

Round table 1

AECM rules of governance in France: role of the State and local governments in the design and implementation of AECMs

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The territorial organisation in France



- **Unitary state**

State services :

- Central services in Paris
- Deconcentrated services in each region and department

- **Decentralised state**

Mainland France :

21 regions merged in 12 new regions in 2016

+ Corsica and overseas departments

- In each region : Regional Councils = local governments with elected representatives

Focus on the governance of AECMs

- **Programming period 2007-2013 :**

- ✓ Managing authority of EAFRD = the State
- ✓ AECMs designed and negotiated with the European Commission at the national level

- **Programming period 2014-2020 :**

- ✓ Managing authority of EAFRD = Regional Councils
- ✓ However, it has been decided that some measures, **among which AECMs**, will still be defined and negotiated by the State, at the national level
 - Ensures a consistent implementation of these measures throughout the country
 - Ensures equal treatment for the farmers
 - Facilitate the approval procedure for the European Commission (the content of all the measures is gathered in one single document)

The national framework and the Rural Development Programs (RDPs)

National framework

Negotiated by the French ministry of Agriculture

Exhaustive list of the type of operations (TOs) that can be used to build an AEEM at the local level
→ 70 TOs addressing various environmental issues

For each TO :

- Description of the objectives / environmental issues
- Description of the baseline
- Commitments and eligibility/selection criteria
- Amount of the premium and methodology of calculation

Rural Development Programs

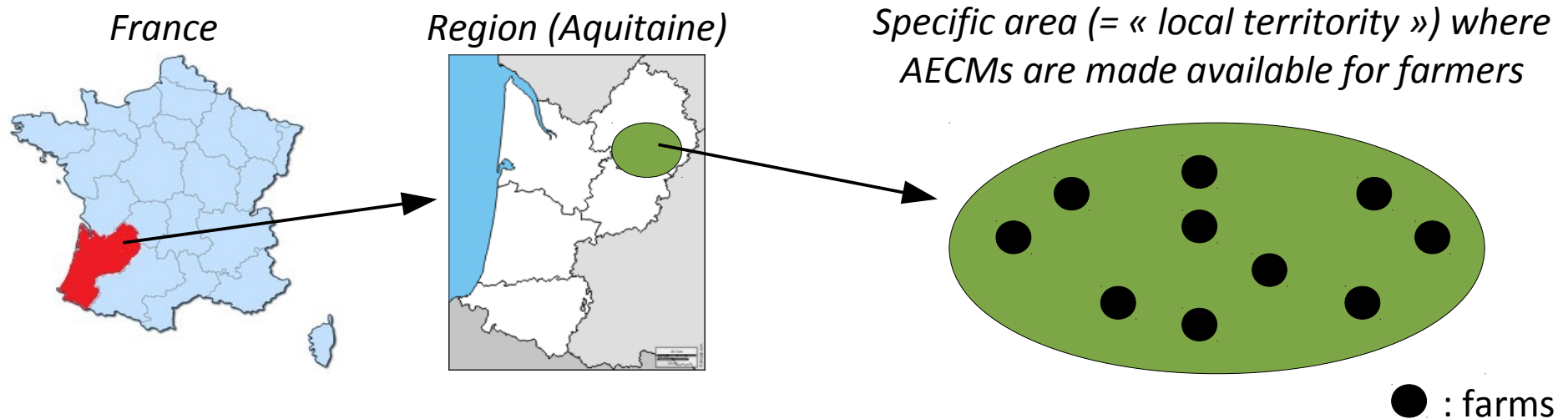
Negotiated by each Regional Council

Identification of priority areas and priority environmental issues on the basis of the SWOT analysis

Selection of the TOs of the national framework that can be used in each area to build an AEEM

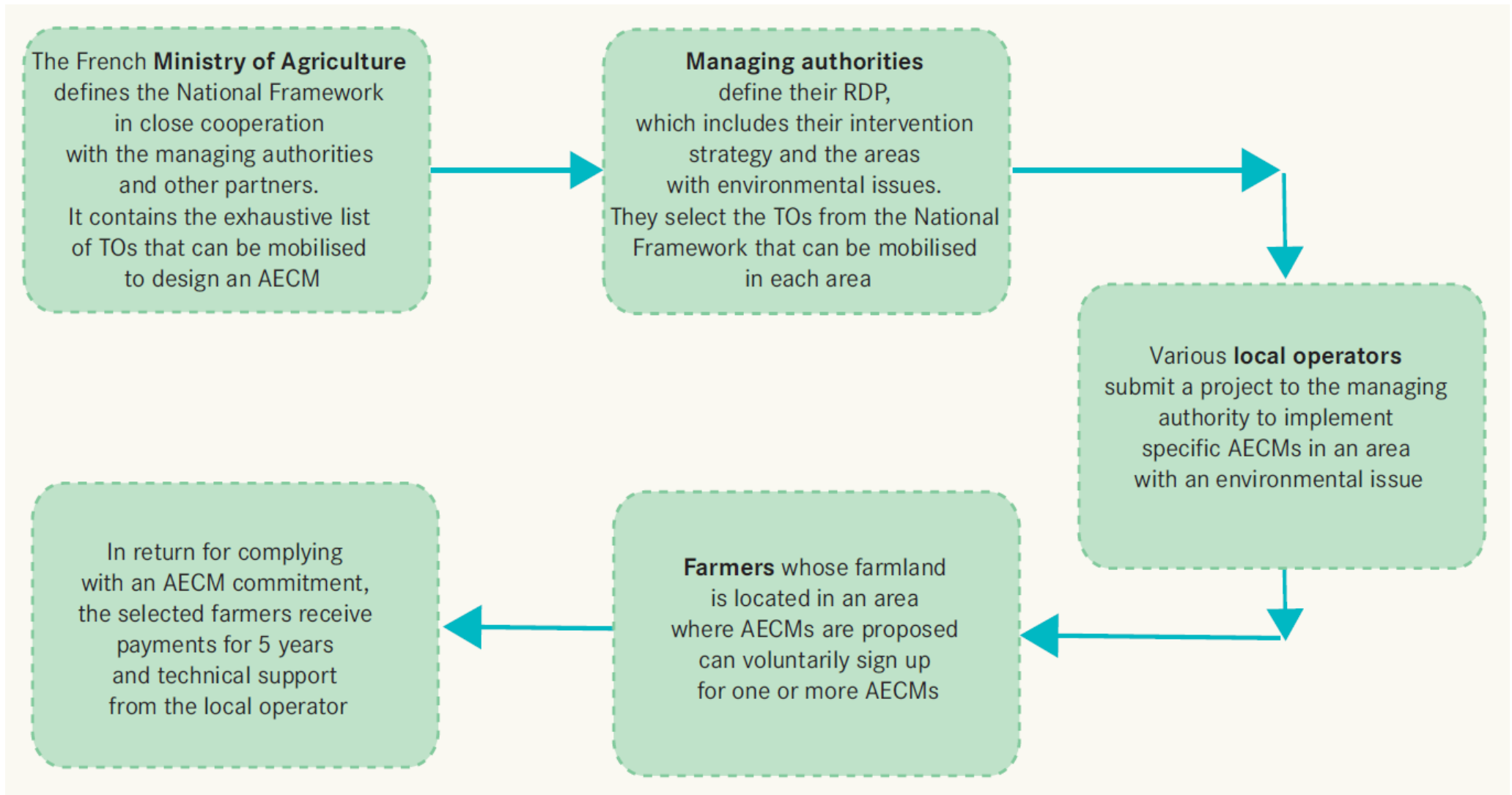
The implementation at the local level

- Farmers can subscribe to an AECM within specific areas, delimited at a sub-regional level



- In each territory, specific AECMs are built by combining some of the TOs selected in the regional Rural Development Program
*Example : TO « Phyto 01 » (technical advice on the use of pesticides)
+ TO « Phyto 04 » (reduction of the use of herbicides) = 1 AECM*
- A local operator (ex: Chamber of Agriculture) provides technical support to the farmers who subscribe the AECMs

In brief : the implementation of AECMs – from the national to the local level



+ Agency of Services and Payments (ASP) : public body in charge of the payments and the controls

Assessment of this type of governance

- **Advantages:**

- Facilitate the negotiation of the measures with the European Commission (the content of all the measures is gathered in one single document)
- National framework = « toolbox » in which the Regional Councils can choose the most appropriate TOs as regards with the regional priorities
- Some commitments/criteria can be adjusted to suit regional specificities, when specified in the national framework

But

- 1 single document gathering all the measures → delays in order to consult all the managing authorities if modifications are needed
- Requires good coordination of all the parnters involved

Round table 4 : Result-oriented AECMs

Thank you for your attention

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