

EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2018-2022

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



A WORD FROM THE MINISTER



The future of the agriculture, agrifood, fisheries and forestry sectors will be shaped not only on farms, in industries and in local regions but also, and to a growing extent, across Europe and internationally.

France is resolutely engaged in international cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders. Faced with numerous global challenges such as food insecurity, climate change and the erosion of biodiversity, collaboration between governments, local authorities, civil society and the private sector is more imperative than ever.

The European level is unavoidable and essential to our international action and France is pursuing its ambition to contribute to the construction of a strong European Union that protects its farmers, its local regions, its consumers and its citizens.

The European and International Strategy of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food is also based on the objectives defined during France's National Food Conference, and specifically the importance of creating value and improving value allocation within sectors, along with a demand for food that is healthy, safe, sustainable and affordable for all. High performance from these four standpoints (economic, environmental, social and sanitary) will be promoted as part of our "farming and food" diplomacy at EU level, in our relations with third countries and in multilateral bodies.

Working through that strategy, my goal is to promote greater awareness of our values among our partners. In Europe and internationally, I want to promote our products, our businesses, our expertise, our ability to innovate and adapt to the demands of society, our training and our research, along with our gastronomic heritage. That strategy also includes a goal of sending out strong messages relevant to the building of European and international policies in defence of the interests of our regions and our sectors.

Against the backdrop of the globalisation of systems, we want to assist and promote agriculture's transition toward systems of production and consumption that are more sustainable, more resilient and more effective. This is a requirement now seen as imperative everywhere in the world and we must give greater consideration to this aspect in international agreements.

The Ministry's European and International Strategy is innovative in both conception and implementation. Three phases of consultation of the Ministry's staff and operators, the public authorities and all other actors have resulted in a vision that is robust, shared and owned by all stakeholders. The strategy will now be rolled out operationally in action plans that will be evaluated at regular intervals. This multi-actor, operationally focused and inclusive strategy is aimed at providing a response to changes in the international context and to citizens' and consumers' expectations.

Indeed, the sectors covered by the Ministry combine all the transitions now under way: economic, environmental, social and sanitary. Systems of production, consumption and biobased products have a greater direct impact than any other factor on the daily lives of the citizens of every country. Support for those transitions also means guaranteeing sectors' long-term viability since their importance is more than ever strategic for our economy, our food sovereignty and the construction of a social fabric capable of maintaining links between the rural world and urban areas.

Lastly, the Strategy is aimed at enhancing the value of the successes and the efforts made by sectors to adjust to this new context. This is a battle I intend to take forward forcefully and with determination in conjunction with all our EU and international partners.

Didier Guillaume,
minister of Agriculture and Food

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THE PLACE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD IN FRANCE'S INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE

The action of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is part of France's European and international policy.

Europe and the international context are key dimensions of the core tasks of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which acts to advocate to other EU Member States and third countries its positions and the benefits of agricultural, agrifood, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture products.

The Ministry of Agriculture seeks to ensure adherence to the interests of agrifood, fisheries and forestry in EU bodies (particularly through the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy) and international organisations (World Trade Organisation (WTO), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Bank, among others).

In those organisations the Ministry endeavours to promote beyond our borders a specific approach to agriculture and rural development (support for agricultural policies, diversity in systems, sanitary safety, sustainability and high performance on multiple levels, rural development and strong ties with local regions, family farming, and so

on), while at the same time contributing to the objective of solidarity with developing countries. In cooperation with the other ministries concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture takes part in FAO activities, most notably in connection with its core tasks of collecting and distributing information in the agricultural and food domains and its normative activities. Alongside the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry also chairs GISA, France's interministerial group on food security (GISA), a body for dialogue between different French actors involved in issues relating to food security. Regarding the whole range of issues addressed at EU level (trade, the Common Agricultural Policy, FAO etc.), France's positions are established in the interministerial context with the General Secretariat for European Affairs (SGAE) in a coordinating role.

Alongside the other ministries involved, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food also participates in defining and promoting French positions on the European Union's trade policy and in implementing the government's policy on international trade. The policy for internationalisation of agricultural and agrifood enterprises is aimed at promoting and showcasing the French offering of products and equipment as well as its know-how in terms of expertise and training, doing so fully consistently with the other French and European policies.



PART 1

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION: AN EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The aim in this first part is to put forward a shared framework for the current state of the world, describing an evolving international context and the challenges to be addressed by agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry production systems.

THE PLACE FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

> Global risks and issues

If healthy, nourishing food is to be supplied in sufficient quantities at stable, affordable prices to both urban and rural populations, including their poorest members, this will require local, governmental and intergovernmental action. Food continues today to be a major issue for public policies, the challenge being to feed what will be between nine and ten billion human beings in 2050 using sustainable food systems that address global goals and issues.

Population growth, mainly in Africa and Asia, urbanisation, climate change, as well as tension and conflict, especially in the Sahel region, are major issues for food and nutritional security.

The latest FAO report on “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017” underscores the major impact of large-scale drought on populations’ food security. Massive migrations between and within regions, the consequences of climate change and/or armed conflict, are generating risks of social conflict and the depopulation of rural areas, which affects food security. For the first time in ten years, the number of undernourished human beings has increased – by 38 million, from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. Moreover, 108 million people are facing serious food insecurity and 2017 was marked by pre-famine situations affecting South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Furthermore, two billion people are suffering from “invisible hunger”: deficiencies of vitamins, minerals and trace elements. Obesity is also a major public health issue and over

the last 40 years levels of obesity in children and adolescents have been rocketing worldwide, particularly among the most deprived.

Added to all this is the depletion of the natural resources that are nevertheless essential to agricultural production (water, soil, biodiversity – including genetic resources – minerals, and so on). Changing behaviour among consumers as they increase demand for animal proteins has increased pressure on natural resources. At a time of increasing inequality in countries around the world, sustainable, responsible management of resources is more than ever a necessity. The world is also facing globalised public health and sanitary risks linked to the increase in trade flows, longer processing chains and the genetic impoverishment of plants and animals.

> Intensifying globalisation of agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry

Agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry are evolving in increasingly globalised systems of production and consumption

Despite the fact that 90% of all trade in agricultural and food products is not conducted on international markets, international trade in such products is increasing in both volume and the number of countries involved.

The last fifteen years have seen a shift in the centre of gravity of trade from the north to the south, from the Atlantic (21% of intercontinental trade) to the Pacific (32%). This globalisation is reflected in an intensification of global value chains and increased interdependence not only in economic but

also cultural, political and scientific terms. This means that the global population is more connected to international markets for its food, and this also generates greater dependency on, and sensitivity to prices, factors in play in the food crisis of 2008. Globalisation led in this way to economic and social damage in the agricultural, agrifood, fisheries and forestry sectors.

Some regions in both north and south are finding it difficult to take advantage of these increased agricultural trade flows. In developing countries, the majority of the volume produced comes from family farming, which often has little connection to markets. While globalisation coupled with industrialisation of the agricultural and agrifood sectors has made it possible to assure the supply of food in sufficient quantities to part of the world's population, another part of that population remains vulnerable.

As the Mond'Alim 2030 study by the Ministry of Agriculture's Centre for Research and Strategic Foresight has shown, globalisation has an influence on food systems that goes beyond trade flows as such. Firstly, it contributes to convergence and standardisation in certain components of food-related behaviour and regulations. Secondly, it leads to reactive and hybridisation phenomena and the emergence of specific food practices (value-added for local regions, varieties and forgotten recipes) that are sometimes used as cultural or social markers. In response to the issues related to sustainability and climate disruption facing the agriculture, agrifood, fisheries and forestry sectors, it can be seen that there is growing interest in modes of production, distribution and consumption that are sustainable, fair, viable and resilient.

Non-conventional and family forms of agriculture protective of biodiversity are developing, as are alternative distribution pathways (e.g. short channels) that favour products from specific producing regions. Consumers are increasingly engaged with food system governance, demanding food that is healthy, sourced in quality fair trade and protective of the environment.

At the same time, globalisation is leading to the emergence of new risks, especially sanitary. This is so because the intensification of cross-border flows of goods and people is increasing the risk of wider global propagation of disease and contamination that may be animal, human or chemical in origin. Globalisation is also impacting the wood and forestry sectors, as well as non-ligneous forest products.

Fast-changing multilateralism

In a multipolar world, we are seeing a rise in the importance and strategic positioning of emerging countries as they strengthen their presence on the diplomatic scene and in international negotiating forums.

As a consequence of their increasing importance in global trade in agricultural and food products, they are asserting themselves more and more as exporting powers in direct competition with French, European and third-country systems of production. Their research and training facilities are also achieving positions in international rankings, backed by scientific excellence and South-South cooperation (Brazil, China, India).



The greater role of non-state actors in global governance is a major trend in present-day globalisation. The weight of multinational corporations in commodity trading, agrifood and distribution is increasing in the management of global value chains and in governance bodies such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The influence of the major non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is intensifying in international discussion forums. We are also witnessing the installation of civil society mechanisms leading to the representation of marginalised populations in such forums. All of these actors advocate greater consideration for the protection of the planet's environment as well as the treatment of animals, subjects that are receiving increasing attention not only in the North but also in the South. New societal expectations for animal welfare, the promotion of high-quality food that is locally sourced, healthy, safe and sustainable are emerging through citizens' action that exploits social media. Regional government is becoming a key actor in globalisation and is increasingly conscious of the role it can play in international discussions.

In addition to multilateral action, bilateral and regional agreements are becoming a preferred framework for making progress on commercial and sanitary issues. The recent period has also been marked by a rise in the number of discussion forums and voluntary initiatives involving a diverse range of both public- and private-sector actors with the objective of addressing global challenges such as climate change, the sustainability of agriculture and food security. Where systems of production and consumption are concerned, the global governance landscape is more and more complex.

Despite this, the multilateral system, even if it is facing difficulties such as the blockage in WTO negotiations, is still at the core of global governance. Backed by its sole source of legitimacy, it has recently shown its effectiveness. The new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are testimony to this, defining as they do for the first time a common roadmap shared by all countries in the world for the period to 2030, along with the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement, which acknowledges the issues facing agriculture and food and nutritional security.

> The European Union: a key channel for action

The European Union, an economic and diplomatic power, is still the world's greatest commercial power, the leading investor and the main provider of development aid. Despite the fact that it represents no more than 7% of the world's population, its trade flows, although in decline, nevertheless account for around 20% of total global import and export volumes.

The European Union is also the leading importer and the leading exporter of agrifood products in spite of its shrinking agricultural population and it is a major actor in the governance of globalisation notably due to its influence in international organisations, the global reach of its agrifood enterprises and the effective organisation of its civil society.

The European Union is a large market with over 500 million consumers whose dietary habits are continuing to change along with their lifestyles and societal concerns, as has been



illustrated by the debates during France's National Food Conference. This enormous common market must supply sustainable food at affordable prices for the greatest possible number of people while facing major issues relating not only to the food sovereignty of the European Union, but also to nutrition, health and the environment. As a strong expression of "collective preferences" there is a "citizens'" focus on food and sanitary security as well as animal welfare, and consumers are increasingly seeking greater involvement in the definition of food-related public policies. France shares in this way common values and standards on food with the other countries in the European Union. In the EU, food and gastronomy are also factors in attractiveness for tourism. They constitute a major component of the European cultural heritage and contribute to the protection and promotion of local producing regions.

Although those systems of production and consumption are confronted at the present time with numerous challenges (management of natural resources, sanitary risks, increasing market volatility, allocation of value-added along production chains, consumer expectations, the abandonment of disadvantaged rural areas and trends toward land fragmentation, among others), the European Union possesses the necessary means to overcome them, notably thanks to the robust nature of its public policies.

Located as they are at the interface between social, economic and environmental goals and issues, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) continue today to be the EU's only totally integrated policies. The CAP, set up at the very outset in the construction of Europe, has seen changes in national and global agricultural and agrifood economies as well as in the food-related behaviour of European citizens. Integrating high-level standards on sanitary, phytosanitary and animal welfare issues, it is able to provide sufficient, healthy, constant and high-quality food to EU citizens. As for the CFP, this lays down common rules that are among the world's most ambitious goals for sustainability and transparency in the exploitation of fisheries resources, including the protection of ecosystems.

Due to its commercial and diplomatic power, its stringent agricultural and food standards, and the increasing engagement of its citizens, the European Union is in a position to exert influence on the definition of global standards. By reaffirming the relevance of the European project, it can

become the leader for the regulation of the globalisation process in systems of production and consumption.

THE CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED BY FRANCE'S SYSTEMS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SECTORS

Faced with the above context of the globalisation of systems of production and consumption and taking into account the importance of the European Union on these matters, France and the EU must overcome a number of major challenges

In order to address the emergence of new global issues and risks:

- 1.** Supporting the ecological transition to economies that are resilient against climate change, emit low levels of greenhouse gases and make economical use of natural resources.
- 2.** Enhancing the food and nutritional security against the backdrop of the intensifying impact of climate change, depletion of natural resources, price volatility and the renewed questioning of public policies on agriculture.
- 3.** Putting forward solutions to address the new sanitary, phytosanitary, nutritional and environmental risks.
- 4.** Ensuring that research can provide answers to the problems encountered and promoting effective systems for the dissemination of innovation.

In order to take account of the globalisation of systems of production and consumption:

- 5.** Enhancing competitiveness and promoting the know-how in France's agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors in a context of intensified competition and developing trade flows with a view to creating value for those industries.
- 6.** Improving the place of French businesses in international contexts, leveraging on the opening up of markets, foreign investment and our core advantages for offensive action, such as our sanitary model.
- 7.** Addressing the growing need for training and information for future citizens and workers in the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors, ensuring their assimilation into society and the workplace in a context typified by major global population dynamics

8. Ensuring that the emergence of new modes of governance and increasing numbers of forums and actors goes hand in hand with a focus for action on improvements in the collective interest.

In order to address the challenges specific to the European context:

9. Contributing to the restoration of confidence in the European project and helping greater involvement of EU citizens in the governance of European food systems.

10. Promoting ambitious changes in the CAP and CFP to enable those policies to provide an effective response to the collective issues confronting the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors.

11. Ensuring the inclusion in international negotiations, notably those relating to trade, of issues of sustainable development, climate change and high sanitary, phytosanitary, animal welfare and social standards.

12. Defending the interests of France and the EU in the Brexit negotiations.



PART 2

OUR VISION AND OUR STRATEGIC MARKERS

Against the backdrop of globalised systems of production and consumption and as part of a Europe it wants to be strong, France wishes to share its vision of agriculture, food, agrifood, fisheries and forestry as key sectors for our national and European economy. Our vision and our markers were reaffirmed during France's National Food Conference in working sessions on the apportionment of value-added and the importance of food that is healthy, safe, sustainable and affordable for all.

FOR FRANCE, AGRICULTURE, THE AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES ARE STRATEGIC SECTORS OFFERING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGULATED GLOBALISATION

Agriculture and agrifood form France's leading production sector in terms of value and employment. In the face of local and global challenges, those industries, along with fisheries and forestry, have the capacity to provide sustainable solutions to guarantee food security and the nutritional and sanitary quality of products, to address climate change and the erosion of biodiversity as well as encouraging the development of rural and urban areas, doing so against the backdrop of expanding migratory flows. They are also strategic for the French economy, for employment and for regional development, especially in rural areas. They are sources of solutions that necessarily involve a transition to systems of production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management that are innovative, sustainable and effective from the economic, social, environmental and sanitary standpoints. In line with the principles of agroecology and the circular, social and inclusive economy, those systems can enable a transition to a more sustainable world. France is supportive of the bioeconomy, which contributes, by producing bio-based products and renewable energy, to a transition to a low-carbon economy while at the same time ensuring a proper balance between food security and non-food needs and the preservation of ecosystems. In particular, France supports the wood industry, which has a role to play in

creating jobs, value-added and the restoration of a proper foreign trade balance, as well as regional development and environmental sustainability. Such a transition to sustainable systems requires strong public support policies for the creation of a favourable environment for innovation, and it relates to the goal of regulated globalisation. France, in line with the Family Farming Decade, also favours support for family-based agriculture, this being a major global provider of employment because it is the source of over 70% of all food production, manages a substantial portion of natural resources and fosters rural development.

AGRICULTURE, THE AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MUST BE AT THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

European public policies enable all Member States to respond more effectively to collective challenges. The European Union must be a source of determination to apportion fairly the benefits of globalisation, in accordance with its principles of solidarity and sustainability, while also protecting its citizens from the resulting risks. Through the Common Agricultural Policy (PAC), coupled with the Programme of Options Specifically Relating to Remoteness and Insularity (POSEI), the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the ERASMUS+ programme, the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors are participants in the construction of a strong Europe both open to the world and protective of its actors (producers, consumers, businesses, artisanal workers and citizens).

For example, in the fishing industry, the principle whereby the maritime area is pooled and the principle of stable allocation of fishing opportunities between Member States are a core component of the Common Fisheries Policy. The European Union has also put in place a bioeconomy strategy to assist the development of the circular economy, in addition to a European forestry strategy. The latter provides a general framework for the coming years and is intended to ensure more effective coordination of European and national policies on forestry. European public policies also provide a high level of protection for European consumers as well as responding to their collective expectations and preferences, especially in the areas of food quality (official quality signs), animal health, animal welfare, plant health and the preservation of natural resources. They are also intended to ensure fair allocation of value-added throughout the supply chain along with a decent income for producers and processors while at the same time encouraging a transition towards greater sustainability. They are also a key tool for offensive action on exports.

A TASTE FOR “GOOD EATING” IN ALL ITS ASPECTS OF PLEASURE, CULTURE, SHARING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIMENSION OF FOOD IN FRANCE

France is an advocate of the multifunctional dimension of food systems, and especially the structural role of food in our society. Food is part and parcel of the philosophies underpinning social justice, food education, health, combating waste, attachment to local regions and promotion of our heritage, all of which was reaffirmed by the French National Food Conference. Food has a strong cultural dimension and is a showcase for a farming tradition that is constantly being modernised and made more creative. Our food is a reflection of the diversity, quality and authenticity of our agricultural sectors. France defends its agricultural, artisanal, gastronomic and culinary expertise. The “French food model” attaches importance to shared meals, conviviality and the pleasure to be derived from eating high-quality foodstuffs together. That model is intergenerational and sets out to be accessible to all, especially the most deprived. The way we see food in its pleasurable and “good eating” aspects is intended to be passed on to others – not only to the younger generation but also internationally, in order to promote our culinary heritage.

FRANCE PROMOTES DIVERSITY IN SYSTEMS OF PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION APPROPRIATE TO INDIVIDUAL REGIONS

France is an advocate of diversity in agricultural and food systems as well as in modes of distribution and consumption, appropriate to its regions in both metropolitan France and its overseas territories. The agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors are diverse in terms of their organisation, actors and types of production. That diversity in systems, traditions, cultures and local producing regions is enriching and fosters sustainability in local regions and their resilience when confronted with economic, environmental, social and climatic shocks. It is notably characterised by the use of geographical indications and it must be supported, encouraged and protected, including internationally. Moreover, since its activities are tightly linked to nature, agriculture has always shaped French landscapes, which are key assets for tourism in France. Preservation of biodiversity and diversity in animal and plant genetic heritage is also important for France.

FRANCE IS COUNTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE YOUNG GENERATIONS, TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE

The women and men working in the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors are in the front line for the promotion and application of sustainable solutions and they must be central to the international agenda. As core actors in the transition to sustainable food systems, they are at the heart not only of European and international issues but also their local regions. Their professions, which are crucial to the whole of society and to natural ecosystems, must be given value and protection and their working and living conditions must be improved. Their training, whether basic, vocational or involving apprenticeship, must contribute to generational renewal, foster social fulfilment and integration into society and the world of work. Pursuit of the goal of systems of production that are effective on multiple fronts, competitive and sustainable requires sustained production of knowledge and innovation capable of underpinning transitions such as those to digital technology and ecology.

France argues for full consideration for such educational and scientific questions in initiatives, debates and European and

international agricultural and rural policies. Indeed, as was underscored at the National Food Conference, generational renewal should be a golden opportunity for the transformation of our systems, which must continue to be attractive to young people.

WORKING FOR A STRATEGIC VISION OF AGRICULTURE DEBATED, DEFINED AND PROMOTED COLLECTIVELY IN EUROPE AND INTERNATIONALLY

France works with all who help promote sustainable solutions through exchanges of good ideas, good practice and practical solutions drawn from both science and experience. Action by the authorities cannot be effective in isolation and needs to be underpinned and coordinated with all actors in systems

of production and consumption, and specifically with farmers, fishers and foresters. This means that if supplies of healthy, safe and sustainable food affordable for all are to be assured, stronger ties are necessary between producers, processors, distributors, consumers and citizens, as well as government, naturally. Closer coordination with actors in research and innovation, economic operators, civil society and the general public at all levels – national, European and international – is fundamental (e.g. GISA, National Food Conference). This is so because the transition to sustainable food systems is reliant on women and men who are skilled, promoters of innovation and with roots in their local regions while also being mobile and open to European and global goals and issues. The actors of tomorrow must be prepared for such international exchanges and the multi-actor search for solutions.



PART 3

THE CORE FOCUSES OF OUR ACTION IN EUROPE AND INTERNATIONALLY

In full alignment with the government's European and international strategy, the Ministry's strategy is built around four core focuses for action. By pursuing those focuses the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is seeking to contribute to the construction of a strong and economically effective Europe, to promote a transition to sustainable systems around the world and to strengthen the international reputations of our actors and expertise. The Ministry wishes to coordinate its action at both European and international levels with all stakeholders in the sectors for which it is responsible. The integration and mobilisation of all the Ministry's staff and partners will be the key to success, along with linkage of its strategy with the international strategies of the entities and operators under its supervision and all other partners.

FOCUS 1



Contributing to the construction of a strong European Union open to the world and protective of its interests

In a period marked by debate on the future of the European Union and the impact of globalisation on the agricultural and agrifood industries, France's objective is to contribute, by means of the policies it promotes, to giving Europe a strategic vision of these sectors, which are capable of responding to the expectations not only of its producers but also its consumers and citizens, as well as to the issues

surrounding sovereignty and food and nutritional security. Because agriculture, agrifood, forestry and fisheries are at the heart of the European project, France promotes the goal of a strong European Union capable of assisting the economic strengthening of sectors to allow them to adjust to the new parameters of European and global markets and respond to demand from Europe's citizens.

BUILDING THE NEXT COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) TO RENEW THE RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH AND BETWEEN FARMERS, THE PUBLIC AND CONSUMERS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The CAP is still a foundation policy for the European Union today (Rome, 1957), and it is also a policy for the future that is fully in phase with EU priorities: jobs, growth, investment, youth, innovation and research. The CAP is a core response to the challenges facing the European Union, most notably in terms of European food sovereignty, food and sanitary security, employment, economic growth, preservation of natural resources, climate and rural development. The CAP is an absolutely key economic policy to enable all European Union farmers and growers to enjoy a fair income less exposed to market hazards and to provide economic security for their activities. Its role is fundamental to the pursuit of the goal of a more resilient European Union as it faces globalisation and overcoming the major challenge that is climate change. With each successive reform, the CAP has given more and more consideration to environmental issues and regional development, becoming the only policy that sees agriculture as multifunctional and providing a framework for the remuneration of sustainable agricultural practices across all Europe's regions. By taking into account the multisectoral nature of food systems, the CAP provides a response to 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of the European Union project. In this way, France is promoting internationally the importance and the necessity of implementing policies to underpin the agricultural sector.

The Programme of Options Specifically Relating to Remoteness and Insularity (POSEI) represents a roll-out of the first pillar of the CAP for France's overseas territories⁽¹⁾. In accordance with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it is an appropriate response to the specific needs of those territories, which are operating in a geographic and climatic context very different from that of metropolitan France. POSEI is amended annually and is to be reviewed in the near future; it therefore adjusts constantly to needs identified by the overseas territories, taking fully into consideration the inputs made by individual sectors in both its definition and its application. In order to achieve as far as is possible the objective of increased production in France's overseas territories, and unlike what is done in metropolitan France, the aim would be to put the allocation of support payments on an objective footing by linking their receipt to adherence to individual criteria.



The European Union must take the lead on family-based and sustainable farming to bring about the ecological transition, improvements in agricultural practice to meet the expectations of the public and fair remuneration for the actors involved, all this with the application of the same rules to countries exporting to the European Union.

The CAP is well-liked by the European public, which recognises its advantages and advocates keeping it in the future. The most recent public survey by the Commission, like the work done during the French National Food Conference, testifies to the public's concerns for the availability of high-quality, traceable, healthy and sustainable food. Almost 90% of respondents emphasised the genuine value-added of a common agricultural policy across the European Union, notably in order to guarantee a level playing field in the single market and improved responses to common issues such as the environment and the climate.

However, the CAP must continue to change in order to meet new public expectations and to renew the social contract between farmers and society, applying a philosophy of transparency and trust. While continuing to pursue its primary objective of ensuring European food sovereignty as well as food and sanitary security for European citizens, the CAP must build a policy for the future that is capable of supporting the transition to sustainable agricultural systems. In that context it must encourage and foster a European economy that emits little greenhouse gas, is economic in its use of natural resources and preserves biodiversity, notably by means of agroecology, through optimisation of the use of the factors of production and conversion of biomass in all its forms based on the bioeconomy.

(1) Applied in Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, Reunion Island and Mayotte, these being the EU's French ultraperipheral regions.

In this connection, the CAP must promote and assist the adoption by EU Member States of modes of production that make only limited use of phytosanitary products and synthetic inputs. France argues that current tools should necessarily be adjusted and simplified in the post-2020 CAP and made consistent in order to strengthen the resilience of the systems of production in a context typified by increasing numbers of hazards of various kinds (economic, environmental, sanitary, climatic, and so on). They must support a transformation in those systems in order to move on from a “linear” economic model (extraction, production, consumption, disposal) to a circular model that fosters the regionalised creation of wealth, adds value to co-products, limits consumption of natural resources and preserves natural habitats and biodiversity. Specifically, France will be highly attentive to whether the next CAP attaches value to, and remunerates the environmental, social and regional services provided by agriculture, as well as fostering the climatic, agricultural, energy and regional transitions.

Given the various sanitary crises of recent years, restoration of the confidence of European citizens/consumers in food systems is an issue for the years to come. The European sanitary and phytosanitary framework has seen recent changes (animal and plant health package, official controls, etc.) that place emphasis on prevention (biosecurity), which must be a more integral part of agricultural policies. As was emphasised at the National Food Conference, France

advocates an approach involving a redefinition of the modalities and funding of the studies for the evaluation and authorisation of substances and products, along with a request for improvements in mutual consultation between European, national and international agencies. Concerned to ensure adherence to European sanitary standards, France is also supporting a project for the creation of an observatory of sanitary risks linked to non-compliance in agrifood products imported into the European Union and the setting up of a European task force to combat food-related fraud. The CAP must underpin the goal of the European Union to put in place ambitious strategies on phytosanitary products and the use of antibiotics, in addition to animal welfare. France will in this way seek to ensure that an ambitious European strategy is arrived at for endocrine disruptors with common identification criteria. It will also argue for the necessity of a general strategy on nanomaterials.

The CAP must also strengthen its support for the control of food waste by encouraging the reduction and sustainable management of discarded food. In line with public health objectives, the CAP must also support nutritional education and the importance of shared meals as related to the concepts of “good eating” and pleasure in food. It would be desirable for the European Union to adopt ambitious, common strategies to bring about the emergence of a Europe that protects and the CAP must assist such developments.

FRENCH GASTRONOMY IS NOW PART OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

In 2010, UNESCO added the French gastronomic meal to the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a social practice. The purpose of this list, created in 2003, is to protect traditional cultural practices and expertise in the same way that sites and monuments are protected.

The French have indeed always had a special relationship with their food. That relationship has left a deep imprint on the country’s history, culture and lifestyle. Eating is not just a functional activity, it is a daily, shared pleasure obedient to certain cultural habits: conviviality, food diversity, adherence to set mealtimes and structured meals.

The committee commented in its decision that French gastronomy is “a customary social practice for celebrating important moments in the lives of individuals and groups”. In addition to its culinary preparation, a French meal is defined by the social behaviour surrounding it: conviviality, the pleasure of taste, sharing, the link with local producing regions, nutritional balance (in quality and quantity), and so on.

Preservation of the French style of meal is one of the goals of France’s National Food Programme (PNA), which starts out from the principle that “good eating is everybody’s business”. Based on this programme, a number of government ministries are working to safeguard the French gastronomic meal. A large number of concrete actions are being conducted in order to highlight the value of the products and the culinary know-how, foster gastronomic tourism in France’s regions, promote the French food model abroad and pass on those cultural values to the younger generation.

IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY (CFP) TO SERVE EFFECTIVELY ITS ECONOMIC ACTORS AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The implementation of the CFP, adopted in December 2013, is of major importance for France. The aim is to perfect what is one of the most ambitious management models in the world, one based on the best scientific judgement, on quotas set in accordance with a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and an ecosystemic approach.

The substantial efforts made by the entire French fishing industry have made it possible to achieve the CFP's primary objective in the Atlantic by 2020 at the latest, i.e. to exploit fish stocks to the maximum sustainable yield for all species by progressing in stages. With this in mind, France advocates a realistic application of the landing obligation, an ambitious measure aimed at encouraging selective fishing methods and fishing gear and minimising discards at sea.

France is participating fully in work to implement the main focuses of the CFP such as the control of deep-sea fishing, revision of the major regulations on control and technical measures, in addition to the adoption of multiyear management plans for each major fishing area. France seeks to ensure that obligations are proportionate to the goals pursued and endeavours to ensure that consideration is given to the specific characteristics of activities in individual regions. It is working for change in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for greater simplicity and effec-

tiveness. France is attentive to the terms for the adoption of these texts whose importance demands extensive consultation with Member States and European institutions.

ANTICIPATING AND SUPPORTING EUROPEAN POLICIES ON THE FOREST-WOOD SECTOR

In addition to environmental and social issues, French forestry is a major economic sector with almost 440,000 jobs in the forest-wood industry in France.

Pursuant to the Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (LAAAF), the French national programme on forestry and wood (PNFB) defines the focuses for forestry policy. Although there is no mention of wood in the Treaty of Rome, many policies applied by ten Commission directorates general can impact the sustainable forest management, the use of forest products and the economic environment of companies (rural development and research policies, regulations on government aid, trade, the bioeconomy, biodiversity, water, energy, climate, plant health, and so on). The Eu's forest strategy adopted in 2013 sets out to ensure a degree of consistency between these different aspects of European policies. Given this, its revision must receive close attention.

France also wishes to promote in Europe and internationally its action plan for the bioeconomy announced at the close of the National Food Conference.



ADVOCATING AT EU LEVEL FOR THE NECESSITY OF GREATER COHERENCE IN PUBLIC POLICIES

The transition to sustainable systems of production and consumption and the preservation of the environment (combating climate change, conservation of biodiversity, etc.) require greater coherence between trade policy and policies on the environment, energy, farming, public health and development. Taking due account of all the objectives of the European Union and the principle of division of competencies (cf. Article 7 of the TFEU), the aim is notably to seek to ensure the effective interfacing of the objectives of the various sectoral policies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Consultation where possible of private operators and civil society can help improve the coherence of the various policies and their application.

Trade negotiations cannot be considered without taking into account their links to public agricultural policies. Where food imports to France are concerned, it is essential to abide by the collective preferences supported by the European Union (requirements relating to social rights, the environment, sanitary quality, intellectual property, geographical indications, etc.).

The impact of societal choices on the international competitiveness of our industries must be acknowledged as a parameter in negotiations: the EU's openness to trade must not endanger the CAP or the most vulnerable agricultural sectors, including those in overseas territories, due to intensified competition that is unequal given societal choices in Europe. Those choices have to be taken fully into account in the trade negotiations conducted by the Commission on behalf of the Member States of the European Union in order to achieve a balance between openness and protection. France advocates the idea that the overall level of concessions on agriculture (tariff quotas) must be determined negotiation by negotiation within the limits set by a maximum envelope and with a view to a balance for each agreement between gains and concessions on agriculture. France is also highly vigilant in seeking to ensure that our international commitments do not limit our capacity to define the focuses of the Common Agricultural Policy.

International recognition of the criteria for economic, environmental and sanitary sustainability must be a goal for both the European Union and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as well as for the signing of bilateral trade agreements. In accordance with the governmental action plan on the implementation of CETA, France is also putting forward at

EU level proposals for greater consideration to be given to sustainable development in all chapters of trade agreements. France is notably proposing that those provisions should be made more binding in order for them to be subject to the dispute settlement mechanisms of such agreements. It also argues that recognition of the Paris Agreement should be a key clause in political agreements concluded alongside trade agreements in order to ensure that their provisions can be suspended in the event of non-compliance with the Paris Agreement. This can be guaranteed by transparency for elected representatives and civil society and the total, close involvement of Member States in monitoring and guiding such negotiations.

France is also working to rebalance the European Union's trade policy which currently highlights the negotiation of new international agreements in order to ensure that more attention is given to the implementation of agreements that have already been signed, CETA in particular. Genuine reciprocity, a principle unanimously supported by those involved in the French National Food Conference, must be achieved, especially on sanitary and phytosanitary matters. The modalities of the application of the commitments entered into by the parties must also be closely monitored to ensure that an agreement's expected benefits are actually obtained. There must be an improvement in the linkage between the trade negotiation agenda, sanitary authorisation for imports to the EU and the lifting of non-tariff barriers impeding access for our companies to foreign markets.

It is also essential for European policies to be consistent with development policies if food sovereignty is not to be harmed, in addition to fostering satisfactory operation of sectors and local markets in developing countries for the benefit of the poorest stakeholders, especially farmers and growers. They must not be conducive to the creation of unfair competition with French industries in the short or medium term. Indeed, it is not the role of development policies to underpin local agricultural projects that compete directly with French industries. The importance was emphasised at the National Food Conference of fostering agroecology and the maintenance of "subsistence agriculture in developing countries" through the coherent use of development aid schemes and the launch of a new action plan on fair trade.

France supported the successive reforms of the CAP that have helped strengthen its coherence with the policies on development, food security and environmental protection (combating climate change, conservation of biodiversity, regional development, etc.) notably through reductions of

export credits, the decoupling of support payments and their greening. In that connection, France is also supportive of the creation of frameworks at national (e.g. corporate social responsibility, duty of vigilance) and international (e.g. Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment), that can guide governments in implementing their various public policies.

France also supports politically and financially the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) that provides material assistance to the most deprived in society, food aid in particular.

DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS

In accordance with the wish of the British population as expressed in the referendum of 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom will leave the European Union on 29 March 2019.

The negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and its future relationship with the EU raise issues within the remit of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food that are as diverse as they are important: the EU budget, trade flows, maritime fisheries, sanitary security and cooperation in the scientific, technical, socioeconomic and educational domains.

France is fully confident that the European Union's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, and his team will arrive at a balanced compromise with the United Kingdom. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will conduct discussions with all interested parties, notably at interministerial and industry levels, with a view to contributing to the definition of a French position that protects the interests of the sectors for which it is responsible and to prepare the economic actors for the various possible scenarios for the final outcome of the negotiations.

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TRAINING AND MOBILITY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL, HUMANE AND INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Research and training are fundamental to bringing about innovation and designing resilient, sustainable food models. The National Food Conference emphasised the importance of transformative investment and support for research and innovation. Public-sector research must be brought to bear as a priority for the transformation of agricultural systems in the direction of agroecology and alternatives to phytosanitary products, humane food, improvements in animal welfare, a sustainable bioeconomy, digital technology and data. Greater consideration must be given to the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors in European policy on research and innovation in Framework Programme 9 (FP9) post-2020, through the European Innovation Partnership in particular. The promotion of research co-financing instruments using European Commission and Member State funds remains a priority. For example, the European joint "One Health" programme is a project seeking the alignment and integration of policies on food-related zoonoses. France supports the continuity of multi-actor approaches on innovation.

Innovation is necessary in every sector, and especially in the agricultural and agrifood sectors. Innovation can ensure the development and competitiveness of the agrifood industries, which innovate more than the other manufacturing sectors (61% compared with 57% outside agrifood). Such innovation is supported in France, most notably through the "Investments for the Future" programme (PIA) and the country's competitiveness clusters, some of which are specifically dedicated to agriculture and food. The innovative "food system" concept, which demands multi-sector, multi-actor approaches, must also be advocated and owned by the research sector. Given that the actors themselves are often the originators of innovation, participatory research is also essential. In this context, France supports the European Innovation Partnership (EIP), which is reliant on networking among actors in development, agricultural training, farmers, researchers and private enterprise to encourage innovation in agriculture.

France is working to strengthen the mobility in Europe of future workers in the agricultural, agrifood, forestry, fisheries and forestry sectors. Mobility across Europe must be possible for all in connection with school education and apprenticeships and throughout our lives as a guarantee for the construction of a sense of European citizenship, a better grasp of the goals and issues of agricultural Europe and enhanced competitiveness.

Increased mobility for the young rural population, for students and workers in the Ministry's sectors based on regional, national and European instruments such as ERASMUS+ is seen as a priority by France.

Over and above its dynamic participation in European exchange programmes, agricultural training sets out to make openness to European and international issues one of the key characteristics of its courses. For that reason, educational establishments and teachers will be invited to make use of all the room for independent action at their disposal to raise the awareness of students to European issues relating to food, the environment, combating hunger and malnutrition, regional development, heritage preservation, cultural openness, and so on. The aim is to give future actors in the farming world a firmer grasp of the challenges and their complexity, negotiations and the range of positions on European agricultural subjects.



THE FRENCH INNOVATION - TRAINING - CONSULTANCY SPECTRUM: AN UNPARALLELED SYSTEM IN EUROPE

The French system for agronomic and veterinary research is based on research bodies and higher-education establishments of recognised worth: INRA, CIRAD, IRD, IRSTEA, CNRS, advanced schools of engineering and veterinary medicine, among others. Set up in 2015, IAVFF-Agreonium (the French Agricultural, Veterinary and Forestry Institute) comprises 14 higher-education establishments, research organisations (INRA, CIRAD, IRSTEA) and ANSES, with the core task of defining and implementing research and training strategies common to all its members, at regional, national, European and international levels. In addition to those bodies, the Technical Institutes for Agriculture (ITA) Technical Institutes for Agro-Industry (ITAI) specialising in different agricultural and processing chains are based across the whole of France. They are coordinated by two "network leader" associations (ACTA and ACTIA) to form an officially recognised network that complements academic research (INRA, IRSTEA, etc) with which they work closely. The technical institutes are bodies active in applied research, technical support, experimentation, expert evaluation, training and information distribution. They are qualified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to carry out tasks in the public interest to enhance sectoral competitiveness. They are tasked operationally with adapting to field conditions and they play in this respect a key role in the creation and dissemination of innovation in agriculture and its downstream businesses. The Chambers of Agriculture and ONVARs (national agricultural and rural organisations) are also important actors for the support of agricultural innovation. They contribute to the development of bottom-up innovation coming from farmers themselves, taking farmers' needs into account and rooted in local regions. The Chambers of Agriculture also play a major role in transferring innovation to the largest possible number of farmers.

The spectrum comprising research institutions, agricultural training establishments, technical institutes, professional farming organisations and Chambers of Agriculture makes France particularly strong where innovation is concerned both in Europe and internationally.

FOCUS 2

Supporting the transition to systems offering sustainable solutions

France argues that agriculture, the agrifood industry, forestry and fisheries are strategic sectors that can provide sustainable solutions. It promotes the idea that the transition to sustainable systems in all their diversity and their ties to their local regions is a solution capable of providing a response to the various global challenges such as food security and environmental protection (climate change, biodiversity conservation), as well as the expansion of migrant flows. France argues that this transition must be conducted as part of controlled, coordinated and regulated globalisation involving all its stakeholders.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

World food security is increasingly vulnerable to climatic, sanitary, economic and geopolitical hazards. The agricultural and food sectors are crucial to efforts against food and nutritional insecurity and more generally the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 2 in particular, the aims of which are to eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The French view of food and nutritional security is founded on the four pillars defined by United Nations organisations: physical, economic and social access to food, the availability of food, the sanitary and nutritional quality of the products and regularity of access. France is engaged in a combat against the triple burden of malnutrition, not only undernourishment but also micronutrient deficiencies and obesity at national and international levels, using its Official Development Aid (ODA). As was reaffirmed at the French National Food Conference, food is a major factor in health and satisfactory nutritional balance is essential to preventing obesity and numerous chronic illnesses.

Global food insecurity is largely due to lack of access to food and water.

The majority of those affected by food insecurity are farmers, especially family farmers. That is why the Ministry of Agriculture and Food supports the reinforcement of family farming, which is productive of wealth and jobs and protective of ecosystems, by promoting internationally the adoption of agricultural policies, the strengthening of regional integration, effective organisation of agricultural markets, development



of sector supply chains, support for smallholder organisations, fair access to water, secure land tenure, combating land degradation, and so on. France is also involved in efforts to combat maternal and infant malnutrition and contributes to international food aid (in respect to the London Convention).

Additionally, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the worst global region for undernourishment (22.7% of the population in 2016), largely due to spreading armed conflicts and climate shocks. Specifically, the Sahel combines many different problems: difficult natural conditions, vulnerable, degraded soils, irregular rainfalls, lack of security given the presence of terrorist groups, and so on. France has chosen to make this a priority region for its efforts, most notably through the Sahel Initiative, which combines security issues with development in order to foster sustainable development and the reduction of vulnerability.

France was a major actor in the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2009 in the wake of the 2008 food crisis. The task then was to open up the governance of the CFS beyond the 124 member countries to include civil society and the private sector and to provide it with a High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on food security and nutrition in charge of providing analytical input from research and experts for enlightened policymaking. France supports the CFS politically and financially, considering it to be the most inclusive forum for the governance of food security and nutrition. France advocates the application of recommendations to member countries and CSF voluntary guidelines and wishes to provide support to the HLPE. Moreover, France is closely involved in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which it sees as an essential body for global governance on agriculture, sustainable food and food and nutritional security. France's support for the FAO is expressed in practical terms by the implementation of a framework agreement between the French government and the FAO highlighting their shared priorities.

France also argues for its positions on the subjects of sustainable agriculture and food and nutritional security in bodies such as the G20, the G7 and the OECD.

In France, GISA (the French interministerial group on food security), which is co-chaired by the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, was set up in the wake of the 2008 food crisis in order to provide a watch on the food situation in developing countries and to prepare relevant coordinated French positions where necessary.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION SYSTEMS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE ON MULTIPLE LEVELS

France wishes to contribute at international level to the necessary transition to sustainable production and consumption systems. That transition requires joint action in numerous sectors. France is backed by its national policy, which takes the intersectoral nature of food and forestry issues into consideration (e.g. France's national plan for adaptation to climate change, national forest-wood plan, national biodiversity strategy, national low-carbon strategy, "Ambition Bio" organic farming plan, national food programme). Such consideration has been made possible by collective definitions of policies founded on a very broad consultation with all stakeholders. It is with this multisectoral approach that France wishes to strengthen the wide-ranging effectiveness of its policies and its regions from the economic, social, sanitary and environmental standpoints.

France advocates in the EU and internationally the construction of production and consumption systems that are more resilient, emit less greenhouse gas, are economic in their use of natural resources and protect more effectively biodiversity, the environment and the women and men who are central to the change process. Agriculture, forestry, livestock farming, fisheries and aquaculture are directly impacted by the climate and its variations. This means that adaptation to climate change is an obligation in these sectors if the food and nutritional security of the population is to be assured. Those sectors can provide effective leverage for mitigating climate change, a phenomenon that is, according to the IPCC, "unequivocal and [...] without precedent: not merely over decades but over millennia". They can reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and those of other sectors most notably by reducing synthetic inputs thanks to agroecology, and by means of integrated crop and livestock management, the production of green carbon from photosynthesis, storage of carbon in the soil, which also involves agroecological methods, and the sustainable management of forests and grassland.

France is well placed in this context because it has very large wooded areas which are managed sustainably, most notably in French Guyana, which has the most extensive European forest area.

More generally, the aim is to promote responsible processing chains and modes of distribution and consumption to limit losses and food waste and prioritise the principles of the bioeconomy and the circular economy.

The INRA and CIRAD AgriMonde Terra foresight study asserts that by 2050 soils will need to feed a world population estimated at 9.7 billion, while at the same time helping mitigate climate change, with forests playing a key role. Soil preservation is therefore a high-priority issue for France, especially in terms of the preservation of farmland and the implementation of policies and measures for carbon enrichment and sequestration in soils. In this context, France specifically advocates the “4 per 1,000 initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate”. Additionally, a feasibility study was carried out in 2018 by INRA to determine the potential for carbon sequestration in French soils. France also wishes to raise awareness of, and to foster initiatives by French livestock farming professionals to improve the sustainability of animal production, notably where the climate is concerned.

Food consumption patterns must shift towards greater sustainability if their impacts on our natural and social environment are to be reduced and natural resources preserved. France argues that public policies can guide

consumers towards adjustments in the ways they consume. Education is an essential vector for prevention in the health domain and changes in consumption habits, especially in the school context, along with positive information on nutrition and dietary habits.

Acting through institutional catering, control of waste and development of food donations, education, consumer information, international food aid and fair trade, the food policy is crucial to reducing social inequality, as was recalled in the debates at the National Food Conference. For that reason, France wishes to promote its national food programme (PNA) in Europe and internationally with the goal offering every citizen the right conditions for making food choices in line with their wishes, their constraints and their nutritional needs, for their health and wellbeing. This policy covers all aspects of food and is linked into the national nutrition and health programme (PNNS). The promotion of food choices favourable to good health (combining nutritional balance with eating pleasure along with a high level

THE AGROECOLOGY PROJECT: TESTIMONY TO THE DESIRE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO SUPPORT AGROECOLOGY

The agroecology project was launched in 2012 with the aim of providing an ambitious and inspirational vision for French farming, the goal being to improve the economic, sanitary, social and environmental performance of farms and agricultural and food supply chains. Agroecology is based on sustainable use of natural resources, on biodiversity, on closure of the major natural cycles and biological regulation. The agroecology project is enshrined in the French law on the future of agriculture, food and forestry of 17 October 2014.

Implementation of the project in France is driven by collective governance based on a steering committee comprising the main actors in agriculture in order to share this vision and support the transition to a series of concrete actions driven by a plan with 10 core focuses: mobilising all actors, raising awareness and communication, teaching ways to produce differently, supporting farmers and growers, limiting the use of synthetic plant protection products and antibiotics, providing financial support for agroecological approaches, building on research and innovation, committing sectors to progress towards agroecology, taking into account the realities of France’s overseas territories, promoting agroecology internationally, and monitoring and evaluating the agroecology project.

As part of the execution of its action plan dedicated to agroecology, France is making efforts to advocate the approach to its partners. Where the FAO is concerned, France gave its political and financial support to the 2014 symposium on agroecology and regional dialogues in Brazil, Senegal, Thailand, Hungary, China and Bolivia. In April 2018, the FAO hosted the second symposium on this topic with the aim of moving agroecology on from dialogue to action. This attracted over 700 participants. In 2017, France and Hungary were also advocates of agroecology at COP23 in Bonn.

France supports the knowledge platform on agroecology that connects over 1,500 international actors. It is a member of the “Friends of Agroecology” group comprising a number of countries that meet to discuss how best to promote agroecology. The “Friends of Agroecology” has been a driver for advocacy of agroecology at the FAO, leading that organisation to include it in its budget and its regular programme.

In this same spirit, France has also launched the “4 per 1,000: Soils for Food Security and Climate” initiative.

of sanitary safety) and protective of the environment and animal welfare was one of the conclusions reached by the National Food Conference. Additionally, the food policy is also a major factor in reducing social inequality. Core to the PNA is partnership with private-sector actors, local government and charities. Central government is involved as a “facilitator” and a “catalyst” for the initiatives of all the partners involved.

Likewise, as part of the Climate Plan, France decided to put in place a national strategy against imported deforestation (SNDI) including imported agricultural commodities, among other things. The SNDI will be interlinked with the national commitment under the Amsterdam Declarations, which have also been signed by six other European countries.

The regionalisation of high performance from all standpoints – economic, social, sanitary and environmental – is also a crucial issue not only in France but also across Europe and internationally. Local regions are located at the meeting point of issues relating to rural and urban transformation, migration within and between countries, jobs and social stability. Regional economic development is fundamental to providing full employment and quality of life and work for their populations, especially farmers. Enhancement of such wide-ranging high performance notably requires the development of the bioeconomy, improved links between producers and national and international markets, development of policies for the prevention and management of risks and the use of quality signs, notably those indicating product origins (designations of origin and geographical indications) and products from organic farming.

The importance of local initiatives and the role of central government in supporting them was underscored at the National Food Conference. Regional food systems that combine local regional concepts with agrifood supply chains are based on a natural, technical and cultural heritage underpinned by a philosophy of local supply and governance with local roots. That is why France advocates this concept and promotes the definition and dissemination of local regional food projects that take account of environmental and nutritional aspects and social justice. Such projects, as implemented by local government bodies, can be vectors for employment and economic development and facilitate access for all to wholesome, high-quality food.

Support for the transition to systems of production offering high performance on multiple levels must also necessarily involve the actors in development and input from the French



SOILS, CLIMATE AND FOOD SECURITY: THE “4 PER 1,000” INITIATIVE – A PUBLIC POLICY FOR THE FUTURE AND AN ECOLOGICAL, INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

4% is the annual rate of increase of carbon storage in soils worldwide that would halt the current increase in atmospheric CO₂.

The “4 per 1,000” initiative initiated by France at COP21 involves bringing together all public- and private-sector volunteers under the Global Climate Action Agenda. Its aim is to show that agriculture, and especially agricultural soils, can play a crucial role in food security and climate change, setting out to complement imperative efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the economy as a whole. Based on robust scientific documentation, the initiative urges all partners to raise awareness of, and to implement concrete actions on carbon storage in soils and the farming methods to achieve it (e.g. agroecology, agroforestry, combined crop and livestock farming, landscape management).

The goal of the initiative is to encourage contacts between actors on how to transition to agriculture that is productive, highly resilient, based on appropriate management of land and soil, and generates employment and income, thereby driving sustainable development. The initiative also aims to build a set of reference criteria to ensure that the approaches adopted are genuinely transformative. Practical application of the criteria will be monitored.

THE NATIONAL FOOD PROGRAMME (PNA)

The national food policy is dedicated to the creation of the PNA under French law 2014-1170 of 13 October 2014 on the future of agriculture, food and forestry.

The PNA is organised around four priority focuses:

- ◆ social justice and access for all to safe, nutritious food in sufficient quantities in accordance with individual food preferences for an active life in good health;
- ◆ education of the young on balanced diets and responsible dietary habits, which must go hand in hand with highlighting the value of the food-related professions;
- ◆ combating food waste through consumer information on good practice along with an increase in donations of foodstuffs currently destroyed or disposed of (law 2016-138 of 11 February 2016), in addition to the promotion of activities that foster entry into work based on the economic activity enabling such products to be put to better use;
- ◆ a basis in local regions to support the French agricultural model, the French agrifood industries and the jobs they provide across the country, highlighting the value of quality and origin signs and encouraging locally-based supplies for institutional catering based around platforms to match supply with demand.

The PNA stands at a point where a range of issues meet:

- ◆ Food security, in relation to the efforts to ensure access of food to all. It is part of Agenda 2030, and specifically SDG 2: to eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- ◆ Public health, in relation to the encouragement of the food industry to improve the nutritional composition of its products and the promotion of education on dietary diversity and balance;
- ◆ Preservation of resources, particularly in relation to efforts to reduce food waste;
- ◆ Economic efficiency, in relation to its highlighting of the value of regional roots;
- ◆ Promotion of the sustainability of modes of production and food models.

This programme merits wide promotion across the EU and internationally.

The PNA's core focuses form in this way a useful vector for raising the profile of the excellence of our industries and our French food heritage.

Global Environment Facility (FFEM), of which the Ministry of Agriculture is a member institution, which will facilitate the transfer of innovation to farmers and disseminate bottom-up innovation.

Support for the transition to systems of production offering high performance on multiple levels must necessarily involve the actors in agricultural development who facilitate the transfer of innovations to farmers and disseminate bottom-up innovation. In this connection in France, the Chambers of Agriculture play a structurally important role that could be a source of inspiration for other countries in the European Union.

IMPROVING THE ALLOCATION OF VALUE ALONG SUPPLY CHAINS

> Value creation and allocation

From the economic and structural standpoints, the farming and food industries can be characterised as being highly fragmented upstream (production) and as having a highly concentrated downstream sector (processing and distribution). There can be imbalances in respective negotiating powers and an unfavourable apportionment of value for producers in the various sectors.

In order to ensure the long-term maintenance of agricultural production capacity and enable the transition to sustainable systems of production and consumption, the objective is to underpin the economic viability of agricultural holdings, to add more value and to ensure fair apportionment of that value between the various links in the chain.

Following the National Food Conference, a number of actions were taken by France to achieve the above, most notably:

- ◆ a change in France's legislative provisions on the contractualisation of agricultural and food products;
- ◆ implementation of sectoral plans: at the end of 2017 the interbranch bodies comprising actors in the value chain drew up plans for transformation in the main sectors to enable them to respond more effectively to societal expectations and guarantee fair prices for producers. Those plans define transformation goals for each sector with a number of focuses for the medium term: contractualisation, product premiumisation, modes of production (e.g. protective of the environment, attentive to animal welfare etc.), segmentation of the market offering, positioning and diversification of products and markets, exports, research, development

and innovation, competitiveness, the energy and climate transition, among others;

- roll-out of the national action plan published in February 2018 under the national bioeconomy strategy and aimed at enabling innovative, cascaded exploitation of biomass, both food and non-food;
- construction of a new “Ambition Bio” organic farming programme.

The issue of value allocation and the remuneration of farmers and growers is broadly consensual in third countries. It is inseparable from the issue of food security and access for all to high-quality food, particularly for the most vulnerable in society, an issue relevant to all countries to differing degrees. That is why France is supporting and promoting in Europe and internationally an improvement in the apportionment of value-added between the actors in systems of production.

Farmers and agricultural workers must be able to earn a decent living from their profession. Sectoral organisation and the formation of farmers’ groups in cooperatives, producer organisations and interbranch bodies, along with the use of quality signs, can all be ways of improving the allocation of value-added.

> Promoting the use of geographical indications in sectors

Geographical indications (GI) provide an effective means for rural development, the empowerment of local producers and the creation and fair allocation of value throughout the production chain. They assist local regions attached to their traditions when exploiting their competitive advantages on internal and external markets. For consumers, they provide a



guarantee of the origin and specific nature of products they buy and for which they are willing to pay more. For producers, they offer access to the market and higher remuneration than for equivalent products without geographical indications, thus helping put their business on a securer footing.

Since they are necessarily linked to a geographical context, geographical indications are an effective tool for local development and combating rural-urban migration, working for the whole of the sector concerned. On the international market, products with GIs have a very specific image, making them particularly successful when exported. And as exports, they also contribute to the promotion of their region of origin and to the development of tourism linked to gastronomy and local producing regions. Unlike brands, GIs are rooted in a local region and production cannot be relocated. GIs help

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Action by agricultural high school students, local authorities and states to protect and add value to South African products and local producing regions

Before 2015 there were no specific regulations on geographical indications in South Africa other than in the wine and spirits sector. In order to provide backing for agricultural and food industries in defining new geographical indications and drafting the relevant mandatory specifications, the Western Cape's Department of Agriculture called on INAO's expertise under the decentralised cooperation between Western Cape province and France's Burgundy-Franche-Comté region, including its agricultural high schools. Since 2015, work has been ongoing on specifications for the five potential South African geographical indications: Cape flowers, Cape brandy, Wupperthal rooibos, Honeybush and Cape olive oil.

This example illustrates the importance of promoting GIs internationally and the role played in their protection. What this means is that the more the French authorities act to spread the GI concept, and especially its rural and socioeconomic components, the easier dialogue is with third countries on issues relating to the protection of GIs. This is because a country attached to its own GIs will be better able to understand the need to protect them and potentially more inclined to protect France's GIs.

in this way to protect traditional expertise deriving from the geographical location and to keep it there. This can preserve entire areas of local or regional culture and is a source of legitimate pride for a sector's actors.

Since developing countries possess high potential for GIs, the French authorities have undertaken a range of projects aimed at training producers, consolidating national or regional institutional and regulatory systems and bringing out local potential. France acts in support of GIs in international organisations such as the FAO or the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in close conjunction with a number of bodies active on this topic such as INAO, CIRAD, the NGO oriGIn , among others. The French authorities are extremely vigilant with regard to the inclusion in agreements signed with third countries by the European Union of more effective provisions for the protection of GIs in our partner countries. As a consequence, in some cases those agreements contain significant advances for GI recognition and protection in international trade.

By promoting GIs internationally, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is encouraging partner countries to put their own GIs in place and adopt regulations that converge with those of the European Union based on cooperation schemes that help limit illicit uses of French GIs.

Lastly, the necessary integration of protection of the environment and protection of animal welfare in the definition and management of GIs must be promoted internationally.

> Promoting the development of organic farming around the world

Organic farming is a mode of production protective of the environment, animal welfare and biodiversity and one that can provide solutions to address changes in the climate. Organic farming is an expanding economic sector in France, Europe and around the world, involving nearly 2.4 million agricultural holdings and covering more than 1.1% of world UAA. This development is notably driven by a fast-growing market for organic products worth €80 billion in 2015, concentrated mainly in North America and Europe. In 2017, France was the world's third largest market for organic products at €8 billion.

The development of organic farming is linked to the dynamic nature of the market, to the development of norms and standards and rising demand from the public and consumers

for wholesome products protective of the environment that provide a decent return for their producers. Organic farming is specifically defined by the Codex Alimentarius as well as by EU regulations which effectively apply to half the global market (imports included). In addition, over 87 countries have defined and adopted regulations to control and safeguard the development of organic farming.

The development of supply chains for organic products helps disseminate production methods that are sustainable, resilient and appropriate to local regions. Increased supply of organic products to the European market, especially those from the tropics, is a virtuous development tool whereby higher prices can raise production value-added and drive economic development that is appropriate to, and protective of local regions.

The French authorities support the development of organic farming around the world, most notably by promoting its core principles as enshrined in EU regulations. The French authorities are supportive of the action taken by the European Commission to develop trade agreements for organic products based on reciprocal equivalence as laid down for example in the European Commission's 2014 action plan. The objective is to foster the development of regulations and systems of verification that guarantee the quality of organic products for European consumers and fair treatment for European producers. Similarly, the French authorities provide assistance, notably by contributing their expertise to support initiatives and the drafting of regulations and policies for the development of organic farming.

STRENGTHENING SANITARY SECURITY

Stronger sanitary security is important for consumers and requires the adoption of more effective systems for research, benchmarking, surveillance, warnings and penalties. The prevention of sanitary crises by reinforcing surveillance and intervention capabilities came to be seen as a priority by the National Food Conference. Internationally, France advocates stronger capabilities for veterinary and plant protection services, sanitary agencies and research institutions, as well as the farmers themselves, notably based on the development of prevention and biosecurity. Such cooperation should lead to progress on the reciprocity principle advocated by France. Consolidation of European and cross-border cooperation on this topic is essential if coordinated efforts are to be stepped up against sanitary threats, especially those that can impact human health, species and ecosystems, including forests.

ORGANISATION OF THE ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS (IFOAM) IN 2020 IN RENNES

IFOAM (International Foundation of Organic Agriculture Movements) is an international non-profit association working to develop organic farming. It has 800 members from over 100 countries. Those members are non-profit associations, federations and private companies active in organic farming. It is an influential organisation on issues relating to organic farming, most notably on possible focuses for national and regional regulations. IFOAM is also a recognised interlocutor for international organisations.

France will be organising the next world congress on organic farming in 2020 in Rennes, based around ITAB (2), a French member of IFOAM. This event will be important for the sector both in terms of the policy lines that may be adopted and for discussions, as well as for building new economic and scientific partnerships.

(2) Applied in Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, Reunion Island and Mayotte, these being the EU's French ultraperipheral regions.



Control of antimicrobial resistance is also a priority for France's international action. The model implemented in France (Ecoantibio) must be promoted internationally by highlighting the factors for its success, notable among which is strong commitment on the part of all actors, especially veterinarians and livestock farmers. France, in collaboration with the European Union, will continue to combat the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock farming, this being an unfair competitive practice hazardous to public health, arguing for a worldwide ban. Similarly, France argues both in the EU and internationally that the use of plant protection products must not cause harm to the environment, human or animal health and that alternatives to their use must be developed.

Stronger sanitary security is also in line with support for modes of production such as agroecology that make little use of plant protection products. Promotion of this farming system must involve a policy of integration based on the development and effective use of existing plans in these areas, e.g. Ecophyto, Ecoantibio, Ambition Bio, Seeds and

Plants for Sustainable Agriculture, the development plan for sustainable beekeeping, the National Food Programme and the Animal Welfare Strategy.

Adherence to sanitary and phytosanitary standards is a major issue on which the trade policy of the European Union should be based, most notably with acknowledgement of the quality of official public sanitary services.

ENHANCING THE SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND VOLUNTARY MOBILITY OF FUTURE PROFESSIONALS AND STRENGTHENING TRAINING AND RESEARCH SYSTEMS INTERNATIONALLY, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN

Agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, especially when family-based, and the agrifood industry are sectors with great capacity to provide employment in both developed and developing countries. France therefore wishes to enhance the attractiveness of jobs in farming and food, and in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as matching vocational training to what is needed. Local and foreign businesses based abroad need qualified, well-trained personnel.

The remit of France's research and teaching organisations includes a mandatory international cooperation component. In that connection, the French system of agricultural training, in compliance with France's international commitments, endeavours to contribute to ensuring universal access to high-quality training on a level playing field with generalist education, and to promote possibilities for life-long learning in the agricultural, veterinary and forestry domains both in France and abroad.

Based on international student exchanges and support for training systems in partner countries, France helps develop local and international job opportunities. Likewise, France is continuing its action in the field of international education on development and solidarity directed at young rural populations and future agricultural workers. France is endeavouring in this context to make significant and sustainable increases in international funding for basic education and wishes to make staged increases in its contribution to this sector (cf. CICID, 2016). Furthermore, the Summer School held annually by the national veterinary services school attracts public servants from numerous countries, helping spread the reputation of France's model and expertise. Student grants funded by

THE "ONE HEALTH" CONCEPT

The "One Health" approach was initiated in the early 2000s. It advocates an integrated, systemic and unified approach to public, animal and plant health and the health of ecosystems and biodiversity at local, national, regional and global levels. In 2011 in a joint statement by all three, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) reaffirmed the importance and relevance of the approach.

France favours this approach, the objective of which is to improve the health and sanitary security of the public, particularly in developing countries. Programmes must also include prevention, which is less costly than intervention if a crisis occurs, and control of zoonoses at their source in animals. This specifically entails reinforcement of the capabilities of government services (public health, veterinary and phytosanitary services), coordination between the various health systems and development of research and training programmes.

the Ministry of Agriculture and Food allow many countries to attend, thus enabling ongoing negotiations to be taken further and cooperation programmes to be stepped up.

France also wishes to develop education and information for the general public, teachers and prescribers in the health domain on EU and international issues related to food and nutrition. The Ministry also intends to use cooperation programmes in education and science, alongside contacts between professionals, to promote its expertise and conduct discussions on responsible modes of production and consumption.

French higher-education and research establishments in the agricultural, veterinary and forestry domains also undertake strategic partnerships with their partners in developing countries.

SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION TO BENEFIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

France has undertaken and is firmly supportive of the digital transition with the aim of improving competitiveness and sustainability in agriculture, agrifood, forestry and fisheries, thereby contributing to high economic sanitary, social and environmental performance by farms and businesses, and

wishes to draw up a roadmap for digital technology in the agricultural and agrifood industries. In a period marked by economic, sanitary and environmental hazards, digital technologies and robotics can assist the emergence of a new agricultural model: precision agriculture capable of providing part of the response to the 21st century's new challenges of production in the living world and environmental requirements.

As ancestral heirs to a culture based on sharing, the handing down of tradition, information and mutual assistance, farmers and growers were quick to adopt new technologies such as decision aid tools and systems for observation and high-precision work (GPS, drones, connected robots, connected devices, etc.) and mobile applications covering a very broad range of their requirements. This has enabled them to coordinate, measure and control all their daily production activities: monitoring crops, supplying water, fine-tuning the application of plant protection chemicals, tracking fertiliser applications, monitoring herds, and so on.

In the fishing industry, the tools for declaring and tracking activities are now largely computerised with special tools continuing to be provided for small ships. The European Union is implementing, with help from Member States, an electronic directory of international fishing activities destined to one of the world's most exhaustive, part of which will be open to the public.

ERASMUS+: 30 YEARS OF OPENNESS TO EUROPE AND THE WORLD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

Erasmus+ offers an openness to the international world outside Europe currently reserved for higher education but which will benefit young people in vocational education after 2020. Erasmus+ makes cooperation programmes possible to develop innovation and bring training closer to private enterprise in order to match the supply of training to companies' skill requirements and facilitate the entry of young people into the job market.

Erasmus + is an EU programme whose purpose is to promote:

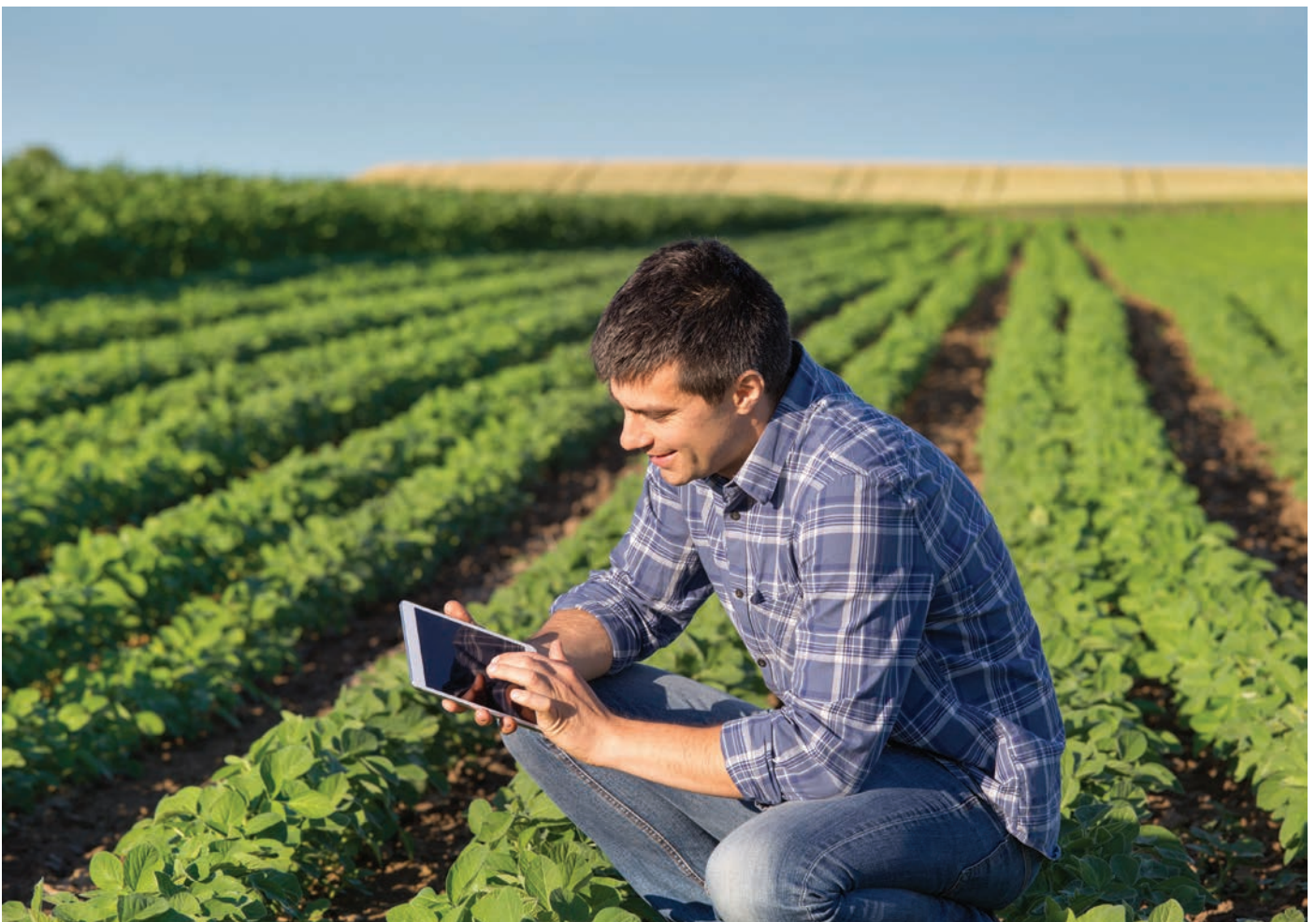
- mobility for training purposes;
- cooperation for innovation and exchanges of good practice;
- support for policy reform.

Key facts on French agricultural training in the Erasmus+ programme:

- agricultural training is a major actor in the European youth mobility programme;
- funding of €7.7 million goes to projects for mobility and strategic partnerships for agricultural teaching establishments – representing 6.3% of the national Erasmus + budget;
- 92 agricultural training projects have been selected, representing 6% of all those selected at national level.

The processing of massive quantities of information (Big Data) can help business pool know-how, facilitate their decision-making and acceptance of risk based on predictive data analysis. Digital systems also allow new relationships to be built with consumers. While short and local distribution channels are not novel, digital technology extends them to new consumers while also allowing prices to be kept under control. For the community, detailed descriptions of farmland in local data facilities and series of satellite images that can now be updated every few days form a substantial body of information of use not only to agriculture but also for the evaluation of its performance in global policies designed to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations.

These new tools are a major focus for reflection on information systems to implement the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). If they are to be fully exploited, data must be open without becoming potentially harmful: France therefore supports the principle of a multilateral charter on open data in farming, on condition that there is a guarantee of control by farmers over the use of their data and fair compensation for them. Producers must continue to be central to the systems developed, which must be part of a collaborative approach involving all actors: the farming profession, forestry workers, private enterprise, including digital start-ups, agricultural cooperatives, research bodies, Chambers of Agriculture, regional forest owners' centres, technical institutes, inter-branch bodies, the public authorities, and so on.



FOCUS 3

Enhancing the international positioning of our companies, our know-how and our public-sector expertise

Against the backdrop of intense global competition, France's goal is to respond to demand from international customers and to use the driver for growth provided by changing global demand in order to consolidate its national economic fabric by supporting its companies and jobs on French soil. The aim is also to promote its expertise in contributing to global food security. It is doing so by adjusting the offering of products and services to fit the needs of the population and by promoting responsible investments protective of local sectors and national policies. In that connection, the objective is to assist the activity of our actors in international markets to generate value-added within our borders. That objective must be pursued in total alignment with our policy for supporting food security and sustainable development in developing countries.

ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXPORTS AND THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL, AGRIFOOD, FOREST-WOOD AND BIO-BASED PRODUCT SECTORS

As the world's sixth largest exporter, France is a major actor in global agricultural and agrifood trade. The main destination of French products continues to be the European Union (two-thirds in terms of total value), but there is also a strong trend towards exports to third countries (up 10% since 2014), especially to emerging nations. Exports are a key driver for growth in companies in the agricultural and agrifood sectors as well as for economic development in our regions, the protection of local regions and the creation of value and jobs. The sector makes a major contribution to dynamic foreign trade since it generates the third largest surplus in our overall balance of trade.



In a context typified by intense global competition, France is nevertheless losing market share and its private sector has to cope with a number of difficulties. Firstly, the export performance of the agrifood industry is reliant on a limited number of sectors: wines and spirits, seeds, cereals and, to a lesser extent, dairy products. Secondly, the agricultural and agrifood sector is also complex, extensive and diversified. In addition to agricultural holdings, it gathers 18,000 businesses 98% of which are small and medium-sized enter-

IMPROVING THE SEARCH FOR SYNERGY AND POLICY COHERENCE

Export support policies must necessarily be conducted in coherence with development (notably food security), environmental, climate, sanitary, social and animal welfare policies. Given this, France encourages its agrifood firms with international activities to adhere when doing business abroad to the French law on corporate social and environmental responsibility and the law on the duty of vigilance.

The National Food Conference, and especially Workshop 4, included in its deliverables concrete measures to ensure that the Export Plan is consistent with the development and climate policies supported by France. To ensure that greater consideration is given to the impact of French agricultural and agrifood exports on food security and sustainable development issues, the National Food Conference called for the following:

- ▶ Improvement in the coherence of French policies (on agriculture, trade, food security and development) by considering the appointment at EU level of a special rapporteur in charge of verifying the consistency of our policies;
- ▶ An assurance of improved integration of the responsibility frameworks the purpose of which is to prevent negative impacts from French international trade and investment: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment and the ex-ante analytical matrix for projects involving land investments.

prises (SMEs) ranging from upstream in the supply chain (unprocessed products, commodities, aquaculture, animal and plant genetics, livestock, agricultural equipment, animal nutrition, inputs, etc.) to activities downstream (processed products, beverages, distribution, etc.), only 25% of which actually export. This can be explained in part by the absence of an export culture or resources dedicated to international development in small firms as well as, more generally, by a lack of competitiveness in the sector.

As part of government policy on foreign trade, the 2017-2021 strategic plan for the development of exports and the internationalisation of the agricultural, agrifood, forest-wood and bio-based product sectors is aimed at helping our companies win back market share in Europe and internationally. As such, it is a component of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's European and International Strategy 2018-2022. While consolidating their presence in their historic market, i.e. Europe, French businesses must take advantage of the growth in demand for food worldwide and new trends in consumption (due to societal, environmental and sanitary goals and issues) to develop their exports of products, technologies and expertise, which generally take advantage of an image of high quality. The task is not therefore to export with the sole aim of generating trade surpluses for the French market. It is essential to adjust the French market offering to match global demand.

The 2017-2021 strategic plan for the development of exports and the internationalisation of the agricultural, agrifood, forest-wood and bio-based product sectors proposes collective action with three core focuses:

- ▶ long-term support for businesses;
- ▶ opening up new markets and maintaining access to existing markets;
- ▶ promotion of French products.

The operational roll-out of this plan to benefit private enterprise, a subject discussed during the National Food Conference, is a priority for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for the coming years. It is structured around six avenues for action:

- ▶ reinforcement of French positions in trade negotiations and improved access to foreign markets;
- ▶ greater consideration for the impact of French agrifood exports with regard to food security and sustainable development issues;

- improved promotion of the French agrifood offering and France's "brand image";
- renhancement of the competitiveness of agricultural and agrifood enterprises and a better fit between the French market offering and global demand;
- development of an "export culture" in agrifood enterprises and sectors;
- improvement and adaptation of export support for firms.

Following the National Food Conference, a number of measures adopted as part of the reform of the foreign trade support schemes undertaken by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Economy and Finance were identified as being a particularly good fit for the sector's needs for corporate support. They are receiving close attention from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and other concerned ministries with a view to highlighting the specific characteristics and expectations of the agricultural and agrifood sectors identified in the strategic plan. They relate to the following:

- implementation of a "single export window" in the regions in the form of a digital platform to bring together the actors in export support, ranging from the identification of potential exporters to the provision of assistance to them in international markets and including their preparation, training, export finance, briefing on potential markets, etc. This scheme will be managed in each region and coordinated by central government and its operator for foreign trade, Business France;
- reinforcement of the promotion of an integrated French market offering for agrifood with a renewal of the Priority Export Family scheme dedicated to the agrifood industry and the appointment of a new "Exports Coordinator" by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs;
- launch of an interministerial examination of the creation of a "brand France" and its roll-out in the agricultural and agrifood sectors.

Where the forest-wood sector is concerned, the national forest and wood programme (PNFB) is intended to generate commercial outlets for French forest products, to foster the creation of value-added by businesses for wood products and to adjust forest management to market requirements in accordance with sustainable management and the preservation of biodiversity. Although France possesses diversified deciduous woodland of high quality (oak, beech, ash, maple, poplar, etc.) and is the second biggest European producer of

hardwood lumber, the French forest-wood sector as a whole (rough timber, lumber, paper, furniture, etc) registers a deficit of €5-6 billions every year, which is largely due to paper, furnishings and softwood lumber. The most exported products are cooperage, hardwood lumber and logs, pallets, panels and paper.

The current objective is to extract maximum value from the resource on French territory by processing it to make high value-added products in French plants going mainly to the domestic market and construction. Alongside this, exports can be supported for certain value-added products (e.g. special panels and plywood, cooperage).

The horse sector is also a vector for development outside our borders, its "horse racing" component in particular. Exports of horses, especially race horses, are supported by the PMU economic interest grouping, the betting operator owned by the racing firms. As the number one betting operator on horse races in Europe, and ranked third globally, the PMU contributes to the financing of companies in the horse sector and has a major plan for international development within and outside Europe.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF FRANCE'S POSITIONS AND EXPERTISE THROUGH RESEARCH AND TRAINING

French agricultural research can be seen as a guarantee of excellence in France and internationally. This research gives France the ability to promote policies, initiatives, solutions and international messages based on scientific findings and to contribute to inclusive international regulation (actors in the public and private sectors, non-profit associations and the sciences). This also involves public/private partnerships such as those supported under the "Investments for the Future" programme (PIA).

INRA, IRSTEA, ANSES, CIRAD, IRD and agricultural, forestry and veterinary higher-education establishments provide France with a capacity for international promotion of policies, initiatives and solutions based on scientific evidence. In their acknowledged scientific results and their international networks, these actors contribute to inclusive international regulation (actors in the public and private sectors, non-profit associations and the sciences) of agricultural, rural, environ-

mental and sanitary issues. This research system is supplemented by a unique and effective international network of agricultural and agro-industry technical institutes working to provide technical assistance to industry, in particular to very small enterprises (VSEs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

France is supportive of the role and importance of fundamental research for innovation which is necessary for the transition to sustainable systems of production and consumption. It is also present in EU research and development networks. Agricultural education is a key actor in such promotion, targeting young people and future workers in the sector both in France and abroad.

France's strength is also its capacity to accommodate in its system of education and research future managers and young professionals in the public and private sectors of partner countries. French expertise in the design of training courses and teaching programmes is also widely acknowledged internationally and deserves to be promoted. Such offerings

are channels for the extension of our influence to partner countries and provide French professionals based internationally with solutions for the initial and in-service training of their local teams.

USING OUR EXPERTISE INTERNATIONALLY TO ASSIST IN DEFINING AND IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC POLICIES

Scientific and technical expertise is a tool to advance our positions and add value to our know-how. The actions on which the Ministry of Agriculture and Food positions itself must contribute as far as possible to the priority strategic focuses of the present strategy in a manner compatible with our values and the interests of our economic operators.

Expertise in France is brought to bear on the design and implementation of public policies in partner countries in accordance with our European and International strategy. Expertise can be applied in this way in order:



- to respond to calls for proposals for twinning arrangements in the pre-accession area and the European neighbourhood and markets for technical assistance wherever there are benefits to our presence (e.g. shared local issues, presence of French companies abroad);
- to design assistance projects on request in those same areas of interest;
- to take part in an influence strategy based on a training offering with an international focus;
- to respond to requests for bilateral cooperation made by partner countries and calling on public-sector expertise;
- it is important to place experts in working groups and expert groups in EU institutions and international organisations (e.g. the FVI-CIRAD team in the Better Training for Safer Food programme of the European Commission or the French experts in the CSF HLPE) and to develop a skill pool for short support missions;
- to participate in forums and other formal and informal discussion spaces;
- to identify the successes of other countries and to put them up for discussion in France.

Opportunities for the provision of French expertise must in this way be analysed case by case, notably depending on the domain involved and the expected benefits. In particular, in emerging countries, the concept of reciprocity is fundamental (where opening up markets is concerned, for example). In the case of the fishing industry, requests for technical assistance from countries that have signed bilateral partnership agreements may receive special consideration.

The public interest groupings ADECIA and FVI channel and optimise the expertise of the general directorates of the Ministry and the CGAAER (French general council for food, agriculture

EXPERTISE TO ASSIST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS IN UZBEKISTAN

As part of the EU project “Sustainable Development in Rural Areas in Uzbekistan”, ADECIA, a public interest grouping, is using French public-sector expertise to assist the organisation of the dairy and potato sectors. In the latter case, expert missions tasked with identifying ways for improvement have revealed major needs throughout the entire sector not only from the technical standpoint (support for production, use of inputs, conservation, etc.) but also for the equipment used by Uzbek enterprises.

This use of French expertise has already led to the award of contracts to two French companies after submitting competitive tenders: Établissements Rousineau for potato plants and Klim’Top for refrigerated storage. Other calls for tenders in the dairy sector are currently being prepared. These represent not-insignificant opportunities for our French enterprises wishing to penetrate the fast-developing Uzbek market.

and rural areas), its devolved services, its operators and other members of these groupings in the public and private sectors. The aim going forward is to ensure a perfect fit between the missions proposed and their contribution to our objectives while at the same time guaranteeing that the actions conducted by the public interest groupings complement potential activities of Expertise France in certain markets for expertise.

FOCUS 4

Participation in strengthening the global governance of production and consumption systems by coordinating our actions with all the stakeholders

Government action alone cannot bring about the transition in our food systems. In a multipolar world, the involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders is fundamentally important. That is why France supports the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) both politically and financially. It is necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to involve in its policies not only partner countries but also local government, civil society and the private sector, the latter being increasingly influential in globalised systems. Where food security is concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is co-chair of GISA (the French interministerial group on food security), a body for dialogue between government and non-state actors. It is also necessary that its action and strategy should be linked up with those developed by stakeholders.

In the agricultural, agrifood, forestry and fisheries sectors France acts within the implementation framework of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals it wishes to promote throughout the world. The latter now channel the economic, social and environmental development of our societies in both North and South. The climate agreements acknowledge all countries' common but differentiated responsibility for global

warming. As for Agenda 2030, it encourages countries to commit to implementing policies to address collectively the great challenges of sustainable development.

STEPPING UP OUR ACTION IN THE EMERGING COUNTRIES AND IN COUNTRIES ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SOUTHERN SHORE AND IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Given their rising economic and diplomatic importance, there is a need to continue to step up our presence in, and cooperation with the emerging countries. Without undermining the historic alliances that bind us to the other developed and developing countries, it can be beneficial to work more closely with those countries on topics such as family and sustainable farming or geographical indications, for example, especially in the context of international negotiations. Such a rapprochement can take the form of the presence of agricultural or deputy advisers in those countries, the setting up of bilateral committees, the provision of expertise or the organisation of shared policy initiatives. The initiative of the Friends of Agroecology group, implemented in close collaboration with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and including China and Brazil, is a practical illustration of the progress

CIHEAM, A FORUM FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) comprises 13 countries and 4 research institutes (Saragossa in Spain, Montpellier in France, Chania in Greece and Bari in Italy) conducting training, applied research and technical assistance activities. In 2016, CIHEAM adopted a 2025 strategic agenda for rolling out the Sustainable Development Goals for the Mediterranean basin and addressing major issues for the future of the Mediterranean area.

CIHEAM is the driver for a multilateral regional initiative, the MED-AMIN network (MEDiterranean Agricultural Markets Information Network), launched in January 2014 in Paris. MED-AMIN is the information network on Mediterranean agricultural markets and is backed by AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System). Its purpose is to foster cooperation and the sharing of experience between national agricultural market information systems.

CIHEAM holds a meeting of the ministries of agriculture of the 13 member countries every other year. This event is a forum for high-level political dialogue on agricultural issues.

that can be made by looking beyond historical alliances, which are conventionally typified by North-South dialogue. The nature of our cooperation with emerging countries will be tightly focused on aspects of the promotion of trade flows and issues of international influence (e.g. promotion of geographical indications, agroecology, sustainable forest management), taking as a basis the principle of reciprocity and policy coherence.

The countries on the southern rim of the Mediterranean are also a priority for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. France seeks to position itself to assist its Mediterranean partners in addressing the challenges of food security and nutrition, sustainable management of renewable resources and balanced rural development in this vulnerable region.

France is aware of the challenges facing the African continent, affected as it is by environmental degradation (climate change, loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, etc.) conflict, food insecurity, population growth and urbanisation. France is also conscious of the potential of the African continent, to be found especially in its capacity for innovation, its resilience and its young people. The extreme youth of African populations makes even more important the need for vocational training to match the jobs available, especially in the agricultural, forestry and agrifood sectors. For that reason, of the 17 countries given priority for French development aid, (CICID, 2016) ⁽⁴⁾, 16 are African countries ⁽³⁾. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food aligns its action with those challenges and priorities, most notably by supporting the development of agricultural and food sectors, by encouraging family farming and agroecology, as well as by developing agricultural, agronomic and veterinary training.

That is why the Ministry of Agriculture and Food wishes to maintain special partnerships with African countries, specifically by focusing its action on the training of teachers and students, by providing support for the development of sustain-

able agricultural sectors, by enabling the digital transition in food systems and by fostering research and innovation.

The African continent represents in this way a priority area for our international action aimed at enabling the emergence of efficient, sustainable agriculture and sustainable fisheries management, notably for the benefit of family farming and family-based fishing, and at helping organise downstream processing industries and the sustainable management of tropical forests. Furthermore, trade in agricultural and agrifood products and equipment is already highly developed between France and the African continent. Urbanisation and the emergence of an African middle class is likely to sustain demand, especially in the traditional markets of North Africa and the French-speaking countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to new markets (South Africa, Angola, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria).

More specifically, the Sahel has been identified as having strategic importance due to the rising number of areas of tension, insecurity and poverty, all of which are mutually reinforcing. France is the originator of an integrated response with a security component, the G5 Sahel Cross-Border Joint Force, and a development component, the Sahel Alliance, which is especially active in the agricultural, rural and food domains.

As far as international negotiations are concerned, France often builds alliances with African countries. In this connection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is uniquely positioned for agricultural policy and diplomacy, training and research due to its capacity to build bridges between the countries of the North and those of the South, as well as between developed and emerging countries and due also to the French language and the legitimacy of its agricultural expertise. France also supports the development of EU partnership agreements on sustainable fisheries which offer an appropriate response to the issue of the sustainable management of African fisheries.

(3) Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad and Togo.

(4) Interministerial committee for international cooperation and development.

STRENGTHENING OUR TIES WITH STRATEGIC ACTORS FOR THE DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

• International organisations

Many international organisations are forums for negotiations that impact agricultural and food-related issues: specifically, the World Trade Organisation (WTO – agricultural trade), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), among others.

Close attention is paid to the work done by the Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention and the OIE, international normative organisations recognised by the WTO. The FAO carries out a key task in collection and publication of global statistics. It produces standards and guidelines which, while being voluntary in most cases, nevertheless

influence the agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry sectors, and it supports countries with respect to their capability to implement collectively adopted international instruments. The FAO also assists developing countries in defining and monitoring their agricultural policies. As part of their tripartite collaboration, it conducts in close conjunction with the OIE and the WHO activities to monitor and prevent sanitary risks (food, epizootics, plant protection). In addition, France specifically advocates the application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) applicable to land, fisheries and forestry in the context of food security and adherence to the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment, including food systems (RAI), two texts adopted in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). France is working to ensure the inclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines as part of the social and environmental due diligence of cooperation agencies, multilateral and regional development banks and private companies. It has done work aimed at making these texts operationally effective by building an ex-ante analytical matrix for projects involving land investments in the French technical committee on land tenure and development (CTFD), a notable user of which is the AFD group.

At regional level, France supports the European Union in its policy of cooperation in regional fisheries management organisations to which Montego Bay Convention and its





implementing texts entrust sustainable management of migratory fish stocks. This framework is intended to be consolidated by the new implementing text the United Nations is to prepare from 2018 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of high-seas biodiversity. In particular, one subject for attention will be the link between the work done by regional maritime conventions and the regional fisheries management organisations for the implementation of management tools for fishing areas in accordance with their respective areas of competence.

• **Agricultural organisations and Chambers of Agriculture**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food wishes to consolidate its relations with agricultural organisations and farmers' and growers' institutional representatives.

Chambers of Agriculture are a source of proposals for the application of innovations in the global governance of agriculture and food, as is illustrated for example by their "white paper on the multi-performance of agricultural holdings" published in 2017. They are also a structurally important actor in agricultural development, which may be a source of inspiration for other EU and third countries.

• **Local government**

Local government bodies in all their diversity are important actors in the transition to sustainable food and forestry systems. Due to their role in land use planning, school and institutional catering, market regulation, town planning and education, among other areas, they possess a large number of tools to guide a staged evolution of production, processing, distribution, consumption and food waste management towards greater sustainability. They are increasingly present in international discussions and play an active part in economic diplomacy and the exercise of French influence, international cooperation and official development assistance. Local government bodies are working at international level on the transition to sustainable food systems through networks such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), C40, ICLEI and ORU-Fogar. Towns and cities are taking action under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact launched in 2015 and signed by 159 cities around the world, committing to building sustainable urban food systems. We must step up our action with them, encouraging them to develop their external programmes in both quantity and quality and facilitating the use of the tools placed at their disposal.

• **Civil society, think tanks and opinion leaders**

Civil society is increasingly structured at international level and is taking on an important role in international discussions. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are highly involved on issues of food and nutrition, food safety, animal welfare and the promotion of agroecological, sustainable agriculture. It is essential to develop relations with civil society, NGOs, think tanks and opinion leaders in the agricultural and food domains. Such a rapprochement must focus first on the actors (NGOs especially) in France and Europe in an endeavour to achieve maximum coordination of our actions directed at common goals, even if similar work can be done with the help of our embassies in the principal third countries, and especially the major emerging nations.

• **The scientific community**

The actors in French research, their foreign partners and international scientific initiatives are essential to the definition, implementation and evaluation of European and international policies and major programmes. Research, over and above the thematic and sectoral input it provides, is of key importance for the analysis of the complex interactions between the major global challenges represented by food security, climate change, erosion of biodiversity, migration issues, the digital transition, and so on. It is necessary for such actors to be more systematically associated with the various phases of public action both in France and abroad. As far as is feasible, there should be improvements in the coordination of action taken by the official authorities and research in the international context, defining joint strategic priorities within the framework of appropriate organisations (e.g. CRAI – French Commission for international agricultural research) and linking up our missions in the field.

• **The private sector**

The private sector plays an increasingly important role in the internationalisation of food models, as revealed by the role of the agrifood industry in the internationalisation of value chains, by the development of voluntary standards or by private contributions to programmes of cooperation. The importance of the private sector is now undeniable, and this requires actions undertaken for development to be specifically tracked in order to assess the contribution actually made.

The aim therefore should be to strengthen our ties most notably with French economic operators but also with European influence groups and international platforms in order to gain a better understanding of their expectations, including what they wish to see in terms of support from public policies, and to coordinate as far as possible our programmes in pursuit of common goals.

• Funds and foundations

Both in France and internationally, funds and foundations are increasingly important actors due not only to the finance they provide but also based on their influence on matters relating to agriculture and food. Foundations working towards sustainability goals have come together in the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF), a global alliance comprising twenty or so North American and European foundations (the Carrasso and Agropolis foundations in the case of France) endeavouring to assist the emergence of food systems that are fairer, more environmentally friendly and healthier. At EU level, the European Foundations for Sustainable Agriculture and Food hosted by the European Foundation Centre comprises a dozen European foundations supporting, through backing for civil society, reform of agricultural and food policies in Europe in the direction of greater sustainability and fairness.

Some private operators are also offering innovative financing such as the Livelihoods Funds set up by the Danone Fund for Nature (formed in 2008 by the Danone Group, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) with the following goals: restoration of degraded ecosystems, mitigation of climate change and redevelopment of local economies. The private sector can also be a source of initiatives to promote the

transition to sustainable agricultural systems. The FreSH (Food Reform for Sustainability and Health) initiative, which sets out to help develop healthy, sustainable food systems, is an example of this.

GISA – THE FRENCH INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP ON FOOD SECURITY

GISA was set up in the wake of the 2008 food crisis by Bernard Kouchner and Michel Barnier to put forward proposals on the topic of global food security.

GISA is co-chaired by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry Agriculture and Food and includes a number of concerned ministries (the Directorate General of the Treasury, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation), the AFD (French Development Agency), SGAE (General Secretariat for European Affairs), civil society (NGOs), research bodies (INRA, CIRAD, IRD), FARM (Foundation for World Agriculture and Rurality) with support from the Crédit Agricole bank and French agrifood firms and AFDI (French farmers and international development association – a body attached to the FNSEA, the national farmers' union).

GISA is a multi-actor, multi-sector platform with an international reputation; it is a source of collective intelligence able to provide input for France's positions in forums dealing with food security and nutritional issues.



FRANCE'S ETATS GENERAUX DE L'ALIMENTATION (EGA)

The collective intelligence of economic sectors, local communities, NGOs and central government placed at the service of the social contract between agricultural sectors and especially between producers and consumers.

The National Food Conference had four goals:

- to reenergise the creation of value and to ensure its fair allocation;
- to enable farmers and growers to earn a decent living from their work based on the payment of fair prices;
- to assist the transformation of production models for a better response to consumer expectations and needs;
- to promote consumer choices with a focus on wholesome, safe and sustainable food.

The debate initiated at the EGA Conference brought together all stakeholders: the farming and fishery sectors, the agri-food industry, distribution, consumers, institutional catering, elected representatives, the social partners, actors in the social, inclusive economy and health, NGOs, charities and international food assistance bodies, actors in research and innovation, technical institutes, banks and insurance companies.

The Conference was based around 14 national thematic workshops, a collaborative platform for consultation of the public and events organised across the whole of France, including its overseas territories.

On the basis of the proposals received, at the end of 2017 the government drew up a food policy roadmap.

France intends to promote internationally this innovative approach for dialogue and the consultative construction of public policies.

February 2019.

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