

Contribution "France according to".

### **Towards sustainable agriculture and fair food**

The Covid pandemic does not unveil a situation already known: the French and world agricultural models, the food industry, these systems in place no longer work:

not in such a way as to feed all human beings in a satisfactory and dignified manner, a universal right, but they also deplete resources and the planet.

What Covid and confinement have brought to light, more acutely, is the inequality in the face of this first necessity, with the need, for a certain number of us, to have recourse to the solidarity of social services and charitable associations to feed ourselves. An impoverishment, already there, has been accentuated because of jobs, often precarious, stopped abruptly by confinement.

It will also have shown, even though France has not experienced any shortages, the fragility of our production systems and the hype of our environment<sup>1</sup>. We need to change our model, -

-on the one hand by a production of foodstuffs that is closer, more local, and on the other hand by a more controlled, more united organization of exchanges, while respecting the planet's resources. These desirable changes are part of the ecological and social transition.

Among the solutions, the tracks considered by the experts of these questions :

- A change in the priority of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in Europe.
- The federation of numerous and local initiatives, and the intervention of local and regional authorities. This level of decision-making seems relevant, capable of generating leverage effects.

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### **Notes of hope and initiatives to defend, at the political level :**

Faced with these malfunctions, there are several avenues :

- For a reorientation of the model, projects are already there but "inactive". A work of reflection and proposals has been made by France Stratégie (or commissariat général).
- to the strategy) in a report entitled "*Making the Common Agricultural Policy a lever for accelerating ecological transition*" published in 2019<sup>2</sup>. It proposes,

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<sup>1</sup>conference Place Publique of April 29, 2020. **Nicolas Bricas**, holder of the Unesco Chair Alimentation du Monde, author.

and joins other projects that are moving in the same direction: in particular, reorienting CAP aid to farmers, no longer based solely on yield and farm size, but on employment and environmental impact, and promoting diversity, in the face of the hyper-specialization that has reached its limits. An example: what this report calls the "target scenario" imagines collecting progressive taxes on herbicides and fertilizers, which would then allow bonuses to be distributed to crop diversification and agro-ecological practices. This system would make it possible to avoid having to increase the budget .

Another example of reflection that is just waiting to be implemented comes from the Jean Jaurès Foundation: Daniel Perron, Doctor of Laws, proposes to "make nature an economic asset".<sup>3</sup> According to him, a major step forward, a paradigm shift, would consist in renewing the legal texts that organize the economy and guide agricultural production, with, for example, public support, a farmer's status, the supervision of trade .

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These two examples show that, as N.Bricas said, real projects do exist,

The "in the drawers", that not everything has to be invented. But these reports, notes, have a lot of trouble getting through the door of European authorities or French ministerial cabinets, when they are not voluntarily forgotten, in the face of various interests and powers (FNSEA for example). This is a real political challenge that we have a duty to take up.

### **Federating initiatives and investing in local authorities.**

Many initiatives, in addition to ideas, have seen and are seeing the light of day, the AMAPs, the locavore phenomenon, the "drive farmers", the organic cooperatives, this time at the level of the consumers or buyers that we are.

But several pitfalls exist: sustainability, the question of real impact, recovery. If we take the example of the Amap, they have been "swallowed" by "the Beehive that says Yes", which no longer has much to do with the cooperative spirit and support to farmers from the start. Some organic cooperatives are first of all very urban and only concern a wealthy, urban population. However, an awareness is growing, which also affects those who are underprivileged, and who would like to eat "better" and participate in a social and ecological effort.

This also raises the question of local agriculture or production: sometimes we oppose or ask the question of preference, between local and organic: to privilege the close, the less kilometers between the producer and the market or the supermarket? or the organic product? The question is then a social one: under what conditions and by whom is production carried out?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.strategie.gouv.fr/sites/strategie.gouv.fr/files/atoms/files/fs-synthese-rapport-pac-octobre-2019>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://jean-jaures.org/blog/changer-l-agriculture-faire-de-la-nature-un-atout-economique>

An equally political avenue that has been developed is public investment at the local and regional level:

- in other areas, decisions are made by a metropolis, a community of municipalities, and this level of decision is relevant, for example for a heating network. It would therefore be necessary to promote and install a municipal, departmental and regional level of decision making.
- We can defend this: federate practices and initiatives to bring them to a political decision-making level. The *Milan Pact in 2015* is an example: a hundred or so cities around the world have committed to a food "governance" that is sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially advanced. <sup>4</sup>

the next stage may consist in influencing the agricultural and environmental orientations<sup>5</sup> of the European Union, and thus tend towards true international cooperation. As N.Bricas said, we cannot strictly live on purely local agriculture, even if it is to be promoted.

We have built a system of exchange; when we drink coffee, tea or hot chocolate for our breakfasts, we are already in three other continents. The question is to regulate these exchanges, to frame them, rather than letting agreements like the AACC or the EU/Mercosur be sealed, and to have a real duty of vigilance, there too, on the impact of our decisions. We can no longer ignore this.

- [http://www.socioeco.org/bdf\\_fiche-document-6603\\_fr.html](http://www.socioeco.org/bdf_fiche-document-6603_fr.html)
- <http://www.eclm.fr/ouvrage-320.html>

**some numbers :**

- 448,500 farms beginning -2019
- average surface area: a little over 67 ha (increasing)
- average income: 1390 eur, but big disparities
- One out of 10 organic farmers
- European green pact: 25% organic land and - 50% phytos by 2030

<https://reporterre.net/Pour-3-600-scientifiques-la-politique-agricole-europeenne-est-la-cause-centre-de-l-effondrement-de-la->

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.iufn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Pacte-de-Milan.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.cdtm75.org/spip.php?page=notice&id\\_cequitnotice=1771](https://www.cdtm75.org/spip.php?page=notice&id_cequitnotice=1771)

<https://fondation-terresolidaire.org/manifeste-pour-un-travail-decent-et-durable/>

[http://www.socioeco.org/bdf\\_fiche-document-6603\\_fr.html](http://www.socioeco.org/bdf_fiche-document-6603_fr.html)

[biodiversity?fbclid=IwAR0f9sn6eJKJn6YkI26SbOy24hFNEM12\\_P8jxQdFbrrko4NgPdCmUiZntrs](https://www.facebook.com/biodiversity?fbclid=IwAR0f9sn6eJKJn6YkI26SbOy24hFNEM12_P8jxQdFbrrko4NgPdCmUiZntrs)

**Enable everyone to have access to quality food** (especially fresh fruit and vegetables) by modulating VAT according to the nutritional values of agri-food products (defined by the Nutri-Score color code).

**Reduce intensive livestock farming:** beyond environmental issues and animal welfare considerations, factory farming represents a proven danger to human health: it is a source of pandemics (avian flu, swine flu, etc.) and a factor in antibiotic resistance, which represents a major risk for the years to come. Standards must evolve to limit promiscuity between animals and ban the massive use of antibiotics as soon as possible.

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