

The implementation of vine varieties testing in Languedoc: a watershed in the production of knowledge?

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Abstract: *The vine breeding of varieties resistant to two major pathogens (mildew and powdery mildew) underpins the promise of a pesticide-free viticulture. Numerous questions appear while professionals try to plant these varietal innovations in their vineyard: what is a good grape variety? Can we produce good wines with these 'new' varieties that fit our expectations for taste, quality, their capacity to adapt to our terroirs, etc.? Going faster is a challenge for growers who want to test new production methods associated with new markets. In that context, testing these varieties is a necessity.*

This paper focuses on one of these specific testings driven in Languedoc Wine Region (France). Technicians, scientists and economic players in this sector organize the testing all together in order to spread the first experimental plants through regional winegrowers. In order to answer questions such as "what is a good experimenter?"; "how vine varieties should be evaluated?" we analyze the actors' concerns and what they take into account in such situation.

Using a theoretical frameworks derived from the sociology of science, we describe how changes occur in the relations between the professionals and the objects they deal with and how they interact with uncertainties they are facing, in order to achieve the promise of a more sustainable viticulture.

Keywords: *varietal innovation, wine, sociology of science, participation plant breeding*