Geographic Indication) Sisteron lambs, we wanted to prevent everything coming out of this slaughterhouse from being stamped with Sisteron lamb. This is to protect this high quality lamb, which appears on world-famous tables such as the Queen of England's, and our three hardy breeds (Pre-Alps, Mourerous and Merino d'Arles). After the Label Rouge in 1995, we obtained the PGI in 2005. Today, the sector includes 220 breeders and 230 points of sale. Sisteron lamb must be raised by its mother for a minimum of 60 days and meet strict specifications from rearing to slaughter. Each carcass is individually labelled with a distinctive badge and stamp. The breeding system must be extensive using pastoral areas. The PGI gives our lambs credibility and notoriety. It has become a regional emblem representing a well-defined area with a great impact on tourism. For example we are organising "Alpine days" during the transhumance. This breeding system helps maintain our natural environment during the summer, before being used for ski slopes during the winter.

More information... www.agneaudesisteron.fr



Pays de Remiremont: a natural and cultural heritage as an asset for territorial development

An area in South-East Vosges, made up of 40 communes with more than 85,000 inhabitants, the Pays de Remiremont relies on its natural and cultural resources to strengthen its development and appeal. Noémie Morel, project manager and LEADER coordinator, gives us some information on project strategy and support implemented by the LAG (Local Action Groups) for the Pays de Remiremont and its Valleys.



"Reaffirm and develop resources and heritage in a sustainable perspective": this is the approach in which all the projects supported by the LAG of the Pays de Remiremont and its Valleys operate. Nestled in the heart of the Vosges mountains, this territory is made up of wooded and mountainous landscapes with unspoiled nature, ranging from 350 to 1360 meters above sea level. An exceptional setting which creates its own specific problems, as Noémie Morel, Project Manager and LEADER Coordinator of the LAG of the Pays de Remiremont and its Valleys reminds us: *"The topography of medium-altitude mountains implies a certain isolation which can turn out to be a real challenge for the area's local development."*

The past history of industrial (wood and textile sectors), agricultural (agropastoralism, livestock) and water use (hydroelectricity, hydrotherapy) activities of the Pays de Remiremont reflects a time when natural spaces and human activities coexisted. With the support of the LEADER system and its budget of 2.2 million Euros for the period 2014-2022, the LAG for the Pays de Remiremont and



Our aim is to combine economic development and environmental preservation.



Noémie Morel,
Project Manager
and LEADER Coordinator
of the LAG of the Pays
de Remiremont and
its Valleys

its Valleys is developing this medium-altitude mountain heritage: *"Our aim is to combine economic development and environmental preservation by supporting ambitious projects that will promote our natural and cultural heritage"*, says Noémie Morel.

On the Vosgien textile industry road

Many of the projects that the LAG support are based on tourist development: *"For example, we have supported the creation of a hiking path that runs along present and past textile industry trails"* says the coordinator. This signposted route includes visits to emblematic local industry buildings: old factories, isolated wasteland between the two valleys. In La Bresse, hikers can visit the Gisèle Tissus maison, a flagship of Vosges textiles, founded in 1856. Another of the region's booming sectors: business tourism. The LAG gave its support to Montagne des Géants, a travel agency



specialising in the organisation of seminars and courses in open country-side for strengthening group cohesion.

The 741 km² of Pays de Remiremont offer an exceptional landscape, including the Ballons des Vosges Regional Natural Park between the two valleys, Moselle and Moselotte. This natural heritage is celebrated every year during Landscape Week, an event supported by Noémie Morel and her team: *"This is an opportunity to raise awareness among Vosgiens and tourists of the exceptional richness of their landscape heritage around numerous events: plant fairs, weaving workshops, forest escape games."*

Developing the local economy

Promoting Vosgien heritage also involves highlighting local production and expertise. "In medium-altitude mountain areas, networking, marketing and distribution often represent a challenge and our territory is no exception to this rule", recalls the project manager. *"Our LAP gives its support to direct farm sales to develop the local economy, particularly in the cheese production sector. In particular, we support projects that promote sustainable*

development, such as a system of rechargeable terminals for electric vehicles. Initiatives that enhance the area's networking and a more coherent territorial grid."

More information...

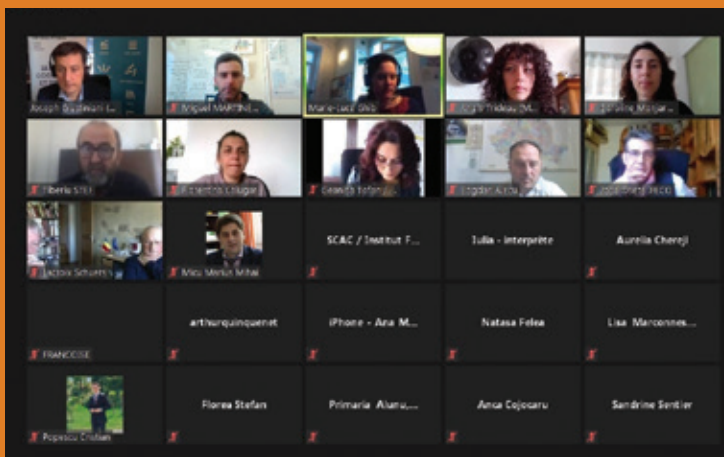
www.paysderemiremont.fr



LEADER webinars between France and Romania

As part of a collaboration between France and Romania, 4 Franco-Romanian webinars on rural and territorial development based on the LEADER system took place between April 9th and June 11th.

How to develop short supply chains? Which best practices to reduce the effects of climate change? How do communities participate in agricultural transition and sustainable rural development? All these important questions were asked during the four webinars organised between April and June by the French Embassy in Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The purpose of these meetings, intended as a platform for discussions between French and Romanian representatives, is to shed light on



various aspects of rural development and promote the exchange of ideas and best practices.

With the participation of State Secretaries, LEADER project managers, LAG managers, ANCT representatives, mayors and lecturers, the webinars focused on four main themes: climate change, agricultural systems and marketing projects, social commitment and integration, agro-ecological measures and initiatives. In particular, these were illustrated by projects such as "ENPORT", a European network for the promotion of outdoor activities supported by the Romanian LAG Lider Cluj, in collaboration with eight other LAGs including that of the Vichy-Auvergne region. The video recordings and webinar reports can be found on the website of the French Embassy in Romania.

More information...

<https://ro.ambafrance.org>

LEADER cooperation: a new technical and methodological support unit for LAGs

Set up by the Rural Network, the ATMAC LEADER unit (technical and methodological support for LEADER cooperation activities) aims to help and support LAGs in their cooperation projects. To be used as much as you like.



LAGs take note! Do you want to develop a LEADER cooperation project? Are you having difficulties or need support for setting up a project? The technical and methodological support unit for LEADER LAGs cooperation activities (ATMAC LEADER) is at your service. Set up at the start of the year by the Rural Network, the mission of its team of experts, specialists and LEADER cooperation facilitators is to encourage and facilitate LAG cooperation projects.

The activity of ATMAC LEADER has four key missions: offering individualised support, consolidating tools for monitoring cooperation projects (dashboard and barometer), organising technical and methodological support meetings, keeping an eye on LEADER cooperation news.

How can we formulate the idea of a cooperation project compatible with the logic of the LEADER cooperation and your local development strategy? How can we draw-up a cooperation proposal and identify potential partners? How can we organise and supervise the first meeting? How do we distribute roles?

So many examples of actual questions that ATMAC LEADER can address in its individual support mission. They can be contacted by e-mail, telephone or video and will provide assistance, advice, resources, information needed to understand and give support for setting up tools. It is supported by six consultants from three companies (Boréal, Eurêka 21 and Teritéo) specialised in territorial policies, cooperation best practices, collective intelligence, support for European public policies etc.

Do you have a question? Need some support?

Write to appui-cooperation-leader@reseau-rural.fr

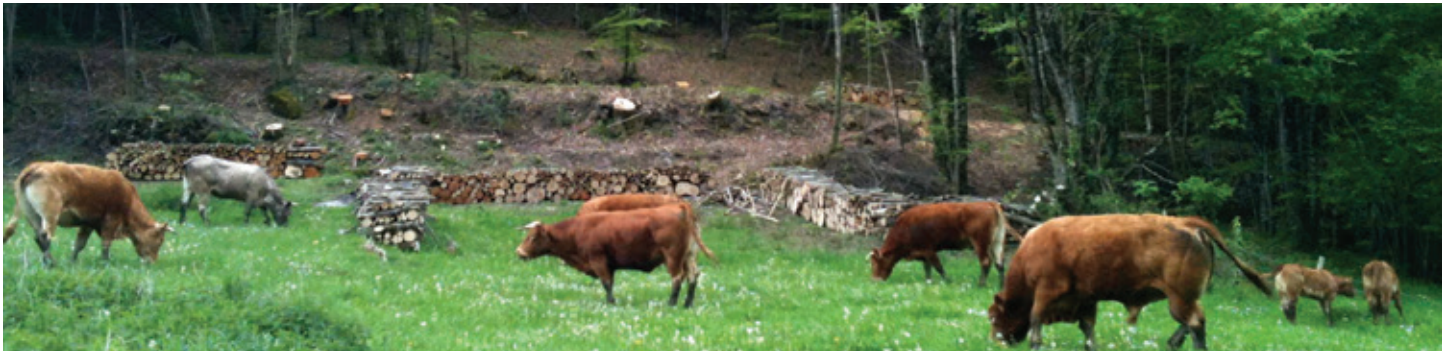
Or contact Mathilde Vukovic, facilitator of territorial projects and policies, manager and pilot of the ATMAC network support unit: 06 63 21 82 99 / vukovic@boreal-territoires.fr

More information...

www.reseau-rural.fr

Agrosyl: using wood for fodder autonomy and animal welfare

Supported by the Ariège Chamber of Agriculture, for the past 5 years EIP operational group (OG) Agrosyl has brought together Pyrenean livestock farmers and researchers in breeding activities, zootechnics, ruminant biology etc. Together, they have carried out many experiments on silvo-pastoralism, wood litter, forest fruits and white mulberry.



"Our experiments have been carried out to answer two questions: how to make the economy of farming operations more stable with wood as a resource? Faced with climate change and its impacts, can forests and wood improve the resilience of farms and animal welfare?" says Nelson Guichet. Advisor on forests, trees and wood at the Ariège Chamber of Agriculture, here he talks about [EIP OG Agrosyl's](#) challenges. Led by the Ariège Chamber of Agriculture, the project ran from 2016 to 2021. It brought together INRAE researchers from the Livestock Institute (Idele) and the Institute for Forest Development (CNPf) and 13 breeders, members of the Bois Paysan association. "Agrosyl was born from the desire of livestock farmers to continue work started with the APIL * project and to **experiment with innovative agricultural practices** using wood, in partnership with researchers," says Nelson Guichet. While economic factors and resource development were pre-eminent for livestock farmers, they also wanted to anticipate the impacts of climate change. As the Spring of year 2018 was very rainy and the Summer very dry, this confirmed that the influence of the Mediterranean was progressing on the whole of the department. Our work has therefore been going in the right direction"

White mulberry fodder: a success

Agrosyl included the carrying out of four types of experiments. The first consisted of carrying out a silvopastoral technical route to develop forest fodder resources. Partners were also interested in the impact of wood litter on the behaviour of livestock as well as the impact of forest fruits such as acorns in livestock feed. The last experiment involved the plantation of white mulberry trees as fodder trees. "This species will continue to grow even when it is over 34°C and will adapt to many different soils and pedoclimatic contexts" the advisor explains. This experiment gave the best results. We found that with clover and regrowth ground cover and letting the animals feed on their own, plots with white mulberry trees were productive for 9 months, even during droughts." The experiment is also the one that has been most widely used, with around forty farmers in France planting white mulberry trees and 6 new projects

emerging. "Many colleagues in the Chambers of Agriculture are interested in it because white mulberries also have the advantage of being as nutritious as corn while requiring less water," explains Nelson Guichet.

"The PEI enables discussions between two different worlds: farmers and researchers. We could have worked for 20 years with farmers on forage resources without having the idea of white mulberry which was well known to Eliel Gonzalez, a researcher at INRAE. And without farmers, experimental protocols would not have developed and we would never have tested clover and regrowth cover or left the herd to feed on its own" said Nelson Guichet. The Agrosyl results were presented during an online seminar on April 13th 2021 and will soon be published. Work for [Clim'Agil](#) is also continuing, a project supported by POCTEFA, an Interreg V-A program between Spain, France and Andorra.

* Agroforestry at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains, Innovation crossroads and creator of Links between farmers.



| A herd of cows grazing on a plot of 25,000 white mulberry trees.

More information...

ariege.chambre-agriculture.fr

Prairie Sud: which fodder should be prioritised to face up to economic and climate constraints?

In the PACA region, as part of the EIP operational group Prairie Sud, 24 breeders and two agricultural high schools are experimenting with mixtures of fodder to test how they react in climate change conditions. Aim: to define the best seeds to meet the need for food autonomy on Mediterranean farms.

How can we use multi-species meadows to address food self-sufficiency and climate change resilience challenges in livestock farming? These are the challenges that the EIP OG Prairie Sud are addressing for the period between 2018-2023 in the PACA region. Supported by nine partners* and managed by the Maison Régionale de l'Élevage (MRE), the project takes place on experimental farms at two state education agricultural schools, in Carmejane (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence) and Emeyères (Hautes-Alpes) as well as on 24 farms in the region (sheep, cattle, goats, horses, of which 50% are organic).

"In the PACA region, food self-sufficiency and security are key elements for farm economic stability" explains Patrice Roucolle, director of the MRE. When climate hazards (frost, drought etc.)

| A Gaec La Sizampe livestock farmer on the Sault plateau site (Vaucluse)



“*Food self-sufficiency is a key element in the economic stability of livestock farming*”

are happening more and more often, the aim of the Prairie Sud project is to define which mixtures of the most robust and resistant forage give the best qualitative and quantitative results regarding production targets. "Using various measurements and surveys, we can observe how these mixtures react

when they are planted and during their natural growth. We can then determine any improvements to be made in the Mediterranean pedoclimatic context."

Promoting peer-to-peer exchanges

The experiments, carried out on the basis of on-site issues, also aim to study which strategies the livestock farmers use for multi-species meadows in the production system. "As well as the project's results, our aim is to promote exchanges between peers, farmers, and also representatives of agricultural development and education," adds Patrice Roucolle. The first results of the work, carried out by the livestock farmers involved, will appear in the year 2021 and they will be shown through technical days, newsletters and local agricultural newspapers.

* Maison Régionale de l'Élevage, Institut de l'Élevage, EPLEFPA Digne-Carmejane, LEGTA des Hautes-Alpes Les Emeyères, Montpellier SupAgro (Domaine du Merle), Chambers of agriculture Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Hautes-Alpes and Vaucluse, Arvalis, CIRAD.

More information...

<https://mrepaca.fr/prairies-sud/>



Hautes-Alpes: a new premium cured ham dried in open air

Within the framework of measure 16.2 of the EAFRD (aid for pilot projects and the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies), the SICA (agricultural collective interest company) Le Montagnard des Alpes, in partnership with the Regional House of Livestock (MRE) and the Institut du Porc (IFIP), are experimenting the development of a new air-dried cured ham. "This is an excellent product, cured at an altitude of 2,300 meters in Orcières, in the Hautes-Alpes," explains Patrice Roucolle. The objective is to offer consumers an innovative ham that meets their expectations, by adopting more stringent criteria than those obtained during more traditional curing methods." Ham production is therefore based on a craftsman technique without addition of additives or preservatives and a reduced salt content. The high quality meat used is produced locally, taking into account animal welfare and environmental protection. 80 hams, from several pig breeds and fed in various ways, were tested to find the optimal recipe. "The main challenge lies in microbiological stability during curing and in the development of a reliable refining process for large-scale production, bearing in mind that humidity levels in mountain air can vary greatly." concludes Patrice Roucolle.

Agricultural education, a key player in the agro-ecological transition

Why and how is it important to encourage involvement of schools in EIP multi-actor projects? The question echoes the challenges of the action plan "Teaching to produce differently, for transitions and agro-ecology", says EPA2, intended to encourage all players in agricultural education to actively contribute to "transitions essential for inventing a new ecological model". Details from Jean-Marc Chourot, Head of the Research and Innovation Office (BRI) at the General Directorate for Education and Research (DGER / MAA).



What role does agricultural education play in supporting agro-ecological and food transitions?

The DGER is leading and actively supporting the implementation of the plan "*Teaching how to produce differently, for transitions and agroecology*" which asks all technical and higher agricultural education establishments to support food and agro-ecological transitions. In cooperation with the DGPE (Director General for economic and environmental performance of enterprises / MAA), we encourage interactions between educational representatives and agricultural research and development representatives to promote innovative practices and the acquisition of relevant skills. Agricultural education institutions have an important role to play in innovation and knowledge distribution systems. We encourage them to get involved in the EIP-AGRI, in particular via their farms and technological workshops. With an educational mission, these experimentation, demonstration and innovation sites are players and showcases for change. They participate in translating professionals' questions into innovative technical solutions.

How are education representatives encouraged to get involved using the EIP's method?

The diffusion of innovative practices among professionals requires a bottom-up and multi-representative approach like that of the EIP-AGRI, resulting from farmers' questions appropriated by the world of academic research via intermediary structures: technical institutes, Chambers of agriculture, economic and environmental interest groups (GIEE), regions, CUMA, INRAE etc. Agricultural education has a strong added value in this systemic and multi-factorial approach. The development of agro-ecological practices and production methods involves training young people but also developing their ability to debate, argue and participate in the construction and management of projects. Today we are training tomorrow's farmers and farming councillors.

You are a member of the AKIS¹ working group for SCAR². What are your thoughts on these topics?

We want to improve knowledge and innovation systems to better respond to the issues encountered by professionals in the agricultural world. How can we strengthen the link between agricultural education and knowledge innovation system at European level? How can we co-construct innovative solutions with students? These questions, also addressed within the framework of EIP focus groups, drive our work aimed at promoting knowledge sharing and interactions between professionals and representatives in research, education, agricultural advice etc. The original French model with the training-research-development-agricultural innovation continuum under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has strongly inspired the European Commission and is presented as a reference to States wishing to set up their own.

¹ agriculture knowledge and innovation systems

² standing committee on agricultural research

More information...

<https://scar-europe.org>

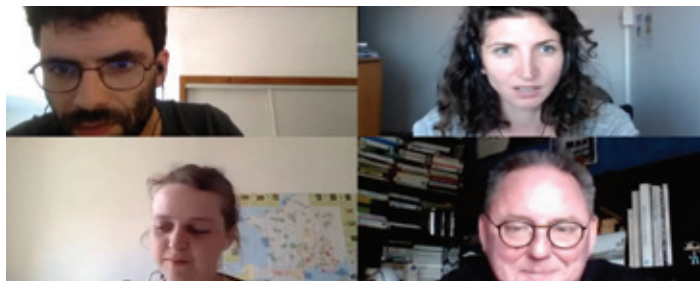
"Multiplying the number of approaches and changing training methods"

by Claudine Le Guen, director of the EPLEFPA in Robillard (Normandy), partner of the EIP OG "*Conditioning of cider and Perry for natural fermentation in bottles*"



"Agricultural education must move beyond the old ways of the past and stop promoting ready-made solutions. For several years now, we have been thinking about moving away from ready-made recipes and we have been helping young people to diagnose, find and apply locally adapted solutions. This requires multiple approaches, in particular the "Teaching how to produce differently" action plan. This has changed training methods: moving from a disciplinary approach to a multidisciplinary approach"

Remote networking: what are the new practices?



Webinar "Access to land: role of communities" organised in June 2020 with more than 130 participants for the TRESSONS project

The promoters of MCDR projects had to adapt when they were disrupted by the pandemic in order to continue their development. Which tools and practices did they roll out to adapt to these health constraints? Three project leaders share their experience.

TransAgriDom: "Imagining a new way of maintaining and developing our network"

"As the promotion of our MCDR is being based on annual face-to-face meetings - at the agricultural fair and on-site in one of the overseas departments - the pandemic posed a problem. We had to imagine a new form of promotion to maintain and develop the network. In conjunction with ACTA, we organised webinars scheduled from 1:30pm to 2:30pm French time, in order to group as many overseas partners as possible. Recorded and broadcast on the RITA YouTube channel, these meetings were planned in two stages: 30 minutes presentation of the subject by 3 participants (researchers, teachers, advisers, farmers etc.) and 30 minutes questions and answers using a chat. Our 1st webinar on agroecological management of cropping systems took place on May 19 and grouped almost 60 participants, some of whom were previously unknown to our network. The second, dedicated to sugar cane service plants, was held on June 16. Two other meetings have already been scheduled for September 15 and October 13, one called "One Health", an inter-sectoral approach in favour of the population's well-being and health. The results of the webinars as a complementary promotion tool has been positive. It is a low-cost, interactive format that opens up possibilities to broaden the scope of our work to other networks." **Jean-Marc Thévenin**, Cirad, national co-coordinator of RITA (Innovation & Agricultural Transfer Networks)

TRESSONS: "We have strengthened our role as a trusted third party"

"Digital and remote communications were already applied because our project is national in scale, with communities of beneficiaries scattered throughout France. Though we did have to adapt the totality of our events into digital format: podcasts to replace Rural forum accounts, a series of 10 ESS & Rural webinars filmed and broadcast, partnership committees by video conference. Créa'rural, a digital collection of exchanges and mobilisation to support ESS projects in rural areas, also appeared during the 1st lock down,

when participants really needed to communicate and have common information channels. The strengthening of digital practices and usage facilitates experience-sharing and participation by representatives outside our networks. However, the excess of content can affect readability and a face-to-face link remains necessary for cooperation support and initiation. Remote connections are easier for participants who already know each other. We have therefore strengthened our role as a trusted third party to facilitate contacts." **Bérangère Daviaud**, project manager at the *Avisé*

Mobilisation of a network of representatives to support climate transition: "Webinar is a format that works well"

"The impacts of the crisis on our MCDR's promotion were different according to the 3 areas of the project. For the 1st area, for the construction of a plot network, the skills training planned for a day in Paris in 2019 were changed to half a day remote training. Not having to travel between regions, the stage and coordination points organised by video conference have even saved us time. For the 2nd area (construction of a farm network), training in environmental diagnostic tools and farm resilience were postponed to year 2021 with 2 to 3 hour video conferences, in conjunction with our technical partner Solagro. Finally, for the 3rd area, more focused on local communities, links with elected officials and technicians were more difficult to maintain, but exchanges are resuming in force for diagnoses and support for territories.

Today, on-site promotion is starting again and this is encouraging the spread of practices. We have also been offered an extension of the schedule for our MCDR. This extension is well-received particularly to follow the change in the organic matter level in soils. On September 17th, we will be holding a public event on carbon storage in field crops. This will be a webinar because this format works well".

Didier Jammes, director et coordinator of *Bio 46*

The R&D-Agri platform opens to MCDR

Supported by Acta, APCA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the R&D-Agri platform capitalises on methods, tools, data and results from projects funded by CasDAR (Special Allocation Account for Agricultural and Rural Development). Intended to promote and facilitate access to research results in the agricultural sector, this tool now aims to open up to other projects, in particular MCDRs. Besides a publication on the French Rural network website, project leaders will soon be invited to integrate their resources and deliverables on the platform, in its extended version. An opportunity to promote knowledge-sharing and its appropriation by farmers, advisory technicians, agricultural education representatives etc.

More information... rd-agri.fr

RENFORT: "Engaging collectively in favour of forests"

Supported by both Chambers of Agriculture and Forest Communes networks, the MCDR RENFORT project supports the area representatives to integrate multifunctional forests into their planning and development strategies more efficiently. Focus on its mountain forest actions.



Mountain forests represent more than a quarter (27%) of French forest land*, and in mountain areas, forests cover more than half the area. "In some municipalities and even some departments, forests can represent up to 70% of territory," confirms Lionel Viard, forestry project manager at APCA. This significant influence is associated with the **multiple functions provided by forests**: economic (wood production, tourism, etc.), social (leisure and recreation, natural and cultural heritage) and environmental. Also their natural function contributes to the preservation of water resources and biodiversity, air quality, climate change reduction etc."

"In mountain areas, the forest also plays a role in the protection against natural risks: avalanches, rock falls, landslides" specifies Françoise Alric, deputy director of the National Federation of Forestry Communes (FNCOFOR). However, these forests are particularly sensitive to the effects of climate change. "In this respect, **representatives of mountain areas must be supported to engage collectively in favour of forests**" says Françoise Alric and Lionel Viard. It is with this objective in mind that both networks Forest Communes and Chambers of Agriculture launched the MCDR RENFORT project: National forest territories network.

Three themes developed via the RENFORT project are of particular interest to representatives in mountain areas. In **Haute-Savoie**, the project is helping to define local forest land strategies. Land restructuring is a prerequisite for management to limit the division of plots. In the town of Vailly (74), the results of a survey of "vacant and unmanned" properties and a cartographic atlas of private plots make it possible to support public and private forestry representatives with a view to forest management.

In **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**, the MCDR project addresses silvopastoralism to fight against the closure of wooded areas, to promote biodiversity and to reduce the risk of forest fires. A [guide to good silvopastoral practices](#) presents technical routes for silvopastoral cutting in three groups of species that suit this: hardwood, hillside pines and mountain conifers. Electors will also be shown a technical guide for pastoral management of wooded communal areas that are not included in the forestry regime.

Finally, in **Bourgogne-Franche-Comté**, in partnership with the National Federation of SCoT (territorial coherence schemes), RENFORT addresses the consideration of the forest in regional development projects. Last April, an inter-network technical seminar presented the experience feedback from Haut-Jura PNR. "In general, the other themes addressed in RENFORT - silvo-hunting balance, territorialised timber sectors, etc. - also concern mountain forests, adds Lionel Viard. This is why the results of the MCDR project were widely discussed by the project partners during the consultations carried out by ANCT as part of the construction of its "Avenir Montagnes" program."

* Source : National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information

More information...

www.reseaurural.fr/projet-mcdr-renfort

AJITeR: for a welcoming and sustainable setting up of young adults in mountain regions.

For three years, the MCDR AJITeR project has focused on good practices for making it easier for young adults to settle down in rural areas, particularly in mountain areas. Details from Marc-Jérôme Hassid, director of CIPRA France, one of the five partners of the project

"Although the population level in the Alps is increasing, it is more elderly people, which makes it difficult for young people to settle down. Young people have only been seen as customers for keeping the tourist economy running. Points of view are gradually changing but there is still some way to go." This is the observation made by Marc-Jérôme Hassid, director of CIPRA France (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps), one of the partners of AJITeR, an MCDR project carried out in collaboration with ADRETS, Ufisc, the Recca and CREFAD Auvergne. How can we support young adults and their projects in rural areas? How can we facilitate their access to employment, services, housing and transport? "AJITeR made it possible to capitalise, experiment and distribute a set of analyses, good practices and incentives", summarised Thomas Fauvarque, project manager at Adrets, on May 25 during the final webinar of the program.

As an association committed to the protection and sustainable development of the Alps, CIPRA France has helped identify demographic issues and the presence of young people as a priority, particularly in mountain areas. It has carried out various actions with an aim to "allow young people to come back and settle down in mountain areas". In particular, the association referred to the need to make it easier for young people to settle down in these areas and to support their projects in several work groups such as the youth group of the Alps mountain committee and the action

groups of the SUERA (European Union strategy for the Alpine region). In collaboration with Educ'Alpes, around ten young people were able to learn about mountain trades during an AJITour. There was a five-day visit of the Queyras region where they talked to professionals from the area. CIPRA France has also contributed to the identification of inspiring initiatives, such as the Tero Loko association, which facilitates integration through work in market gardening and bakeries in Notre-Dame-de-l'Osier (Isère) or the Croc'Bauges cooperative grocery store in Lescheraines (Savoie).

“

Allow young people to come back and settle down in mountain areas

"We have noticed that Alpine mountain public politicians are recognising the importance of youth issues. The inclusion of a youth measurement sheet and dedicated funding in the future interregional convention of the Alps (CIMA) is a good illustration of this", says Marc-Jérôme Hassid after three years of work and meetings involved in AJITeR. The results of the project, shown with examples of initiatives and experiences, can be consulted in a booklet published in April by the partners: Supporting young adults: challenges, proposals and perspectives for rural areas.

Participants in the AJITour visited a wood engraving site with Floranne Blanc-Debrune, cabinet maker and art sculptor living in the heart of the Queyras Regional Natural Park.

More information...

www.ajiter.fr



© CIPRA France

Thinking about Rural Future with the winners of the Rural Inspiration Awards



The 2021 edition of the Rural Inspiration Awards recognised projects from 22 Member States, united around the theme "our rural future". Mobility, biodiversity, circular economy, solidarity, etc. Here are some of the themes of the five winners.

A showcase for projects rolled out in rural areas, the ENRD's (European Network for Rural Development) annual Rural Inspiration Awards competition helps to increase visibility of the rural development policy and the contribution of the EAFRD to the long-term vision for rural areas. For this 2021 edition, last March it highlighted five projects among more than 120 candidates in various categories. Purpose: **encourage other territories to reproduce these initiatives** which help rural areas meet economic, environmental, societal challenges, etc.

In the "green future" category, the Finns stood out with ReWl visions (Resource Wise Visions). Their project encourages young generations **to undertake circular economy**. On the program: exchanges, on-line courses, clubs, activities etc. Since the launch of the project, using this support, 40 companies integrating circular economy have emerged.

Awarded in the "digital future" category, the German project The HofladenBOX presented an **on-line marketplace** that connects residents of Fürth, a district in Bavaria, with more than 60 surrounding farms. About 1,500 products are listed on the site, which receives up to 600 orders per week. The platform allows urban dwellers to benefit from fresh and local products without any intermediary. It also helps to maintain agricultural jobs in the region and reduce transport and therefore CO2 emissions.

Care and solidarity are at the heart of the Austrian Green Care project - Where people flourish. Born out of the idea of bonding and preserving agriculture and forests, the Green Care family farm project takes farming to a new level. In conjunction with municipalities and education, health and social representatives, farmers are given support to offer services to young people, the elderly or people with disabilities. This project was awarded the "A socially inclusive future" prize.

Winner of the "resilient future" prize, the circular bioeconomy pilot project, led by the Spanish socio-professional integration centre Josenea, the Public University of Navarre and two companies, offers a new model **for the collection and transformation of organic waste**. Transformed into compost, it is then used to fertilise plantations. Economical and easy to reproduce, this system can process up to 300 tonnes of waste per year to obtain up to 100 tonnes of organic fertiliser for promotion of soil regeneration and better carbon sequestration.

The Poles from Angelic Gardens Academy (Anielskie Ogrody) received the Audience Award. 10,200 on-line voters were impressed by their **ecological and family farm project**. Designed as "oases of biodiversity", these mini-farms and gardens are created by the inhabitants themselves thanks to workshops and support from Angelic Gardens and their "step-by-step" teaching method. Over 450 people have attended the workshops and 170 have already joined the on-line academy.

More information...

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

Mobility shared with East-Audois LAG LEADER



Named in the "A socially inclusive future" category, the shared communal car service from the Est-Audois LAG finished at the foot of the podium but still aroused interest. The result of a joint construction with the local authorities and the inhabitants of the municipality of Villerouge-Termenès in the Aude, this shared electric vehicle is helping to open up remote rural areas. An innovative car sharing model that facilitates the mobility of residents to public services, encourages carpooling and strengthens social ties.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE

The Network in action

Seminars and workshops, support for LAGs, assessment of the LEADER approach, support for cooperation, communication etc. A look back at two years of achievements by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Rural Network created at the initiative of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.



"I have noticed a real dynamism in Nouvelle-Aquitaine over the past two years. Projects and partnerships are numerous, our communication is extensive, rural development representatives turn to us for information and ask us for more discussions and meetings" says Céline Karasinski, in charge of Europe mission at the Regional Chamber of Agriculture in charge of Regional Rural Network activity, in support of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region. A dynamism that reflects the activity of the Network since June 2019 and its first general assembly. This first major meeting made it possible to identify three priority work themes: rural mobility, digital technology and third places, and social and solidarity tourism. "The idea was to identify the subjects on which representatives had requirements for without going into topics already covered. For example, ecological transition and short supply circuits were priorities for the representatives, but many initiatives already existed." To meet these needs, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Rural Network organised several seminars and working webinars on: rural mobility on February 25, 2020 in partnership with the LAG

Landes Natures Côte d'Argent, digital and third places in January and February 2021 with Rural Families (promoter of the MCDR PORT @ IL project), and social and solidarity tourism on March 19, 2021 with UNAT. At the same time, the Regional Network also mapped the networks dedicated to rural development in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and endeavoured to communicate regularly by publishing newsletters, including one dedicated to neo-aquitaine initiatives during the COVID crisis, and 3 specifically dedicated to LEADER cooperation: the "Flash Coopé".

Another major field of action of the Rural Network: support for the 52 LAGs in the region, support for LEADER cooperation and the system's assessment. "We organised a seminar on November 28, 2019 to help the LAGs assess their actions. One of the requests from the LAGs as a result of this seminar was to have a methodological guide for assessing the LEADER program (see box)." To follow-up on the LAGs actions, the Network uses implementation activity reports (RAMO). "Citizens' summaries" are used to identify exemplary projects carried out by these areas. "I found 210 of these, 42 of which were featured on the National Rural Network website. This capitalisation work is essential: it is the basis for being able to network, create bridges and facilitate cooperation between representatives," says Céline Karasinski. By the end of the year, the Network's major project will be the production of 9 videos dedicated to EAFRD projects in the regions. "The first filming started on July 13" says the project manager who will also arrange working groups on mobility and social and solidarity tourism in the last quarter.

More information...

www.reseaurural.fr/region/nouvelle-aquitaine

A guide for the assessment of the LEADER program at LAG level



Published in December 2020, a guide from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Rural Network provides tools and methods to help and inspire LAGs to assess the LEADER program. Produced in partnership with a trainee and the assessment officers from the New Aquitaine Region's European funds, this 46-page document addresses the objectives of an assessment, presents the different types of assessment possible (external, internal, by peers etc.), gives advice on setting up a steering team or drawing up a work schedule. It also details the four phases of a LEADER assessment: exploratory, collection, analysis and recommendations. Concrete examples are included and this methodological guide is important for preparing the next program.

More information...

www.reseaurural.fr/sites/documents/fichiers/2020/2020_rrr_guide_evaluation_leader_GAL.pdf

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

Guadeloupe

"Moving forward in a relationship of co-construction and trust with rural fabric": Cathy Pierre, new regional coordinator and facilitator.



"We are fortunate to live together in a very dynamic territory, with a lot of potential, specificities and multi-sectoral players" enthuses Cathy Pierre. New coordinator of the Guadeloupe Rural Network, attached to the European Delegate Directorate within the Regional Council, she took up her duties at the start of the year. With a background in managing development projects, eco-tourism or professional integration, Cathy Pierre is now the contact person for the five LAGs, the GO PEI fortnight and all rural representatives in the archipelago. Its objective? To enervise the network, "and especially inland areas".

"We really want to concentrate on a relationship of co-construction and trust with the representatives" says the coordinator. Over the course of a few months, she has already carried out several communication campaigns to promote the Network. After creating a Facebook page, updating news on the Rural Network website and even participating in the 1st inter-DOM webinar, Cathy Pierre distributed a census form intended to "identify and reference all those who participate actively in the promotion of our rural areas". Purpose: "Improving interaction between all representatives, ensuring project visibility and promoting sharing of experiences of innovative methods."

"Guadeloupe Rural Network is gaining momentum, don't miss the boat!" : this is Cathy Pierre's objective, written in Creole ("Rézo ankanpangn gwadloup ka pwan on bèl balan, pa rété atè!") on the Guadeloupean Rural Network's new information leaflet. "By the end of 2021, the Rural Network must be an essential tool in the area" she insists. Preserve the area's cultural richness, promote local productions, support agroecology, agroforestry and agrobiodiversity to move towards environmental excellence, organise information days and thematic workshops to take advantage of collective intelligence to support professionals and the local population... So many missions included in the agenda of the new coordinator, a farmer's daughter.

More information...

www.reseaurural.fr/region/guadeloupe

Regional Rural Networks web conferences: the program for the 2nd semester

Highlights for sharing rural development experiences, the web conferences co-organised by the Regional Rural Networks* offer five new meetings for representatives in rural areas between September 24 and December 10, 2021. Free, open to all, scheduled from 11am to 12pm one Friday per month (except for two meetings in November), these discussion times give you information on rural development initiatives through the experience of an on-site representative or a rural development specialist. Program themes for this second semester? Ecological transition, tourism, revitalisation of town centres etc. See you on September 24 for the web conference "Rural Erasmus by the association InSite: young volunteers in support of rural areas" offered by the PACA Rural Network.

Initiated in 2019, previous web conferences can be found on-line on the Rural Network website.

* Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Grand Est, Normandy, New Aquitaine and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur



More information...

www.reseaurural.fr/

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



Le bonheur est dans le village ("Happiness lies in villages") - Nicolas Hazard; Flammarion, p. 224

30 women and men who have moved from the city to the countryside present concrete solutions, sometimes quite simple, to answer some of our society's problems. These agents of change show that a village spirit is an essential link in the well-being of everyone.

<https://editions.flammarion.com/le-bonheur-est-dans-le-village/9782080234032>

L'appel de la Montagne ("The call of the mountains") - LSD, a France Culture documentary series; ep. 4

Documentary series by Marie Chartron, directed by François Teste, "The call of the Mountain" proposes "to explore both the mountain inhabited on a daily basis and its imaginary folds" by travelling through 4 places: the Ecrins massif, the plateau of Canjuers, the Cerdan plateau and the heights of the Chamonix valley.



www.franceculture.fr/emissions/series/lappel-de-la-montagne-0



Les filles du coin: vivre et grandir en milieu rural ("Local girls: living and growing-up in rural areas"); Yaëlle Amsellem-Mainguy; Les Presses de Sciences Po; p. 188

Research fellow at the National Institute for Youth and Popular Education (INJEP), Yaëlle Amsellem-Mainguy gives voice to young women from working-class backgrounds in rural areas.

www.pressessciencespo.fr/fr/book/?gcoi=27246100261570

La révolution que l'on attendait est arrivée ("The revolution we were expecting is happening"); Jean Viard; L'Aube; p. 240

What if, thanks to this pandemic, we witnessed the great return of territories and places, the uniqueness of individuals and the meaning of life? Sociologist, associate research director at CEVIPOF (Sciences Po / CNRS), Jean Viard asks the question and takes stock of the territorial situation in our country.



http://editionsdelalube.fr/catalogue_de_livres/la-revolution-que-lon-attendait-est-arrivee/



L'économie sociale et solidaire, une chance pour les territoires fragiles ("A social and interdependent economy, an opportunity for fragile territories"); ANCT; p. 56

This study led by the ANCT in 2019 and 2020 educates local public decision-makers on the levers they have in their possession to consolidate the associations' and cooperatives' activities capable of meeting the areas' needs.

https://agence-cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2021-06/LPR_ANCT_EtudeESS_Leviers_Rapportfinal_160521.pdf

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