

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 ♀ and 31 ♂), 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%)
Being his/her own boss (61%)
Sense of coherence (32%)

Main challenges

Work organization, mental & physical workload (28%)
Financial issues (10%)
Communication (associates, neighborhood) (14%)

➤ 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

Profile 1
N=12

“Protecting the environment & developing a healthy production”

- Certified production with on-farm processing & sales
- 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

Profile 3
N=9

“Enjoying contact with nature”

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

Profile 4
N=12

“Being a businessperson”

- 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.