



Question by the CDG Environment and Climate Change.
How to mitigate and adapt to climate change in agriculture.
Proposition and answer by the European Coordination Via Campesina

Preliminary:

Our organization does not want to present you some examples of adaptation or fight against Climate Change (CC) in the present landscape of European agriculture and introduce Rather global project that defend that should form part of a overall agricultural policy of the EU to fight against this CC. This project already implemented locally by peasants and political communities with the support of European citizens, is the peasant agriculture and its corollary the agroecology at human scale. Consequently, we present this example of agriculture which alone covers all actions to reduce the CC in the European agriculture and is:

- Agricultural practices limiting the direct and indirect consumption of fossil energy.
- Meet the real needs of feeding populations with quality products.
- Not to be dependent on the world market for the valorization of its productions.

Presentation of your proposal and answers to questions posed in the agenda:

Question A - Successful Practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Question B - What problems have you been faced during the implementation of efficient measures for the reduction and adaptation? (Technical, financial, other?)

1° A - By the development of the farm autonomy with the exchange of local origins seed farms requiring less irrigation, less fertilizer and more resistant to disease. So no New Breeding Technology, no monotype seeds and therefore lower cost with a supply independence.

1° B - Legislation limiting, or blocking the exchange of farms seeds. Patent to the traits existing naturally in old varieties and would impose the payment of royalties. Example of the patent (EP1812575) on Monsanto tomato resistant to Botrytis cinerea which is a natural character of the original variety. Marketing networks recognizing only crop varieties of an official catalog established by the seed agribusiness.

1° bis A - Energy autonomy of the livestock farm on a human scale (not a farm of over 200 cows!) With methanization of the effluents for production of gas or electricity which can be used on site and use digestate for the crops or sold locally.

1° bis B - Financial and banking contribution favoring large installations while they are less profitable. Imposition health analyzes which are adapted for the big digesters which collect large amounts of raw materials from very diverse farms and could effectively present health risks (urban waste and water treatment).

2° A - Use of organic fertilizer and local production of digestate from livestock farms mainly in grassland diet. So no synthetic fertilizers fabricated from hydrocarbons, or phosphate carried to thousands of kilometers, thus reducing CO2 emissions and NOx.

2° B - Legislation on organic fertilizers, manure and transportation.

3° A - Limitation of plowing, seeding covered and / or mechanization of weeding to do without herbicides. Practices highly used in Agrobiology. Finally, a significant reduction of direct and indirect GHG emissions.

3° B - Materials with a relatively high cost and inadequate financial support for these types of materials. Bank loans are more easily to a large tractor for big field crops especially if it's bigger than the last.

4° A - Crops rotations. Reduced inputs and fertilizers. Fight against pests and diseases - chrysophèle of maize, corn rusting, etc. Variety of crops better suited to the local market and the protein needs for animal feed - field beans crops in place of imported proteins of America.

4° B - The European Commission had well taken into account the necessity for the environment, water protection and reduction of chemical inputs. Unfortunately, this project has been rendered meaningless by the national limited applications such as rotational crops and on a small part of the cultivated area and limited number of varieties in rotation.

5° A - Crop diversification according to needs of the region. Vegetable crops and arboriculture with varieties adapted to the characteristic of the soil and climate of the region. Why grow in Provence the same tomatoes than Netherlands while the local old varieties have seasonal productions covering a wide period of culture without use of greenhouses. Also popular by the consumers they produce a correct profit to the farmer and superior to those products intended for mass distribution.

5° B - Official catalog of seeds that do not recognize most of the old varieties of vegetables, fruits and cereals. Administrative constraint and lawsuits. Eg: The French repression of fraud prohibits to the small market garden selling plants unregistered into catalog fines apply and seizure of the products ..

By all these practices peasant farming shows that it fully meets the requirements for reductions of climate change, unlike some political choices of the European Commission which tend to promote the industrialization of agriculture. This agriculture, by the hyper-mechanization, robotization, concentration of animal production (multiplication of factory farms), the globalized world free trade with more and more transport hoard the land for agrofuel production, is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas in agriculture.

Question C: *Are EU instruments (e.g. Rural Development, cohesion policy ...) supporting enough climate friendly measures?*

We consider that these instruments do not have as primary objective to promote actions to fight directly against CC or adapt to it but rather to respond to social and environmental economic imbalances caused by previous CAP. These instruments, more or less used by the Member States (MS), could in some cases, in particular the 2nd pillar, promote agricultural policy we are defending but the consequences of the application by the MS of the instruments from the 1st pillar were finally limited if it is not canceled.

For example:

The limited application of the convergence which have weakened financially small farms, especially the grassed livestock, promoting the concentration of type farms single culture and the industrial livestock:

The AEM (agri environmental measures) diverted from its objectives by its complexity which requires

an administrative management impossible to carry out for small farms with low income and limited staff with the consequent loss of financial compensation.

Question D: *What would be your advice to unlock the potential of climate friendly measures?*

Transforming the 1st pillar of the CAP, replacing the area payment by the payment to the number of MWU.

Reinforcing crop rotation and the number of culture concerned on the whole farm.

Eliminate financial aid to energy crops whose production is proving more generating greenhouse gas than hydrocarbons which it replaces as shown by the latest study by the Commission. Apply in full ILUC in the evaluation of GHG emissions.

Strengthen the aids to vegetable protein domestic production.

Promote practices using no synthetic fertilizers. We recall that the production of synthetic fertilizers is one of the biggest emitter of GHG of agriculture.

Implement measures supporting price of milk and meat for the maintenance of grassed stock farming. The very low prices have resulted in the abandonment of the animal husbandry and consequently the grasslands were plowed causing a significant greenhouse gas emissions while the grassland was a carbon sink.

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