

First results of the RECA Project

=> How advisory bodies in Europe contribute to the implementation of the FAS and the RDR?



Round table : Session 5

Confagricoltura_Verona, 22th January 2009



claire.venot@apca.chambagri.fr

CONTENT

- What is the RECA project ?
- Rural development in France
- Farm Advisory System in France
- Overview in Europe

RECA Project

- **Research & development project :**
 - ➔ developed by French Chambers of Agriculture
 - ➔ supported by CasDAR (French Ministry of Agriculture)

- Study how **advisory bodies in Europe** take into account diversity of farmers and territories

- Focus on :
 - ➔ the implementation of the **FAS (Farm Advisory System)**
 - ➔ the application of the **RDR (Rural Development Regulation)**

European Regulations

■ RDR (Rural development regulation) 2007-2013

➔ composed of :

- 3 axis : Competitiveness / environment / diversification
- LEADER & LAG (local action group)

➔ national and/or regional implementation, part-financing

■ FAS (Farm Advisory System)

➔ State members have to offer advice to farmers through a system which, at least, covers cross compliance regulation

➔ Compulsory for state members from 2007 (or 2009)

➔ Funding option in RDR (114,115)

a study in process...

- Questionnaire
- Countries surveyed :
 - ➔ Deutschland, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, United-Kingdom
 - ➔ Next country to visit : Spain
- Current results :
 - ➔ national or regional strategies
 - ➔ function of main advisory bodies
 - ➔ innovative advisory tools
- Next step :
 - ➔ data analyse & final report
 - ➔ European symposium in Brussels (march 09)

Rural Development Regulation in France



Support to rural development in France

Total funding for the rural development in France (European funds & national co-financing)

	2007-2013
Total funding	13,5 milliards €
Main measures	<p><u>Modernisation & young farmers</u> 18% 2,4 milliards €</p> <p><u>ICHN (less favoured agricultural areas)</u> 26% 3,5 milliards €</p> <p><u>Environment</u> 22% 3 milliards €</p> <p><u>Diversification</u> 4% 536 millions €</p>

■ 6 national plans :

→ PDRH : Rural Development Plan for "Hexagon"

→ Plan for DOM-TOM (Guadeloupe, Martinique...) & Corsica

■ Each region plan his owns complementary program (choice for measures & budget)

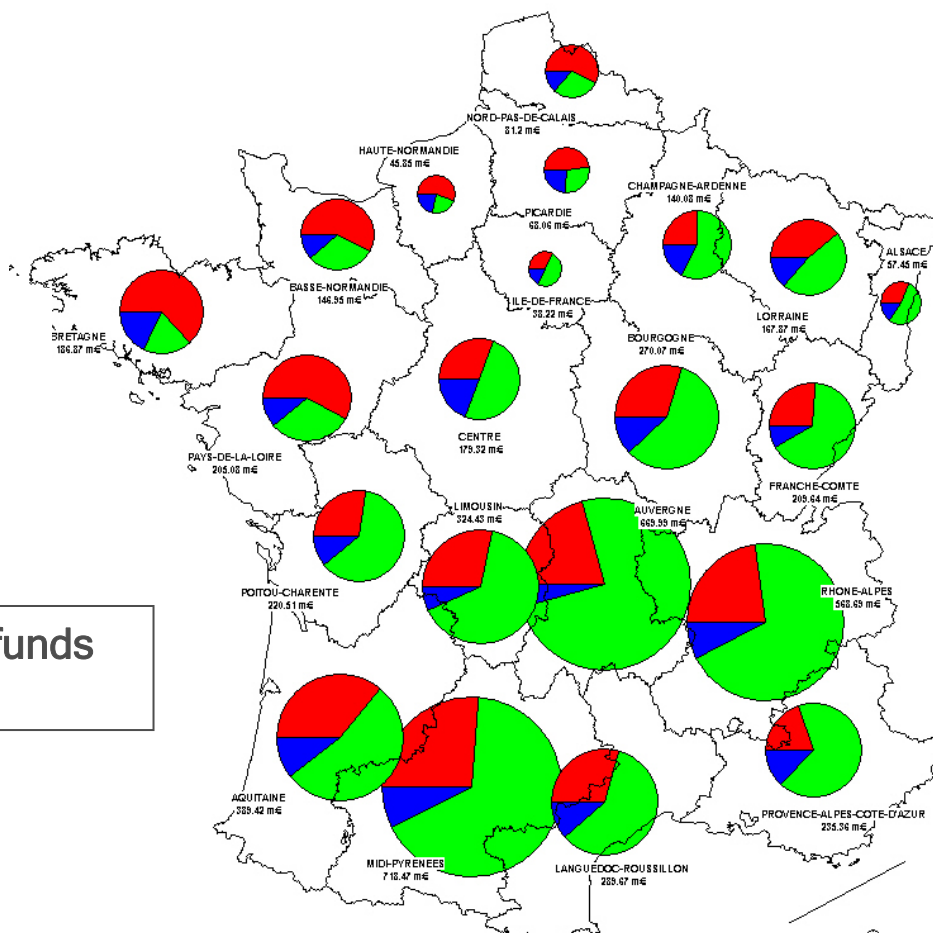
Distribution of the 2nd pillars funds in the French regions (2007-2013)

EAFRD 2007-2013, distribution by axis

TOTAL : national funding + regional part
juin 2007



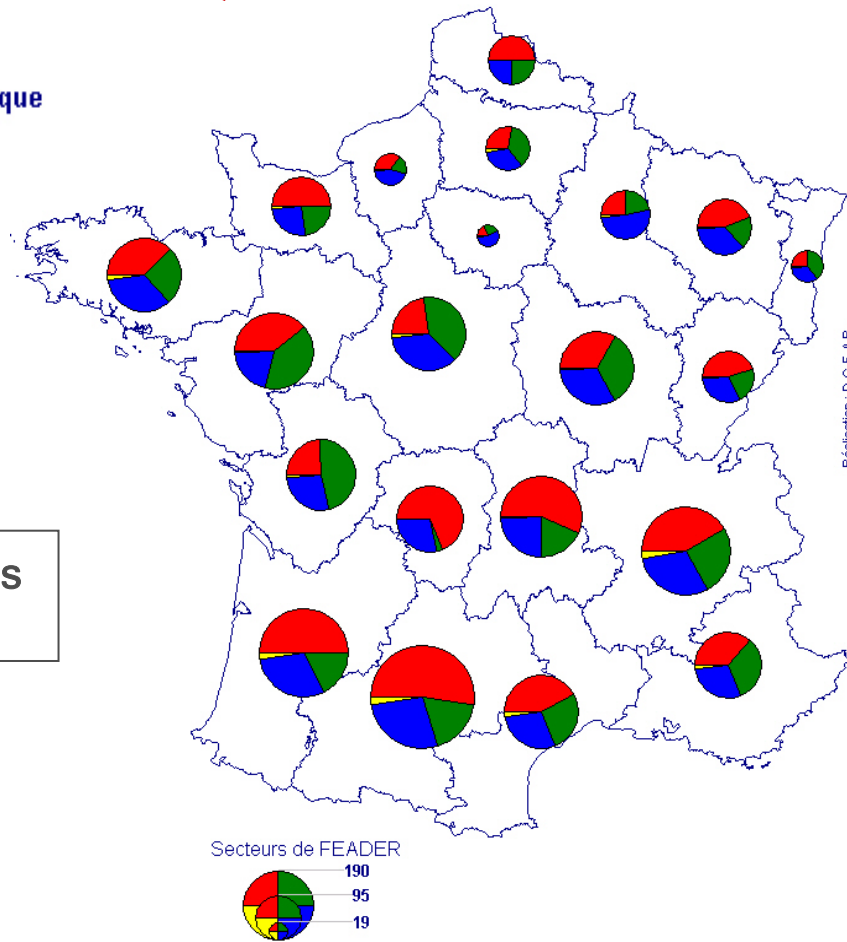
➤ regional disparity : total amount of funds and distribution by axis



Source : MAP

Distribution of 2nd pillar funds in the French Region part (without the national measures)

- Axe 1 : Compétitivité de l'agriculture et de la sylviculture
- Axe 2 : Amélioration de l'environnement et de l'espace rural
- Axe 3 : Qualité de vie en milieu rural et diversification économique
- Assistance technique (511)



➤ Disparity traduce the different challenges in the regions

Source : MAP

Contribution of French Chambers of Agriculture

- French Chambers of agriculture:
 - ➔ 116 entities : 3 levels
 - In each « department »
 - In each region
 - National level in Paris
 - ➔ 4200 elected members & 7600 paid staff
- Consultation : represents farmers to French government, region, local authorities
 - ➔ helping programming rural development plan (national / regional)
 - ➔ participation in local development project commission or steering committee
- Services for farmers & rural sector :
 - ➔ Advice, Expert opinion, training, project management...

in few words ...

- The agricultural sector is a crucial sector for the rural development
- CAP health check : new challenges in RDR
 - ➔ Water
 - ➔ Biodiversity
 - ➔ Climate change
 - ➔ Renewable energy
 - ➔ milk sector

Implementation of the Farm Advisory System in France



Situation in France

- No « real » need for a FAS as most of the organisations which provide advice to farmers take into account cross compliance
- But farmers wish for more :
 - ➔ Readable advice offer
 - ➔ Coordination between the organisations
 - ➔ Homogeneity in the interpretation of regulations

The French tender specification

The French ministry of Agriculture proposed a system which :

- aims to help all farmers to comply with regulation
- by encouraging more organised services offer and giving quality guaranty
- with the idea of enlarging the field of the FAS beyond conditionnality in the coming years

Elements covered

■ The FAS in France :

- ➔ is limited to cross compliance
- ➔ Covers all the different services which aim to help farmers to comply with cross-compliance (information, training, advice,...)

The funding

- The possibilities of contribution from the EAFRD have not been used in France
- The FAS is founded the same way as the other advice services :
 - ➔ public founding
 - ➔ billing farmers
 - ➔ Mix of both

The Chambers of Agriculture's position

- They manage 32 consortiums amongst the 101 accredited consortiums/structures
- These 32 consortiums :
 - ➔ Gather more than 1000 structures (i.e. 80% of the structures involved in the FAS)
 - ➔ These structures are : cooperatives, farmers unions, accounting centers,...
 - ➔ Are mostly set up at the regional level

The other accredited structures

- Different structures manage other consortium :
 - ➔ Accounting centers
 - ➔ Cooperatives
 - ➔ Private bodies
 - ➔ Associations
 - ➔ ...
- Some of them are not « true » consortiums as they gather branches of the same company
- There are also structures which are accredited on their own

Proposals for an evolution

■ Beyond 2009 :

- ➔ take into account the possibility for a lower control pressure on farmers who have benefited from the FAS
- ➔ The FAS could evolve depending on the results of the reflection about the « high environmental value » accreditation of the farms

Overview in European Countries



■ Implementation of the regulations :

- ➔ Federal state: national frame and each region elaborate his own rural development programme
- ➔ Farm Advisory System (FAS) in Niedersachsen:
 - Used of advice in financed by measure 114 of RDR
- ➔ Rural Development Regulation in Niedersachsen :
 - Several ministry in the land are involved (agriculture/ environment / Culture)
 - Axis 1 is important (42%) : investment, modernization, advice,...
 - Axis 2 et 3 (~ 25 % dedicated to each axis)

Deutschland : Chamber of Agriculture of Niedersachsen

General situation in Deutschland

National Association of
Chamber of Agriculture



Regional level :
Chamber of Agriculture
in 7 Lander

Deutschland : 16 Lander

Situation in Niedersachsen :

1 Chamber of Agriculture
(2 centres)



11 districts offices

Research Instituts

■ Role & tasks of the Chamber of Agriculture

➔ Public service :

- Information & general advice, training, research,
- Application for subsidies, control (pillar 1; Axis 1 and some measures axis 2 & 3)

➔ Commercial service :

- Individual advices, specific training, expertise,...

■ Focus :

➔ FAS, Farm Advisory System :

- Software KKL : CC + all regulation concerning agricultural holding, compliance diagnostic, up dating. (national initiative, regional adaptation)
- Users licence + compulsory training providing by the Chamber.

➔ Rural Development :

- Is consulted on local & rural development project
- Expertise (specific skill of the CA : local knowledge, good relationship with farmers, ...)
- Mediation function (advisers have a specific training of for mediation and compromises reaching)

■ Implementation of the regulations

➔ 1 Federal state, 9 Lander

➔ FAS :

- 2005-2007, information & training trough out all the country
- Financed by measure 111, RDR

➔ RDR :

- National rural development program, implementation managed by the Land
- Priority is for Axe 2 : LFA (Less Favoured Area) et agri-environmental measures

Chambers of Agriculture in Austria



■ Role & tasks of the Chamber of Agriculture

- ➔ Contract for Advisory Service with the federal state ministry of Agriculture : 400 advisors (information & general advice)
- ➔ provide information and training for FAS :
 - Training + hand-book for CC : 90 000 farmers (2/3)
- ➔ RDR :
 - In charge of subsidies application : register application & transfer data to the payment agency (1 & 2nd pillar) :
 - Individual advice to apply to a measure : business plan for investment, agri-environment measure, diversification,....

■ Implementation of the regulations

- ➔ Slovenia: 1 member state = 1 region
- ➔ cross-compliance and Farm Advisory System since 2005 (in 3 year progression) , no specific funds for FAS (included in AAS)
- ➔ AAS (Agricultural Advisory Service) (national funds)
- ➔ Rural development regulation :
 - The most important axis is axis 2 (more than 50%) : mountains area (LFA)
 - axis 1 (33 %) : modernization et processing agricultural products
 - Call for tender for each measure (limited in the time)

RECA Study

Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forest



■ Role & tasks of the Chamber of Agriculture :

- ➔ Consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture for programming the **Slovenian Rural Development Plan**
- ➔ Is in charge of the **AAS (Agricultural Advisory Service)** 300 advisers (information and general advise, free)
- ➔ **FAS** (Double accreditation : structure and advisers –training & exam)
 - Elaborated hand-book with check-list and diagnostic tool, training for farmers
 - Diagnostic and advice on the farm
- ➔ Commercial services : individual & specific advice
- ➔ Subsidies application (prepare 99% of application for axis 2)
- ➔ Setting up and participation in **LAGs-local action groups (LEADER)**

Hungarian Chambers of Agriculture

national level:
Hungarian
Chamber of Agriculture



Local level (county) :
20 Chamber of Agriculture
independents

*Membership is based on voluntary and individual decision
(not compulsory) . Chambers have 11 000 members*

Hungarian Chambers of Agriculture

■ Implementation of the regulations :

➔ joint UE in 2004, implementation of Farm Advisory System since January 2009

➔ Setting up advisory service by :

CA

- Information service : information and general advice, free (1st pillar, 2nd pillar: axis 1 & 2, support for subsidies application), financed by measure 111 RDR

CA

- FAS : charge individual and specialised advice (among fields covered by cross-compliance), financed by measure 114 RDR

➔ RDR :

- axis 1 is important (modernization, investment, training,...)

CA

- Almost of the measures of the axis 3 are implemented trough the LAGs
–Local Action Groups

RECA Study

United-Kingdom : advisory bodies in England

~~Chamber of agriculture~~

~~Agricultural
extension service~~

DEFRA
(department for England
for Food and Rural Affairs)

Independent public
agencies

Other
company

Privates
advisory bodies

United-Kingdom : advisory bodies in England

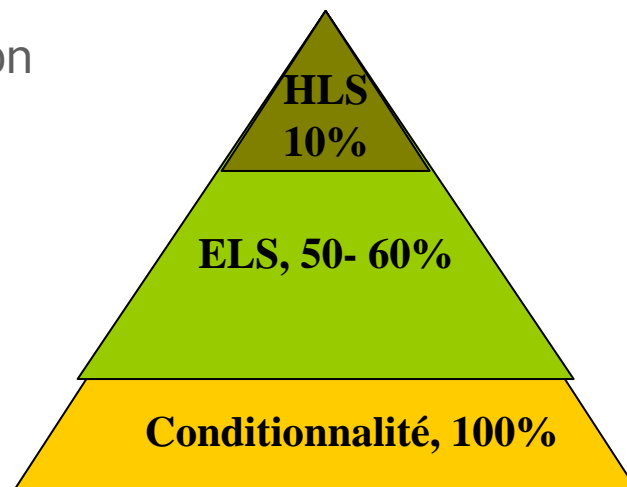
■ Implementation of the regulations :

➔ FAS :

- Call for tender of the implementation
- National funds

➔ RDR : axis 2 is the most important

- Environmental Scheme :
 - ELS : Entry Level Scheme
 - HLS : High Level Scheme



United-Kingdom : advisory bodies in England

■ Role & tasks of the several advisory bodies :

➔ MOMENTA : in charge of the implementation of the FAS

- Web site

- Small call for tender : « Farm-Walk »

➔ Natural England :

- ELS, OLS, HLS

- environmental advisory

➔ Advisory bodies :

- Commercial firm : ADAS, The Dairy Group,

- Associations : FWAG, the Arable group, the RBSP,...