The French Chambers of Agriculture for the farmers and the rural world
The Chambers’ of Agriculture network in a few figures*

89 Chambers of Agriculture at "département" level
13 Regional Chambers of Agriculture
1 National umbrella organisation for the French Chambers of Agriculture (Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture - APCA)

4,200 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

103 SELF-GOVERNING

715 M€ TOTAL BUDGET OF THE CHAMBERS

42 % financed by the land tax
27 % financed by customers (including farmers, foresters and other rural stakeholders...)
25 % financed by contracts and subsidies (with State, local authorities, European Union...)
6 % financed by other financial resources

8,325 PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

At European level, the French Chambers of Agriculture have a permanent representation in Brussels located Av des Art 1-2. Its role is to analyse policy trends, organise meetings with the European Union institutions and also work on specific objectives.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- 15 % Environment
- 30 % Enterprise support
- 15 % Data base & information systems
- 4 % Measures, analysis & accounting
- 15 % Macro economy & international
- 2 % Promotion of agriculture and its jobs
- 6 % Quality, Agribusiness, Agro-Industry
- 9 % Territory & local development
- 15 % Back office, Communication, Documentation
- 3 % Representation

* Figures 2014
Labels and products for farms and rural areas

**PROMOTING THE TRANSFER OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

**INNOV’ACTION**

Innov’Action is a national initiative run by the French Chambers of Agriculture. For one month, innovative farmers open up their farms to fellow farmers from all over France. During these visits, visitors will discover:
- Specific and practical examples of farmer-led innovation
- Presentations and demonstrations by the farmers themselves
- An innovation assessment by the Chambers of Agriculture, with a specific fact sheet available for every farm

[www.innovaction-agriculture.fr](http://www.innovaction-agriculture.fr)

**Tech&Bio**

An initiative of the French Chambers of Agriculture supported by more than 40 partners, Tech&Bio is a European professional show on organic and alternative farming techniques which is held every other year in Drôme, France’s leading organic department, in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, France’s number one organic region.

[www.tech-n-bio.com](http://www.tech-n-bio.com)

**FARM MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

**Mes Parcelles** is a tool for crops management:
- Technical and economic indications of farm performance
- Plot mapping and management
- Traceability of farm practices
- Compliance with regulatory requirements

**Mes Marchés** is a service to support farmers in understanding and securing their selling prices and feed purchase prices.
The French Chambers of Agriculture work at grass-roots level with farmers, farming workers, foresters and local authorities in the interests of the agriculture sector.

**SUPPORTING AND ADVISING FARMS**

Main field of activity for the Chambers of agriculture at “département” level

- Creating and establishing new businesses
- Business development
- Implementing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Diagnosis and consulting for farms in difficulty
- Legal and asset management for farms
- Corporate strategy for agricultural engineering farm buildings

**SUPPORTING FARMERS**

- **1,400 farmers’ groups** guided by the Chambers of agriculture
- **54 experimental stations** managed by the Chambers of agriculture
- **245,000 farmers trained** in Certiphyto (crop protection), among which 44 % by the Chambers of Agriculture in 2014
- **3,500 plant health** newsletters on the Chamber’s websites per year

**DEVELOPING AGRONOMY AND GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES**

Developing environmental efficiency: a second priority area for the Chambers of agriculture

- Implementing global environmental strategies for territories
- Managing and optimising fertilisation
- Crop protection (technical advice for farmers on plant protection practices)
- Managing water, soil quality and renewable energy
- Implementing farm environmental regulations
COMMITTED FARMERS

The Chambers of Agriculture brands “Welcome to the Farm”, “Local Producers’ Markets” and “Local Farmers’ Markets” help to support and boost local tourism and a shorter food chain.

www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com
www.marches-producteurs.com

DEVELOPING RURAL AREAS

The Chambers of Agriculture act locally on:

- Emergence of territory-specific/local development projects
- Management of biodiversity and landscapes
- Sustainable forest and agri-forestry system management
- Land-use planning
- Risks and disaster management

The Chambers of agriculture: a key player in the economic development of rural areas

- Help to develop organic farming
- Promote and add value to local supply chains: regional supply chains, farm products, catering industry
- Developing products with official quality labels or indications
- Promotion of products

The French State entrusts the Chambers of Agriculture with a number of public services:

- Managing livestock identification and breed heritage certification for livestock
  ▶ 61 departmental breeding establishments
  ▶ Identifies 7.5 million cattle and 6 million sheep and goat identified annually
- Examines and processes apprenticeship applications:
  ▶ 16,900 contracts in 2013
- Managing business formalities: setting-up of farms, changing status and ceasing of activities
- Managing the Agricultural Register and the National Observatory for young farmers and setting up a farming activity
- Prime examples of help given to young farmers just start out: personalised support, professional skills, info point for newcomers, support, managing public subsidies for young farmers...

At European level,

The French Chambers of Agriculture are members of and enjoy close ties with COPA, the European farmer’s association.

The Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations - COPA - is made up of 60 organisations from the countries of the European Union and 36 partner organisations from other European countries such as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. This broad membership allows COPA to represent both the general and specific interests of farmers in the European Union.

Since its inception, COPA has been recognized by the Community authorities as the organisation with speaks on behalf of the European agricultural sector as a whole.
Founded in 1924, the French Chambers of Agriculture are public bodies representing French farmers and the rural world.

**FRENCH CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE**

**TWO MAINS ROLES**

Their two main roles are:
- **A technical role**: a wide range of services provided to the farmers and to other rural stakeholders. The French Chambers of Agriculture are self-governing public bodies which are recognised by the French rural code and French law.
- **A consultative role** on agricultural and rural issues.

**THE CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE, THE FARMERS’ VOICE**

The Chambers of Agriculture represent the farmers and foresters to local authorities. They are managed by elected representatives from the agriculture and forestry sectors. The election system, together with a large electorate, gives the Chambers of agriculture a legitimate role.

Internationally, the French Chambers of Agriculture are members of the World Farmers Organisation (WFO).

The WFO is an international organisation for farmers and run by farmers which aims to bring together all national producers and farm cooperative organisations with the objective of putting in place development policies to promote and support the cause of farmers in developed and developing countries around the globe.

The work of the WFO spans all areas pertaining to agriculture, including forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, environment, trade, expansion, research and education. The WFO promotes farmers’ involvement in sustainable rural development, protecting the environment and tackling other emerging challenges such as climate change, the generational handover and gender equality.

**THE ELECTION SYSTEM**

- Elected members designated every 6 years
- Electorate about 3,000,000 individual voters and 50,000 group voters

**THE CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE, KEY PARTNERS FOR PUBLIC AUTHORITIES**

At the public authorities’ request, each Chamber of agriculture is authorised to provide expertise and give its views on:
- Developing agricultural production and the forestry sector
- Managing rural areas and local development
- Preventing natural risks
- Developing rural areas and landscapes
- Environmental protection

The French Chambers of Agriculture are involved in several associations or networks dedicated to cooperation on various agricultural issues.

**EUROPEAN NETWORKING AND PROJECTS**

At European level, the French Chambers of Agriculture are members of **EUFRAS** (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services), an association which comprises approximately 30 farm advisory services throughout Europe. In addition, they belong to an informal network of thirteen **European Chambers of Agriculture**. The French Chambers are also member of the **IALB** (International Academy of Rural Advisors), a similar association whose members are mainly located in German-speaking regions.

**INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND COOPERATION**

These networks are opportunities to discuss professional experiences, methods and tools, in addition to working on common projects, especially in the context of European programmes such as ERASMUS+, INTERREG, LIVE+ or HORIZON 2020. For example, the French Chambers of Agriculture have just successfully completed an ERASMUS+ project named STRAT-training, aimed at developing specific strategy training for small businesses. Moreover, they are currently involved in several HORIZON 2020 networks and research projects, for example LANDMARK, dealing with the sustainable management of land and soil in Europe.

The French Chambers of Agriculture are members of various organisations dealing with international cooperation, namely **ADECIA** (French agency for the development of international cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food and rural areas), **AFDI** (French farmers and international cooperation) and **CPCCAF** (African and French-speaking Chambers of Agriculture, Guild, Commerce and Industry).
More information on Internet
www.chambres-agriculture.fr