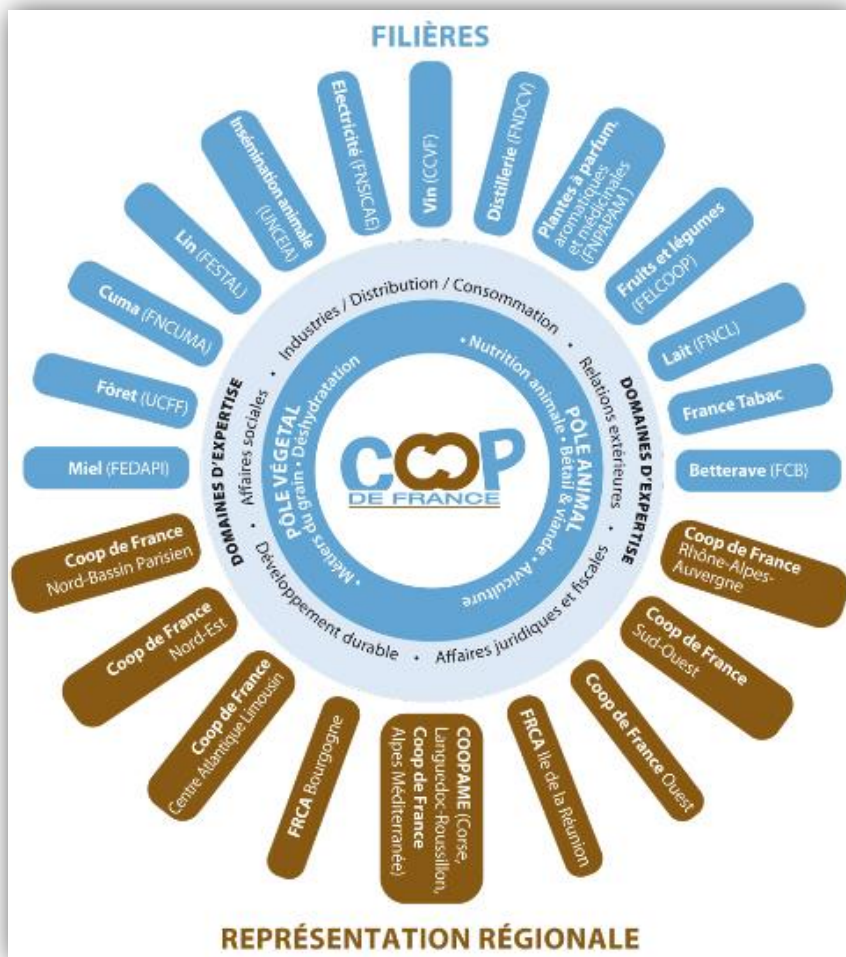


Coop de France

Christophe LECUYER

Chairman of the organic productions
committee of Coop de France

Coop de France: the voice of the French agricultural and food-processing cooperatives



Key figures 2013

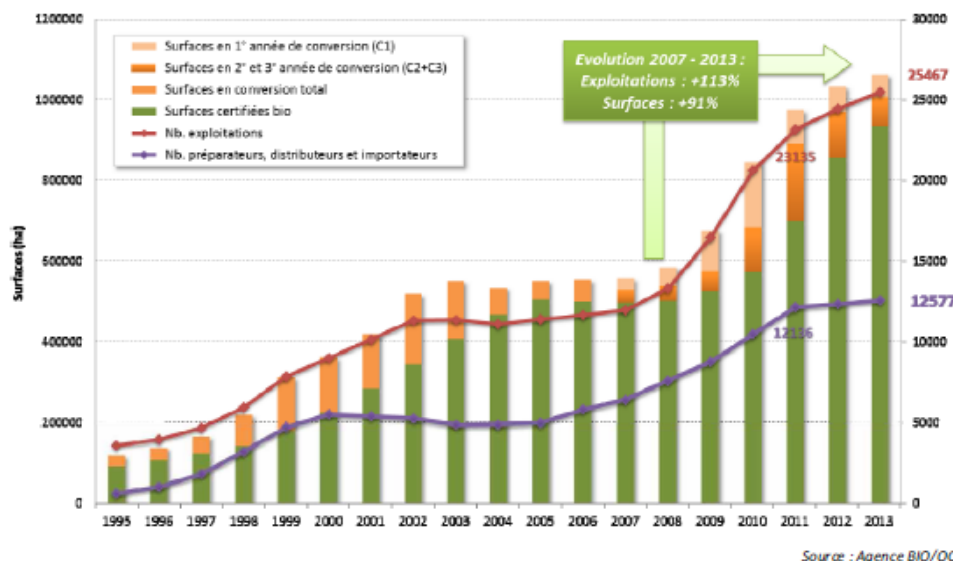
- 2 400 cooperatives
- 84,3 billions € of global turnover
- 40% market share of the food industry
- 160 000 employees
- 75% of French farmers are members of a cooperative



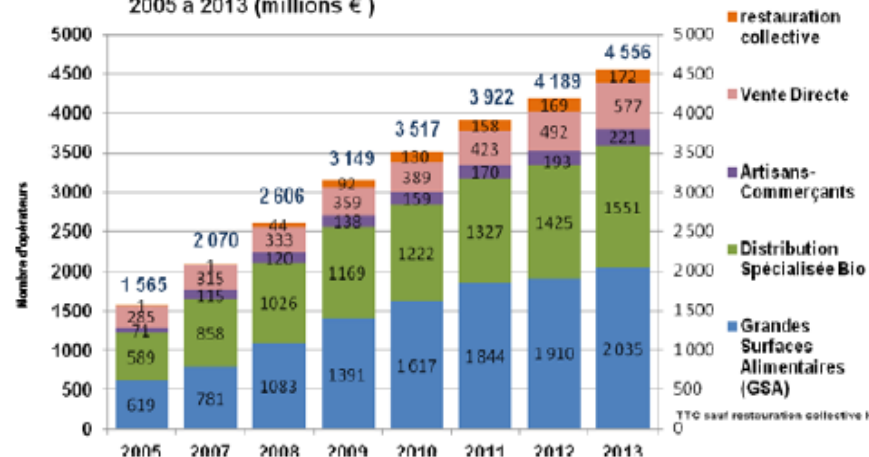
Organic sector in France



Evolution du nombre d'opérateurs et des surfaces en mode de production biologique depuis 1995



Evolution du chiffre d'affaires bio par circuit de distribution de 2005 à 2013 (millions €)

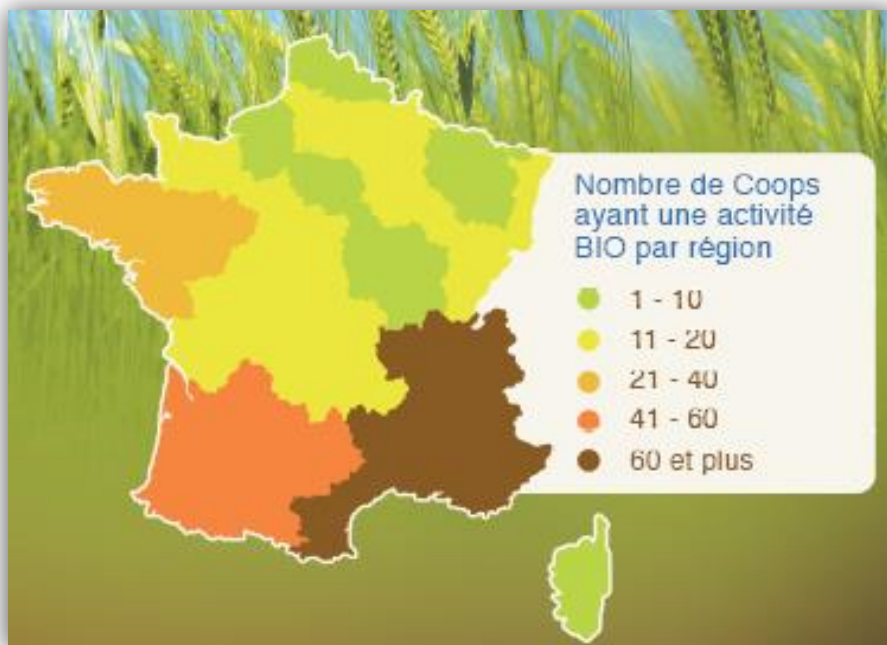


- 26 500 organic producers on May 15, 2014 (+ 113% since 2008)
- 1 million hectares (+ 90% since 2008)
- 12600 processors, distributors and importers

- Organic market : 4,5 billions € in 2013 (+73% since 2008)
- Organic sales are still increasing in all channel : +9% in 2013



Organic production in French cooperatives



- Cooperatives are leader in many organic productions
 - Cereals : 75%
 - Eggs: 65%
 - Poultry 55%
 - Pork: 85%
 - Cattle: 32%
 - Milk : 36%
 - Wine : 20%
 - Fruits and vegetables: 20%

- 500 cooperatives involved in organic farming in 2013
- Some of them are 100% organic but most of them are mixed, with specialized working tools.
- Include more than 7 600 organic producers (30% of French organic producers)



Organic production for Coop de France



- **Organic production** is a part of the rise of **agroecological transition** in France and is one of the most **sustainable** agricultural model.
- Coop de France wants organic production and consumption to continue its **development** in Europe in order to be more independant from overseas supplies and be more coherent with the principles of organic farming.
- European regulation is a strong tool to help each member state to reach ensure organic development and the current regulation needed some adjustments.



New regulation proposal: general statement of Coop de France?

- For Coop de France, the total revision of the regulation is pointless.
- The improvement statu quo option would have been enough to adjust the regulation frame, as proposed by the Copa-Cogeca.
- We think the regulation proposal won't allow the Commission to reach its goals:
 - (1) remove obstacles to sustainable development of organic production in the EU,
 - (2) to ensure a level playing field for farmers and operators and allow the internal market to operate more efficiently,
 - (3) to maintain or increase the level of consumer confidence in organic products.



Coop de France general statement on organic proposal

- Coop de France wants :
 - an **open organic** regulation,
 - **clear and stable production rules**
 - a **simplified** regulatory framework
 - **reinforcement** of the control system and the import regime
 - that can guarantee a **high level of confidence** among professionals and consumers.
- French cooperatives and their producers are very concerned about this proposal that raises more issues than points of satisfaction.

Maintain mix farming (article 7)

- Coop de France is categorically **opposed to the end of mix farming** for several reasons:
 - Mix farming concern **25% of French organic farms** in 2012,
 - Conversion to organic production could be longer than 3 or 5 years,
 - Mix farming can contribute to the development of new conversions in certain areas (especially where water quality is an issue),
 - End of mix farming doesn't solve the problem of fraud, if
 - The end of mix farming would be a very bad signal for the sector and would threat the future development of the organic farming in France.

Against specific organic threshold (article 20)

- Coop de France is **opposed to the establishment of “organic thresholds”** for the following reasons:
 - The Commission did not assess the impact of this provision
 - This involves passing from an obligation of means to an obligation of results or organic farms can't master all the risks of contamination,
 - Organic farming should not be limited to the characteristics of the final product,
 - Analyzes are a complementary tool for audits and investigations but they cannot prove the “organic” quality of a product,
 - Many uncertainties exist concerning the way analyzes are done and their interpretation,
 - The question of compensation for organic farmers is very difficult to implement.
- This measure would be **risky** for the organic sector, **unfair** for the producers and operators and **useless** in terms of fraud control.
- It is more important to **harmonize control methods** and **implement investigation process** before studying such a threshold.

Maintain some derogations (article 10 & 11)

- Coop de **France is opposed to the end** of all the derogations:
- The end of this exception for reproductive material would threaten organic production:
 - Some reproductive material species are very difficult to achieve in organic production (even in conventional for ray grass)
 - It would lead to the end of some organic production in certain areas because organic producers are so few
 - This would result a major loss of biodiversity on organic farms
- Derogations should be maintained and each member improve production and use of organic reproductive

Maintain annual on site control

- Coop de France is opposed to the end of the annual on site control
 - It is important to maintain a close link between operators and control bodies,
 - It is a key element to maintain a high degree of confidence in the sector.
- Coop de France wants to maintain individual annual inspection plus a risk-based approach for additional controls.
- Distributors must also be subject to regular inspections but a systematic control at their level would not give more security to consumers.



Thank you

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