



French Animal Genetic Resources

ERFP Nantes 24-08-2013



Geography and physical environment

552 000 km²
 (plus overseas
 departments :
 96 000 km²)
 Coastline 5850
 km (plus overseas
 departments
 1586 km)

65,6 M inhabitants
 3,3 % work in
 agriculture



Diversity in agricultural systems

490 000 farms (2,3 M in 1955) on 270 000 km²

19 M cattle (8 M cows)

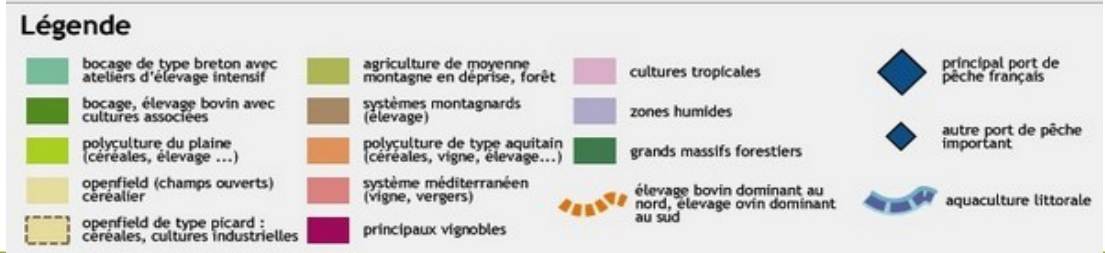
7,5 M sheep

1,3 M goats

13,8 M pigs

231 M poultries

0,9 M horses, ponies and donkeys



Diversity in breeds : example cattle breed



Diversity in animal productions

Example : main cheeses



Officially recognised breeds in France

46 cattle breeds (23 rare breeds and 29 local breeds, 18 rare and local breeds)

52 sheep breeds (27 rare breeds and 44 local breeds, 21 rare and local breeds)

14 goat breeds (9 rare breeds and 10 local breeds, 8 rare and local breeds)

12 pig breeds (7 rare and local breeds)

52 horse breeds

Geographical indications : one of the keys to protect and develop breeds

**Conditions of production including the use of breeds
linked to the terroir or which give special qualities to the
product**

**Example : Tarentaises and Abondances cows : production of
Beaufort cheese**





Corsican sheep and goat breeds : cheese brocciu



3 Pyrénées sheep breeds : cheese ossau iraty



Other examples :

Massif Central goat :
Rigotte de Condrieu



Lacaune :
Roquefort cheese



Pig nustrale :
Corsican pork products



Other examples (2)

Rouge des Prés : Maine-Anjou meat



Massif Central local sheep breeds (Lacaune, Noire du Velay, Limousine, Grivette, Causses du lot, Bizet, Rava, Blanche du Massif Central) : Pays d'Oc lamb meat



Salers cattle : cheese
Salers « tradition salers »
beef meat «Salers »






Management and coordination of the animal genetics policy

Consultative body of the Ministry of Agriculture on issues related to animal selection and AnGR :
Commission nationale d'amélioration génétique
(national commission for genetic improvement) – Vote and propositions of legislative drafts related to animal genetics – Members are all the stakeholders, scientifics, experts.

Ministry of agriculture, agro-food and Forestry :
definition of the legislative framework. Drafts proposed to the CNAG for discussion and vote.



Breeders organisations : known as « Parliament of breeds ». The place where the selection criteria are fixed.

INRA : research on breeding and genetics and official evaluation

National technical institutes on livestock (cattle, pigs, horses, poultry and aquaculture)

Foundation for research on biodiversity (FRB)

National genebank (cryobanque nationale)