

Round table 4 : Result-oriented AECMs

Indicator of frequency of treatment (IFT)

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The Indicator of Frequency of Treatment (IFT) : what for?

- The impact of pesticides on water quality and biodiversity is identified as a main environmental issue in France and in the EU
- ➔ In France, several AECMs aim at **reducing the use of pesticides**
- **IFT** : indicator used to measure the use of pesticides on farms and its evolution over time
- Developed by the french Ministry of Agriculture and the french National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) in 2006
- Implemented through AE measures since 2007
- The calculation of the IFT is based on **the amount of pesticides really applied by the farmers on their agricultural plots**



IFT - How does it work?

- For each product, a standard dose is defined, according to the product's marketing authorisation

➔ *Example - the pesticide PROTEUS, used to protect crops from aphids, can be used at the following rate on wheat :*

0,625 L/ha = standard dose for the use of PROTEUS

- At the farm scale : for **each treatment** applied to an agricultural plot,

$$IFT = \frac{\text{dose used by the farmer}}{\text{standard dose}}$$

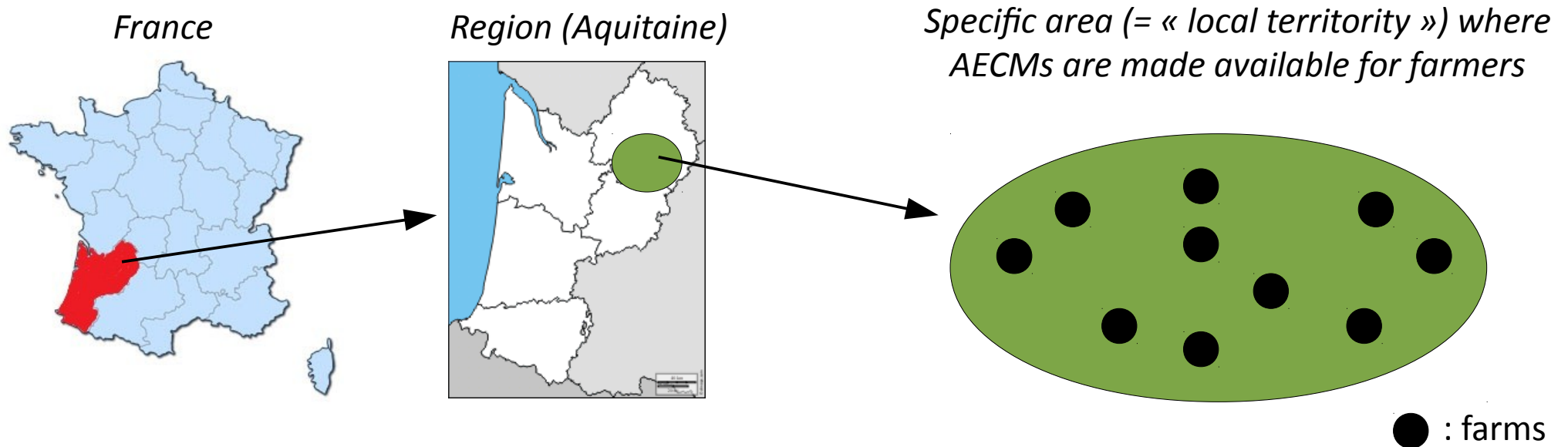
= 1 if the farmer has used the product according to the standard dose

Summing up all the treatments applied to each agricultural plot on the farm → each year, calculation of the **average IFT of the farm**
(Example: average IFT of the farm = 1.5)



IFT - How is it used for AECMs? (1/2)

- Farmers can subscribe to an AECM within specific areas, delimited at a sub-regional level



- In each region, an average value of IFT is calculated for each crop (wheat, barley, corn, rapeseed...) on the basis of statistical surveys about agricultural practices
- **An IFT of reference is calculated for each local territory**, according to the proportion of each type of crop within the area
→ **all the farms located in a given territory have the same IFT of reference**

Example : IFT of reference for the territory = 2

IFT - How is it used for AECMs? (2/2)

- During the five-year contract, **the farmer must respect a decrease in the use of pesticides** (herbicides and/or other products)
 - Each year, he must not exceed a maximum value of IFT on his farm
 - Maximum value of IFT = % of the IFT of reference calculated for the local territory
- The premium of the AECM is differentiated according to the requirement level of the AECM

	% of reduction / IFT of reference	Max value of IFT
2016	No reduction required in 1st year	
2017	20 %	1,6
2018	25 %	1,5
2019	30 %	1,4
2020	40 %	1,2
Premium	85 €/ha/year	

Example : AECM

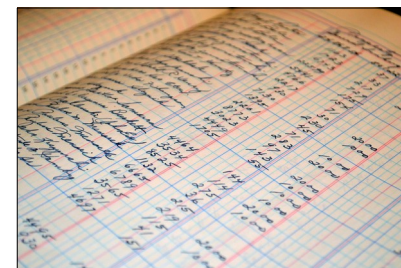
« PHYTO_04 » aiming at reducing the use of herbicides

IFT of reference for the territory = 2



IFT - Controllability

- In compliance with the regulation, **farmers must record all the treatments applied on crops** (date of treatment, product used and dose)
 - IFT-related commitments are checked on-the-spot
 - **The IFT of the farm is calculated on the basis of the records**
 - An online calculator is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture to help calculate the value of IFT
(+ some commercial softwares applications integrate this *fonctionnalité*)
- Verification of the **consistency of the records** with:
 - Purchase invoices of phytosanitary products
 - Stocks of phytosanitary products that have not been used yet on the farm



IFT – Assessment of the use of this indicator

Advantages of this indicator:

- Measures the amount of pesticides really used by the farmer on his farm
- Allow the design of commitments with progressive reduction of the use of pesticides
- Calculated on the basis of documents that are otherwise compulsory in compliance with the regulation on pesticides (record of the pesticides used on crops)
- Uses a common IFT of reference for all the farmers located within a given area
→ **joint effort to reduce the value of this IFT of reference**

Difficulties identified:

- The use of this indicator requires a good understanding of the calculation method by the farmers → **importance of training and advisory**
- Impact of the weather conditions on the use of pesticides

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Thank you for your attention !

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