



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 107

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Organisation of the farm advisory system in France

In France, the analysis of farm advisory regimes is based on two case studies: the introduction of chickpeas in Gers and the organisation of labour in Pyrénées-Atlantiques.

Beyond the apparent pluralism of suppliers providing services, a few organisations seem to dominate, mostly cooperatives and traders supplying advice jointly with inputs or outputs. The regime of advice service is schematically segmented as follows:

- “private” bodies such as cooperatives that are specialised in the technical dimension of farm production;
- CERFrance, an association present in all the national territory, is responsible for accounting; and
- the chambers of agriculture, semipublic organisations, mainly responsible for providing advice about regulation and support to various advisory policies.

Alternative organisations do exist but carry little weight in the provision of advisory services: few small private consultancy firms and other organisations that stand out such as CIVAM, GAB, AFOCG or ADEAR. They are mostly farmers’ or rural associations that represent alternative models of farming (organic farming, agro-ecology). The way these organisations provide services contrasts with the dominant model, but have a limited capacity of action. In this general scheme, advice is rarely the primary activity of service suppliers. They generate their financial resources from the provision of other services (sales of inputs, agricultural trading, accountancy or training). Advice is nevertheless a strategic activity that helps to strengthen the commercial relationship.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Practice abstracts, from 101 to 141 can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers-0>

More information about the case-study can be found at this link: <https://www.agrilink2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AgriLink-EUFAS-as...>



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>