

SMALL FARM INTERNATIONAL PROJECT - FRANCE



Ensemble, faisons germer
de petites fermes
agroécologiques et autonomes

OBSERVATION



AGRICULTURE LANDSCAPE
AND FARMER DYNAMIC
DETERIORATED BY THE RACE
FOR PRODUCTIVITY

French agriculture that was once very diversified, has been suffering in the last decade from agricultural abandonment. Among other causes are land pressure, natural constraints, urban pressure, a low renewal of farms and biodiversity loss. On the other hand, the mechanisation, the use of crop protection products and the enlargement of the parcels have changed farmers activity. We went from a diverse and autonomous familial agriculture to a dominantly single-crop and agrochemical factories-dependant industrial agriculture.

PURPOSE



MAKE FARMERS ACTIVITY
MEANINGFUL AGAIN
AND PRACTICE A HUMAN
AND NATURE FRIENDLY
AGRICULTURE

In March 2016, the Small Farms International project was introduced in France. The purpose is to develop the autonomy of small agroecological farms and the saving of farmer seeds. It was made possible by the involvement of rural world participants and the sharing of their expertise. The project drives new-becoming farmers towards a decisional, technical, economical and food autonomy, by carrying out an agricultural model that protects and restores wildlife and crop biodiversity.

TESTIMONY

« Throughout the project I've received what was needed for my farming installation project to sprout: the knowledge to take good care of it, along with a lot of love and support to be patient enough to wait for the fruits to grow. First, I have learnt a lot about lands, plants and vegetables' life. Secondly, I have learnt about being part of a group, the strength of collectiveness and the beauty of sharing. »

Marie France,
intern at Sainte Marthe farm
during Summer 2016.



OUR MISSIONS BETWEEN 2016 AND 2019

AGROECOLOGY · SEEDS · AUTONOMY

WHERE ? All over in France

AGROECOLOGY

ENCOURAGE THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A FAIR AND HEALTHY AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

WHAT ?

- Train small farms to agroecological practices, including a training unit on farmer seeds

TO WHAT PURPOSE ?

- Learn the knowledge and skills required to practice farming, among established farmers
- Facilitate the establishment of **future farmers** and allow the development of small autonomous farms..



SEEDS

PRESERVE CROP BIODIVERSITY AND MAKE THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMER SEEDS

WHAT ?

- Reinforce the pedagogical seed conservatory of **Sainte Marthe farm** in Sologne, which shelters over 1000 traditional varieties.
- Reinforce the **Seed Garden and the pedagogical Mandala Garden of Sainte Marthe farm**;
- **Appui à la formation** de 50 futur·e·s paysan·ne·s à la reproduction/conservation des semences.

TO WHAT PURPOSE ?

- Reinforce materials and tools for training, pedagogy, awareness and promotion. Thus, convert the Conservatory into a place of discovery and demonstration, which would be open to everyone willing to know more about biodiversity and its stakes.

AUTONOMY

IMPLEMENT VIABLE AND WORKABLE MODELS AND SPREAD THEM AMONG THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE

WHAT ?

- Develop a network of **10 pedagogical farms** to welcome new farmers and support
- **Seeds saving.** .



TO WHAT PURPOSE ?

- Allow future farmers to **confront themselves with the profession**, to broaden their theoretical and practical knowledge and to prepare themselves for their own establishment as farmer

LOCAL PARTNERS

Sainte Marthe farm in Sologne, with Mille Variétés Anciennes, Intelligence Verte and Formations bio Sainte-Marthe



For 40 years, SOL Alternatives Agroécologiques et Solidaires has been supporting long-term initiatives created by and for local organisations in India, France and Senegal. The association aims at contributing to the satisfaction of the farmers' essential needs and the valorisation of their role in society. SOL's action plan rests on two aspects : accessing to farming agroecology and protecting natural resources and biodiversity. Meet us at www.sol-asso.fr

To know more about it :

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