

Research For Transition Workshop

Which research questions : a starter for an open debate

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The Diagnosis

- **Based on analyses available internationally**
 - Priorities defined by different collectives in Europe (EU DG Agri; TP Organics, Core-Organic) and in France (RMT DévAB, Technical Committees of the ITAB);
 - Debates and conclusions of symposia on organic farming;
 - Evaluations carried by the Council on the french research projects
 - the recent recommendations of the international organisations and initiatives in favour of sustainable farming and nutrition systems (UNO-FAO, MEA, IIASTD, Agrimonde).
- **Some main features**
 - A clear domination of analytical and sectorial approaches, compared to systemic and global approaches.
 - Technical questions more than on socio-economic questions
 - Field or animal scales more than on scales of farm and landscape
 - Production more than on supply chains and processing.





Theme 1 : Characterisation of the diversity of organic farming production systems; multi-criteria evaluation of their performances

- **A wide diversity of organic farming systems, with differences of functioning, evolution patterns and performances.**
- **Characterising this diversity is a priority**
 - **to acquire an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of organic systems,**
 - **to develop knowledge of their long term evolution patterns and of their adaptive capacities;**
 - **to identify systemic innovations coming from the grassroot actors.**



Theme 2 : Development of innovative organic farming systems, from field to landscape

- **Developing innovative systems, to increase the resilience of the systems, to increase carbon sequestration and to limit the variability of organic performances.**
- **It involves:**
 - Promoting co-design approaches for organic farming systems.
 - Evaluating these systems, combining on farm studies with investigations in experimental stations and simulations based on agronomic models.
- **At the landscape level, a lack of knowledge concerning relationships between cropping patterns, landscape mosaics, plant and animal health.**



Theme 3 : Breeding for organic farming

- **Genetics of traits specific to organic farming :**
- **Collective approaches of participatory breeding of plants or animals**
 - collective definition of selection criteria,
 - governance of breeding collectives,
 - influence of breeding environment and landscape on the bred genotypes...
- **Regulatory brakes and socio-technical obstacles hampering selection or the diffusion of genotypes or populations suitable for organic farming.**



Theme 4 : International development of organic farming and food safety

- **Prospective studies on the relation between the development of organic farming and the evolution of international markets and food safety.**
- **Devising varied scenarios and analysing their consequences.**
 - **Is the international development of organic farming compatible with the food safety?**
 - **What is the potential impact of a development of organic farming in Europe on agricultural markets and therefore on the agricultures of the South?**



Theme 5 : Quality of organic food, an approach by the supply chains

- **Developing systemic approaches to the quality of organic products (organoleptic, health, nutritional, technological quality...):**
- **Linking research on production, collection, processing, distribution and consumption.**
- **Eco-design of innovative processing procedures, safeguarding the authenticity of the products.**
- **Analysis of the way in which a diversity of supply chains is organised at the territory level, and of its influence on quality as well as on territorial development.**



Theme 6 : Socio-economic conditions for the development of Organic Farming

- Identify the levers that can be mobilised by the authorities to favour the development of organic farming in France,
- **Characterize the dynamics of AB at regional (local) level and its contribution to local development : role of consumer based initiatives ? Role of local authorities ? Etc.**
- Comparison of the development of organic farming in different European countries:
 - What instruments of public policies have been set in place?
 - Since when ? For what results ?
 - How do these factors interact with regulations on plant health products or on fertilisers, with tax systems, with policies relating to quality signs, with consumer demand, or with advice and training programmes?



Theme 7 : Effect of the consumption of organic products on health

- **The question of the effects on health of the consumption of organic products is still controversial and poorly documented.**
- **Analysis of the relationships between diversity of organic systems, diversity of production practices, and diversity of the nutritional characteristics of products.**
- **Analysis of the interactions between foods and of the overall effects of diet on health.**



Theme 8 : Advice, training, transmission of know-how

- **The major question of support and guidance to socio-technical transitions.**
- **From production methods in which each problem has a simple answer, based on the use of an input, to an agriculture in which the problem must be anticipated and implemented at the level of the production system.**
- **Reinforcement of capacities for learning the systemic approach both by the farmers and by their advisors.**
 - **At territory level, how to organise collective learning programmes and the coordination to promote land planning favourable to eco-systemic services?**





Now place to the debate!

