

## NEW ENTRANTS WITH NO FARMING BACKGROUND Jeunes Agriculteurs, France

*Generational renewal on farms addresses both farm succession and set up. This trend has been researched through a LEADER-funded project with the title "Creation of farming activity by entrepreneurs outside the family framework: specific needs, levers of action, complementarity between the different support tools" implemented in France by the Jeunes Agriculteurs (French young farmers union) together with other partners.*

### Context

Agricultural development has been based, for decades, on farms being inherited by children from their parents. This pattern has evolved. In 2009, agricultural entrepreneurs outside the family accounted for 30% of the young farmers' projects (under 40 years) supported through state aid. This share has doubled since the 1990s.

In the early 2000s, there were around 50,000 young farmers "outside the family framework" (10% of the total). Ten years later, they are still 90% active. Following the current trend, around 2020, 30% of farmers will not come from a farming family. The success of these entrepreneurs, whether supported or not by state aid, is therefore a major challenge in fostering the creation of agricultural activities and jobs (and also their related activities and jobs) in rural areas.

### Idea

In the French territories, different organisations that support agricultural entrepreneurship have already, formally or otherwise, made their diagnoses and put in place mechanisms to adapt their support to these entrepreneurs. At the same time, several studies have addressed the issue. Nevertheless, no study has managed to put into perspective the specific needs of these farmers with the levers of action or support measures to respond to them, and none has succeeded in dealing with the complementarity of these practices.

#### Location

France

#### Programming period

2007-2013

#### Axis/ Measure

Axis 4 LEADER

#### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 80,000€  
EAFRD 80,000€

#### Project duration

spring 2012 – autumn 2013

#### Project beneficiary

Jeunes Agriculteurs  
Mouvement Rural de la Jeunesse  
Chretienne

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This project aimed, on the basis of concrete case studies and by bringing together the expertise of national and territorial stakeholders, to improve knowledge on entrepreneurs in agriculture not coming from a farming family framework; determine their specific needs; analyse the available support measures; evaluate the complementarity and facilitate the partnership approaches through provision of support measures; and valorise the knowledge produced among agricultural development stakeholders: development organisations, trade unions, communities and the state.

*“Each state member has their own policy for setting up, and their own land management policy, so these different factors have to be precisely defined. In order to have interesting results, it’s necessary to involve not only farmer organisations but also rural organisations.”*

## Outcomes

The project was supported through EAFRD by the French National Rural Network (Réseau Rural Français). The two main stakeholders involved in the project were the French young farmers union “Jeunes Agriculteurs” (JA) and the rural youth association “Mouvement Rural de la Jeunesse Chrétienne ” (MRJC). Several other partners were also involved.

The main activities of the project were :

- bibliography analysis, analysis of the partner organisations and their networks, sharing of the diagnosis on the specific needs and the levers for action for young farmers coming from outside a farming family framework.
- analysis of the good practices to respond to the specific needs of these young farmers, and evaluation of their complementarity (production of a synthesis, and good practice videos)
- organisation of a one-day seminary in Paris focusing on the support measures for these young farmers.

One of the project’s results is the precise profile of young farmers not coming from a farming family framework, and the end of some “clichés”.

- Their profile is quite similar to other farmers: they follow the same path to set up on a farm, and they have the same types of difficulties before setting up and after.
- Contrary to the “cliché”, they don’t choose particularly unconventional or unusual production: vegetables, crops and beef cattle are the most frequently chosen sectors.

The project has also pointed out the necessity to improve support by facilitating access to land, access to credit and to reinforce the technical knowledge of young farmers from outside a farming family framework.