

The european IFSA Steering Committee

- Benoît Dedieu, Inra Clermont-Ferrand-Theix, France (Pdt)
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- Artur Cristovao, University of Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal
- Egon Noe, University of Aarhus, Danemark
- Michael Kügler, German Chambers of Agriculture, Germany
- Jacques Brossier, Inra Dijon, France
- Rebecka Milestad, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- Catherine Macombe, Cemagref, Clermont-Ferrand, France

The organizers



The Metafort Unit of Clermont-Ferrand.
"Metafort" means "mutations in activities, landscapes
and organisations within the rural territories".
(head: E. Josien).



The INRA Department "Sciences for Action
and Development".
(head: J.M. Meynard).

Website and contacts

For full details on the programme, the accommodations, registration and paper submission, please visit our website:

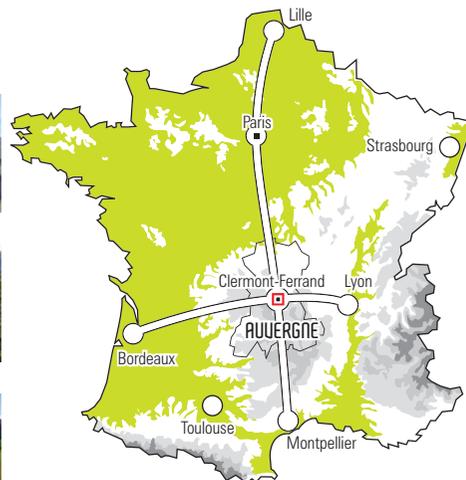
<http://www.8th-european-ifs-a-symposium.org>

Symposium Secretariat : Claudine Tixier, INRA SAD, Umr Metafort,
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Call for papers and Deadlines

We invite searchers and rural extensionists to propose papers and posters which adress the workshop themes.

- Submission of abstracts: 1st october 2007
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 31 october 2007
- Submission of full papers / poster: 20 december 2007
- Final version: 3th march 2008



Clermont-Ferrand capital of the Auvergne region

Clermont-Ferrand has 250,000 inhabitants, two universities and is the seat of the prestigious world-wide Michelin tyre company. Auvergne is located in the north of the Massif Central mountains, scattered with springs, lakes and mountain pastures. Herbivores produce high quality products (notably GI cheeses).
With its natural heritage founded on the diversity of the landscapes, hydrotherapy and very active tourism, Auvergne is an unspoilt region, rich in assets for balanced rural development.

Localization

The 8th European IFSA symposium will take place at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce located in the Center of the city of de Clermont- Ferrand.



8th European IFSA

Symposium

FRANCE

6 - 10 July 2008, Clermont-Ferrand

First Announcement



Empowerment of the rural actors: a renewal of Farming Systems perspectives



International Farming Systems Association

Introduction

An European IFSA Symposium

The International Farming Systems Association "aims at improving the living conditions of farmers and people living in the rural environment".

The IFSA is a World association which is based on continental groups.

The European group was structured at the beginning of the 1990s. Since then, it has met regularly every two years (the last was at Wageningen, 2006).

The IFSA brings together researchers, extension and local authorities agents. Studies and research relate to the transformations of farming systems, food chain and rural territories, and to the way in which public policies, intervention and participatory methods can evolve.

IFSA favours multi-disciplinarity between technology sciences, ecology and social sciences.

The future of the rural territories

The Clermont-Ferrand Symposium comes within questionings which relate to the evolution of rural territories. These are reconstituted under the effect of four major dynamics :

- I) transformation of life styles, characterised by a growth in mobility and by new environmental and cultural requirements ;
- II) transformation of the farming activity under the effect of market pressures, new regulations and cross compliances, climatic change,
- III) transformation in relations between agriculture and the other rural activities by the appearance of new services linked to residential, recreational and conservation functions,
- IV) transformation of public policies which induces new forms of "territorialisation" and governance of territories.

The IFSA Symposium aims at debating of these dynamics. Special attention will be given to :

- How to strengthen the capacities for initiative and innovation of actors in the farming world and more widely in the rural world ?
- How to renew ways of supporting and guiding these initiatives by research, territorial collectivities and extension organisations ?

The Symposium program

The programme includes plenary sessions, workshops (with presentation of oral communications and posters), grassroot visits, special sessions focussed on research, rural actors and society interactions.



Workshops

Learning, collective action and empowerment for rural reorganisation

1

How do collaborative approaches to rural change appreciate multiple stakeholders' views of the future, and empower co-development for this future ? How learning addresses scaling up issues - effective collaboration at a local level often lacks a corresponding change in organisations and policies ?

Convenors:
Patrick Steyaert (F), Egon Noe (Dk), Marc Paine (Aus)

Vertical integrations: farming systems in food chain

2

At the farm and local levels, what are the environmental, social and economic impacts of different food chains ; what are the challenges and opportunities offered by quality schemes and standard setting organisation at the world level as well as the certification tools implemented ?

Convenors:
Niels Halberg (Dk), Karel de Greef (NL), François Casabianca (F), Bertil Sylvander (F)

Adaptive farming systems

3

What are the attitudes, structures and activities that build and sustain the ability of farmers and farming communities to cope with on-going change and to use the opportunities offered by change ? How to maintain an adaptiv design ?

Convenors:
Stéphane Bellon (F), Ika Darnhofer(A), Benoît Dedieu (F), Rebecka Milestad (S)

Landscape as a frame for-and a product of developments in rural areas

4

What representations, models, participatory approaches and other tools help to discuss the changing roles of landscape and its impacts at farm and regional scale ?

Convenors:
Derk Jan Stobbelaar(NL), Livia Madureira (P), Jacques Baudry (F)

GHG emission reduction and energy production in agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and mariculture: potentials and impact.

5

What are the added-value or competitive advantages from production systems to produce energy and/or to reduce GHG emissions ? How to favour a mosaic of good practices and ideas ?

Convenors:
Hans Langeveld (NL), Catherine Macombe (F), Rym Ben Zid (Tu), Willem Brandenburg (NL)

Change in knowledge systems and extension services; role of new actors

6

What changes in know-how production, exchange and use, considering the multiple and often complex relationships between scientists, extension agents and rural actors ? And the new conditions of globalisation, climate change, energy stress and reduced public itmpact ?

Convenors:
Michael Kügler(D), Artur Cristovao (P) Anne Mette Sorensen-Langvad (Dk)

Midtours



The Aubrac terroir:

when a preserved lanscape, a bovine breed, a cheese and a knife jointly push the rural dynamics.



The Limagne cropping system:

how to combine market pressure and territorial development in arable lands.



The country of volcanoes:

GI cheese and high value landscape: livestock farming systems under pressure.



The Livradois-Forez region:

supporting the rural enterprises initiatives: the key for the future.



The urban agriculture:

When cities meet farming and local food systems.

A satellite session

Learning in the field of Landscape Agronomy

Landscape Agronomy analyzes the two-way relationship between farming practices and landscapes : practices build landscapes and are determined by landscapes. It is a participatory action science that aims also to provide indications for action (development projects at the territory level).

The satellite session wish to develop a comparative analysis regarding research and training experiences in Europe dealing with questions on changes in agriculture, related to landscape dynamics and environmental demands.