

Presentation of the Val de Drôme Community of Communes A territorial project for agriculture and sustainable development

The territory of the Biovallée is made up of 97 municipalities with a population of 56,000 inhabitants. This territory is divided into three communities of communes: that of the Val de Drôme, that of the communes of Crestois and Pays de Saillans and that of Diois. In this territory there is a great diversity of agricultural production, be it market gardening, livestock farming, processed products, etc.. This intermunicipality has existed for almost 40 years, where the three main values are development, environment and solidarity.

The Biovallée was born from a political will to create a common territory project with a long-term **strategy** for the territory in terms of local dynamics (actions to be prioritised), with **objectives to be achieved** for a more ecological and less energy-consuming agriculture and an **action programme** including :

- Structural actions, which can be multiplied, with a trigger effect
- Innovative, experimental and ambitious actions to meet the needs and expectations of farmers as well as territorial challenges.

The territorial project therefore had to meet all these ambitions while respecting the initial values, and that is how the idea of wanting to be a reference rural territory in terms of sustainable development came about. Many projects have thus been set up around several themes such as energy saving, renewable energies, waste management, "eco-parks" of activities, and eco-constructions. There are also projects related to agriculture and food, such as projects on water management, agroecology and organic farming sustainable agriculture.

In order to successfully meet the needs of all, six issues have been put in place for the territory:

- **Living environment:** Agriculture, an identity marker for the territory.
- **Quality of life:** promoting a quality and local supply of agricultural products
- **Environment:** supporting and promoting environmental approaches
- **Economic life:** is based for the most part on agriculture and its related activities.
- **Space management:** controlling land development and meeting territorial expectations
- **Social:** maintaining life in the communes and the link with other sectors.

Thus, the first goals will be to focus on a global project which is the author of agriculture, economy, tourism, housing and social issues and thus create links, coherences which will constitute the desired territory and above all a common project in which everyone is an actor and proud of his or her territory.

Main organizers

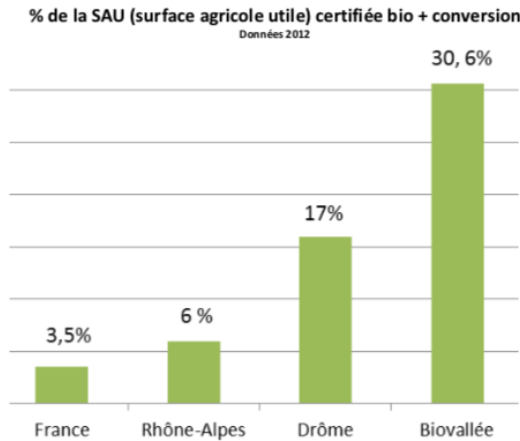


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The general objectives are 50% organic farming, 50% reduction of chemical inputs, and 80% organic and/or local products. Thus, thanks to these objectives, the Biovallée has become a leader in organic agriculture.

In this way, agriculture tends towards a viable and socially sustainable economy, towards diversity, towards respect for the soil, biodiversity and humans, towards smaller and more energy self-sufficient consumption, towards adaptation to climate change, towards participation in local development and towards local consumption and short circuits.

The challenge of the territory and to ensure a transition willingly for an agriculture that allows more consideration of environmental, climatic, social and economic issues.

Consequently, it encourages production, conversions, setting up in organic farming and group training by setting up local setting up, consultation and mutualisation commissions, setting up nurseries, land intervention funds and relocated nurseries.

It develops consumption and local supply, for example by creating a guide "Un Tour à la Ferme", promotes innovative food systems, raises consumer awareness and supports canteens that are making the transition, particularly through the "ça bouge dans ma cantine" programme, which supports producers to supply 80 canteens with organic and local food.

It promotes the processing and marketing of local products, for example, it supports AVAL operators, or it sets up supply/demand logistics platforms, it has enabled the creation of processing workshops and collective sales outlets, and it has built an Organic Cluster that brings together players in agricultural production and research for the same place that has a zone dedicated to Organic in its economic zone.

It promotes research and innovation for a school area, that's why it supports permaculture, the use of essential oils, agroecology, it produces energy and creates eco-construction (in hemp, wood, etc.), it has the advantage of being transnational and having research partnerships such as INRA and FIBL.

The final intention is to succeed in obtaining a general and common reflection on the systemic approach. For example, we need to change our ways of thinking and our habits (non-sectoral but more transversal), to open up to new actors, to succeed in shifting decision-making powers (questioning the system in place), to share a global diagnosis, a territorial project and a common strategy. But all this requires time, consultation, animation but **provides more lasting results.**

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