A survey on young French post-graduated farmers: profiles, motivations, and difficulties

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INTRODUCTION

- In France, renewal in agriculture is crucial (Jeanneaux and Latruffe, 2023)
- Among new farmers, some are post-graduated individuals (master 2 level) and their number is increasing
- Very few information is available and present work aims to better know who they are, for an adequate support in the future. An inquiry was then performed to better know:
- → their origins, their motivations, their difficulties throughout their settlement
 - → their production and ways to do it, their personal satisfaction, ...

MATERIAL & METHODS







- Recruitment: Alumni contacts + snowball method
- Ten years after setting up max
- Semi-directive survey (qualitative and quantitative questions)
- Face-to-face or remote survey, January 2024
- Descriptive analysis (Excel & Rstudio)
- Multiple Correspondence Analysis (Rstudio & Factoshiny)

RESULTS

> Sample characteristics :

41 Farmers (10 \bigcirc and 31 \bigcirc), 34 year old (±5) 5 years working before becoming a farmer 54 %: additional training before setting up



80%: produce with a certification label (51% organic, 48% on-farm sales)



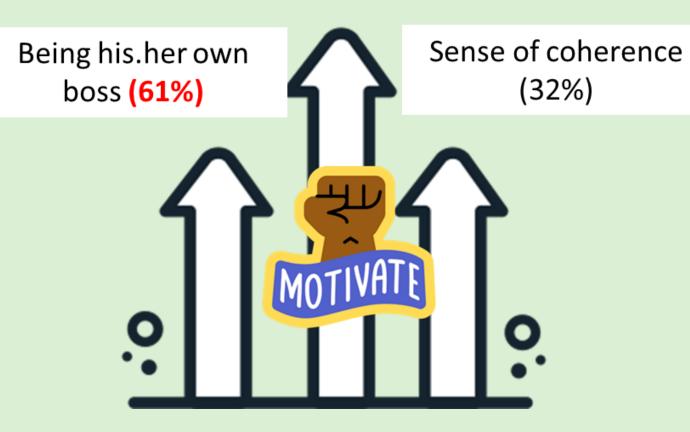
63%: settled collective workforce by choice 58%: non-family farm setup



51%: income is OK (20% partially) 56%: more than 50 hours/week

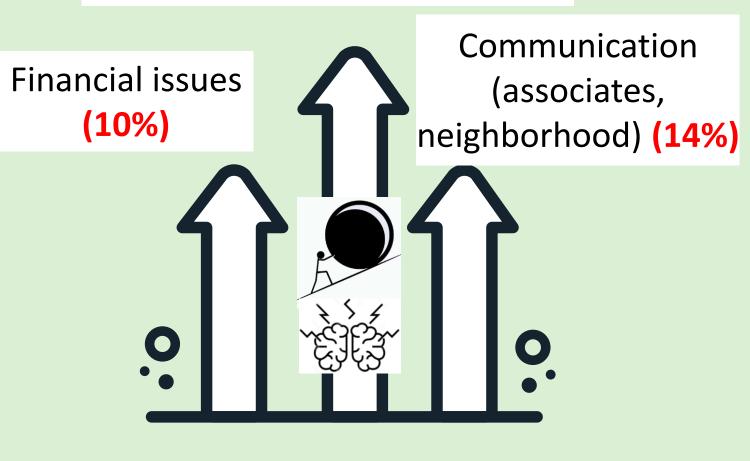
Main motivations

Contact with nature / animals (63%)



Main challenges

Work organization, mental & physical workload (28%)



> 4 profiles, motivations for settlement and installation conditions

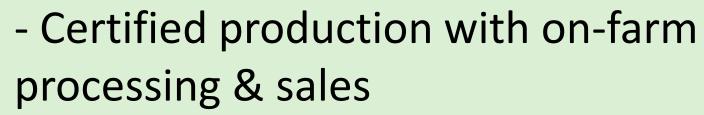


Dim 1: motivations for settlement (environment), production adding-value method

Dim2: motivations for settlement (relations with the job), settlement conditions



"Protecting the environment & developing a healthy production"



- Profile 1
 Non-family farm
 - Local or small population breeds



Profile 2 N=8

"Maintaining the family farm"

- Individual setting up
- Cattle production
- Certified but long supply chains
- Delegation of work
- Sensitivity to the environment

"Enjoying contact with nature"



Profile 3 N=9

- Family setting up
- Need to find job meaning
- Salaried work
- Partially satisfied with their income

"Being a businessperson"



Profile 4 N=12

- Individual setting up
- Taste for challenge and intellectual stimulation
- Technical approach
- Delegation of work
- Partially satisfied with their income

CONCLUSIONS

Based on a limited number of farmers, it appears from this study that

- Post-graduate farmers are not involved in an unique but a large diversity of farming systems (but a tendency for collective and non-family workforce)
- For most of them, environmental motivations are strong (resulting in an involvement in certified productions)
- They are facing difficulties on work organization, heavy mental workload, and difficulties in communication with partners and/or neighbors

More work is needed, in France and elsewhere, to better know the new generations of farmers, not only post-graduated ones.