



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 72

Outsourcing of farm operations

The outsourcing of certain farm operations to contractors, such as harvesting, is an old practice in France. What is new is the rapid growth of agricultural outsourcing since the 2000s, and the emergence of new outsourcing practices and organisations. Surveys in southwest France show a great diversity of situations. Farm outsourcing today concerns all farms and not just the smallest ones. It also concerns all agricultural operations, even those that constitute the core business of farming, such as sowing or the strategic management of the farm. Interviewed farmers express many reasons for outsourcing: lack of investment capacity, testing of new specialised precision farming equipment, access to new farming skills and knowledge, externalising of operations hazardous for occupational health, externalising the costs associated with hiring farmworkers, willingness to keep the farm when retiring without an heir. The decision to outsource is generally taken fairly quickly following an event (illness, retirement or departure of a worker, need to change an equipment, etc.). It results from a cost/benefit calculation that arbitrates between, on the one hand, doing oneself and acquiring a new equipment and skills or hiring a farm worker and, on the other hand, outsourcing to contractors. To do this, farmers use a wide variety of advisory sources who provide them with standard information such as equipment and labor costs, outsourcing costs, or the availability and quality of contractors. New sources of advice are put in place around both traditional advisory providers who are developing outsourcing services, and new actors, such as business consulting firms, temporary employment services and farm contractors.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The AgriLink Conceptual Framework and all Theory Primers can be found here: <https://www.agrilink2020.eu/our-work/conceptual-framework/>

All the AgriLink Practice Abstracts can be found here: <https://www.agrilink2020.eu/our-work/practice-abstracts-agrilink2020/>



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>