



Evaluation of the French public policy for organic farming

Feedback

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INTOSAI Working Group on Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs



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1. EVALUATION OF THE FRENCH POLICY FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE : WHY AND HOW ?

An evaluation better than a simple survey :

- An old enough policy to be evaluated
- Several quantitative indicators
- A very sensitive topic in France requiring to involve the main stakeholders (farmers, citizens, scientists etc.) with transparency

An appropriate timing :

- New CAP 2023-2027
- A timeliness for the Cour to shade light on the french policy for organic farming

2. THE EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS – AN UNEASY JOB

Maybe the most difficult exercise in the process of evaluation

Five questions :

- How policy for organic farming reaches environment, climate and health aims ?
- Are indicators pertinent enough for evaluate the aim of development of organic farming ?
- Are policy tools (standards, subsidies, tax system, etc.) fitted to the purposes ?
- Does public policy for organic farming create added value and how this added value is shared between upstream and downstream of the sector ?
- How public policy for agricultural farming contributes to agricultural and alimentary independence ?



No answer for one of them (the 5th) => due to the imprecision of too many criteria and data necessary to conclude

3. THE ADDED VALUE OF THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

A very sensitive and dividing topic – Historically French people (and farmers) are often for or against organic farming, hardly neutral, often underinformed...

Requirement : depassionate the debate !

Avoid to be considered partial => a « cold » approach (why, how much, results)

Our aims :

- Justify (or not) the public financial support at organic farming (benefits, limits)
- Focus on the devices and the amounts of the public support
- Measure the incitative trait of the financial support as regards the objectives
- Compare with conventional farming as much as possible (climate, biodiversity, water quality and quantity, amounts etc.)

4. IMPORTANCE OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT

Our aims - Measure and compare :

- Individual financial support brought to organic farmers and to conventional farmers
- Economic performances of organic and conventional farmers
- *Support to the organic alimentary industry (impossible)*

Analysis never done in France before => an important job of data processing => underevaluated => more than 150 days !

Two problems for individual financial support :

- Identify organic farmers
- Determinate if they are totally or partially engaged in organic farming
- => important data-crossing work

A second analysis about economical performances of organic farming, compared to conventional farming

4. IMPORTANCE OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT

ASP

Agence de Services
et de Paiement

CAP payments



FranceAgriMer

Exchanges data



**Financial support to
organic food industry**



**RPG – % of organic plots
into a farm**



Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)

5. A NEW APPROACH FOR US

A support committee:

- Four meetings during the instruction period
- A real benefit
- An interesting way for testing our reports and our recommendations

A general public report :

- A real effort for redaction : avoid too technical words, be precise and pedagogic etc.
- An important workload before publication (proofreading !)

A very long time study => be motivated ! => more than 150 interviews !





CONCLUSION

- ✓ A LONG AND EXCITING WORK
- ✓ A SUCCESS (THE MOST LOADED REPORT OF THE COURT IN 2022)
- ✓ SOME FAST RESULTS (BETTER ALLOCATION FOR ORGANIC FARMING IN ECOSCHEMES)
- ✓ AN EVER TOPICAL SUBJECT WITH A NEW CRISIS OF ORGANIC FARMING AND CONSUMPTION DUE TO WAR IN UKRAINE AND PRICE INFLATION IN EU