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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE  
DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DE  
L'ALIMENTATION

# Farm advisory system in France and current issues

**FAS webinar 21/10/2020**

## Topics :

- French organisation of AKIS and FAS
- Some current issues about advising farmers
- Focus on evolutions due to pesticides map and consequences

# French organisation of AKIS and FAS

- France has historically a strong AKIS System
  - public research organisations well-implemented (ex. INRAE)
  - technical institutes (applied research and experimentation, for each kind of production)
  - professional advisory services : public and private
  - strong links between them at national and local level
  - a special way of public funding (tax on farms revenue called « CASDAR » ~140M€/y)

# French organisation of AKIS and FAS

- Who give advices to French farmers ?
  - « Private » bodies (~10000 advisers) : farms cooperatives (7500), agribusiness (2500)
  - Semi-public organisations (public status + a small part of private ressources): Chambers of agriculture (~6000 advisers), technical institutes (2000 advisers)
  - others (association, trade union... < 1000 advisers)
- Who give advices about reglementation : mostly the chambers of agriculture

# French organisation of AKIS and FAS

- Due this pre-existing and effective organization, the european FAS reglementation has been traduced as a recognition of this preexisting system :
  - almost no additionnal funding – very few use of the 2nd pillar of the CAP
  - an official recognition by the French ministry, if the skills of the structure are OK : mainly chambers of agriculture + several farms coops
  - despite a quite slow starting (recognition not very attractive for organizations), whole France is now covered by officially recognized « FAS » bodies

# Some current issues about advising farmers

- France promotes agroecological transition and has an ambitious will to reduce pesticides use : both contribute to make advice to farmers change
- Standardized top down advice, essentially based on the rule « 1 problem = 1 solution » has shown limits to make farmers practices adapted to new stakes (mainly about environmental issues : climate, biodiversity, water, inputs...)
- Massive change on agricultural practices is slowly in process : for example, pesticides uses doesn't decrease
- About pesticides, the fact that sale and advice are done by the same coops is considered as a brake

## Focus on evolutions due to pesticides map

- Since 2008 - Ecophyto 1 map : Dephy networks - 3000 demonstration farms creating references on low pesticides uses and showing how to reduce. ~14M€/y, mostly funding advisors
- Since 2015 - Ecophyto 2 map : spreading strategy by funding groups of farmers (looks like OG of EIP) trying to reduce pesticides use according to a global agroecology involvement ~10M€/y (15000 farms in 2021 whereas 30 000 where projected)  
→ 2 actions progressing slowly, still considered as relevant : advising farmers in groups makes advice progress (top down → bottom up) and enhance farmers to change (risk taken in common)  
...but not effective enough to enhance massive changes...

## Focus on evolutions due to pesticides map

- Since 2018 – Ecophyto « 2+ » map : sale/advice separation + new compulsory « pesticides strategic advice » → application on 2021/01/01
- Separation : farms cooperatives (mainly) will have to chose to sell pesticides OR to advise farmers on pesticides. If they chose sale, they won't be able to make written advices (about pesticides in general or with the name of any product on it).
  - 2 approval systems + public checks + a few exception (e.g. : advice on biocontrol products, on organic farming)
  - strong changes for farms cooperatives (economic model questionned), mostly might keep sale in a first time.



## Focus on evolutions due to pesticides map

- New pesticides strategic advice : each farm will have to make 2 strategic advices by a 5 years period, and made them by an organism having the « advice approval »
  - Objective : consider the entire production system, the whole strategy of the farmer, to give him/her global solutions to reduce pesticides use (not only « efficiency and substitution » but also « reconception »)
  - First estimations : 2-3 days, 1500/3000 € paid by the farmers for the first advice



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Merci !

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