

Emmanuelle CORATTI
Emmanuelle.coratti@backtoearth.fr
Managing Director
BACK TO EARTH / FRANCE
Doctoral student at the University of Clermont Auvergne - UMR Territoires
Agroecology Scientific Days 2024
Workshop 4, Session 3
Levers for transition within local society

*Between hybridisation and culture shock, what contribution can 'back to the land' make to the dynamics of agro-ecological transition in the regions?
Investigated in the Pyrenees, Massif Central and Thessaly.*

Among the levers of transition within local society, our association and our research have for several years been studying the 'return to the land' of urban dwellers undergoing conversion. While the phenomenon is still a weak signal, a growing number of new farmers are setting up in rural areas and renewing environmental and production approaches, thereby changing local dynamics. These new farmers, who do not come from farming backgrounds, bring with them skills from their previous professional lives and agro-ecological practices, and their conversion is part of a commitment to the environment and a change of lifestyle in the service of the Living World. The regions have everything to gain from welcoming these newcomers. But their integration and links with farmers in particular can be both fluid and problematic.

How are their projects received in the regions? What impact do they have? Do their practices help to change those of the original farmers, and conversely, are their projects influenced by the specific characteristics and practices of the region?

The hypothesis that we would like to test is that the agro-ecological transition could benefit from a recombination of the knowledge of the original farmers and the innovations brought by the new farmers, and that this recombination depends on the capacity of the regions to host and link up. While the original farmers have a thorough knowledge of the land, its soils and its biodiversity, and some of them use agro-ecological practices, the new farmers bring new approaches and a clear commitment to transition. But do they meet? Between a "clash of cultures" leading to confrontation or, on the contrary, a fruitful encounter leading to hybridisation and innovation, what is the spectrum of links between new farmers and local farmers? How can the management of interfaces and the creation of spaces for dialogue benefit the agro-ecological transition of local areas?

We would like to share with you the initial results of our survey project carried out for the Réseau Rural National and the Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the Agence des Pyrénées, Cube Consultants, the Institut d'Auvergne Rhône Alpes de Développement des

Territoires and Terra Thessalia. The survey is currently being carried out in 5 areas (Beaujolais Vert and Aubrac in the Massif Central, Val d'Azun and Couserans in the Pyrenees and Thessaly in Greece), using a methodology based on semi-structured interviews with farmers with local roots, new farmers, entrepreneurs and support structures.

Bibliographical references (max. 10)

- Cognard Françoise, 2012, *Migration d'agrément et nouveaux habitants dans les montagnes françaises : de la recomposition sociale au développement territorial. L'exemple du Diois, du Morvan et du Séronais*, Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, 458 pages.
- Gwiadzinski Luc, 2016, *De l'hybridation à la créolisation des mondes*, Elya, p 311-334.
- Halpern Gabrielle, 2021, *All centaurs, In praise of hybridisation*
- Halpern Gabrielle, 2022, *Quand le monde agricole sera hybride*, Article Fondation Jean Jaurès
- Jousseaume, Valérie, 2021, *Plouc pride, Un nouveau récit pour les campagnes*, Editions de l'Aube, 300 pages
- Landel Pierre-Antoine and Koop Kirsten, 2018, "Quand l'innovation sociale change la dynamique des territoires de montagne", In: Fourny, M.C. (éd.), *Montagnes en mouvements. Dynamiques territoriales et innovation sociale*, Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Grenoble, pp. 21-43.