

France

Technical Assistance

Promoting sustainable food production in the French overseas territories.

Summary

The French National Rural Network supported a second phase of its Territorial Food Projects initiative in the overseas territories which worked with agri-food business and related policy stakeholders to promote better production of sustainable food. It built capacity among new farmers, other agri-food enterprises and public bodies involved with short supply chains and the consumption of local products.



Rn PAT
Réseau national
des Projets Alimentaires Territoriaux

Location
Nationwide

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P2 - Competitiveness

Measure
M20 – Technical Assistance

Funding
Total budget 1 287 314 (EUR)
EAFRD 545 390 (EUR)
National/Regional 484 559 (EUR)
Private 257 365 (EUR)

Project duration
2018 to 2020

Project promoter
Terres en villes

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Project Results

Events, dialogue, and information developed by the project supported: added value for local agriculture and processing chains (vegetable factories, logistics); organic and low-input agriculture and greater protection for water resources; as well as increased local access to sustainable food and employment opportunities in the food sector.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The provision of effective support for local food production and distribution relies upon coherent public policy at national, regional, and local level.

Context

The Territorial Food Project (TFP) in French overseas territories is an initiative supported by the French National Rural Network. It has helped agri-food businesses involved with short supply chains and local products to address issues regarding the food economy, culture and food, nutrition and health, social inclusion and accessibility, and environmental sustainability. New farmers and co-operatives have been among the TFP beneficiaries. Target areas include low-density rural areas as well as rural territories under urban influence. The first TFP initiative brought together a network of 80 actors - including State and local bodies, non-governmental organisations, and research institutions. A second phase of TFP support was established to build on the initial TFP initiative achievements.

Objectives

Aims of the second TFP initiative reflected its predecessor and centred on expanding this development work with agri-food businesses in the French overseas territories. Knowledge gained from the first TFP phase would be networked to help catalyse a new portfolio of TFP actions and involve a wider number of stakeholders.

Activities

Project work covered sustainable food production activities associated with organic or low-input agriculture in an effort to protect water resources. This included facilitating localised supply chain components such as vegetable processing factories and logistics. Actions involved:

- Awareness raising about sustainable food production and strengthening of the network of TFP public actors that could help expand sustainable food production.
- Evaluation of the first TFP initiative's actions and overall project delivery to identify lessons learned and success factors.

- Preparation of new tools and capacity building programmes for new TFP actions (applying evidence-based knowledge from the evaluation).
- Sharing project innovations from the first TFP initiative and encouraging innovation in new project actions.
- Promoting food policy coherence at various policy levels and between territories (e.g. departments, metropolitan areas, urban areas, municipalities, etc.) via dialogue to facilitate consistency and synergy between local, regional, national and EU policies linked to sustainable food production.

Main results

This RDP project helped fund a series of events, training modules, study tours, and best practice info sheets. It conducted comparative analyses and created methodological tools related to self-diagnosis/assessment promoting sustainable food production. Project actions also helped enable access to sustainable food sources and create local employment in the food sector.

Key lessons

Supporting local food production requires coherence across public policies at national, regional, and local level.

Additional sources of information

n/a