

Building and sharing knowledge to support organic farming development

Experiences from a French network

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Why supporting organic farming development?

- An European context : same rules everywhere since 1/1/2009
- An apparent « lag » in France
 - > as compared with its past leading position in organic farming
 - > and in comparison with other countries, namely Austria (for example)
- Some governmental tools : a dedicated national plan with ambitious goals (6% of agricultural areas in 2012), environment top-level negotiations, financial support to maintain and develop organic farming and help to structure food chains



- Organic farming is increasingly considered as a sustainable production model which can inspire agriculture : to reduce pesticides, to improve water quality, to reintroduce agronomy in farms, to protect the environment...
- Demanding local authorities or cooperative groups
- Consumers and citizen interest
- All this sector is not stable, many questions are still pending, it is in movement !

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Research, training and extension sectors want to contribute and most of them are involved in our technological combined network called RMT DévAB "Development of Organic Farming"

⇒ a Combined Technological Network as a tool to federate strengths, and to work better together

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Who are the knowledge holders?



farmers



students



extensionnists



researchers



manufacturers



consumers

What forms of knowledge ?



documents



know how



actions



values



principles

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Our network contribution

Organic farming is a transversal theme

- 49 partners
- 120 persons
- And more with the manufacturers

A 6 persons animation team :
 Research, Training, Extension partners

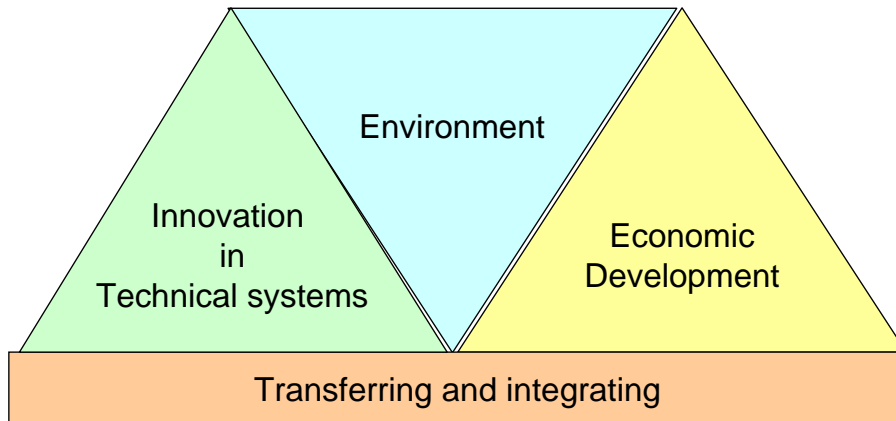


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To enhance the sustainability of the systems

4 axis of work



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A federative space for dialogue

A shared vision of the stakes for organic farming development

- A common vocabulary, and acknowledged differences
- Encouraged and strengthened exchanges
- Through productive working groups and complementary activities (seminars, debates, meetings...)

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Outcomes: main available results

- 30 technical leaflets about innovation and organic farming
 - A comprehensive document on «organic farming and environment»
 - 10 economic leaflets about different productions
 - A project about organic farming references in progress
 - A summary of all the running projects about organic farming
 - Selected bibliographic reviews, reports from training periods ...
- => And a website : www.devab.org where you can find it all !

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Why opening our network to Europe and more?

Increasingly OF&F development issues are transnational (common rules and regulations)

Other organization models exist, but some preoccupations are shared...

Opportunities to change scale of work, cross the analyses, the viewpoints

Pending questions, opened for discussion:

At which scales to address the OF&F development (territorial...)?

What kind of collaboration to start and foster? (research, extension, training?)

What forms of knowledge should be prioritized ?

(to exchange about national market for example, or prices)

We can debate about these questions and more...

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