

The energy transition
into actions

P. 1

FOCUS

The Mediterranean is taking charge of climate change policies for a better future

P. 2

EXPERTISE

Agriculture faces the challenges posed by ecological transition

P. 4

WORLDWIDE

ADEME is supporting initiatives for sustainable food systems



EDITORIAL

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AFFAIRS

France will host 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris. ADEME is taking part in its organisation and providing support to a number of events taking place around the negotiations.

One of them is the international scientific conference «Our common future under climate change», which brought the scientific community together from 7 to 10 July in Paris to take stock of current expertise and explore potential solutions to climate change. ADEME hosted a session during which participants were encouraged to discuss the various countries' priorities in terms of technological innovations to combat climate change and their potential markets.

FOCUS

THE MEDITERRANEAN IS TAKING CHARGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

With six months to go before the Paris climate summit, the MEDCOP21 forum has brought together various players from the Mediterranean civil society in Marseille to discuss current initiatives in place to tackle climate change. ADEME actively contributed to the event.

“COP21 starts here in Marseille and will end in Paris,” stated French President François Hollande, opening the MEDCOP21 forum. The event, which took place on 4 and 5 June, brought together experts and professionals from 36 countries. The President insisted on the urgency of the matter at hand: “The Mediterranean is one of the regions most at risk of the effects of climate change,” he said.

FOCUS



“The increase in sea temperature and levels will have considerable impacts on biodiversity, currents, climate and coastal areas.” Mediterranean civil society is thus keen to show its commitment to tackling climate change. The aim of the forum is ambitious: adopting a “Mediterranean Agenda of solutions”, a roadmap presenting all the practical initiatives carried out by the various non-governmental organisations in the region. *“With this roadmap, the Mediterranean region is making its voice heard and is presenting itself as a dynamic region, leading a number of innovative projects,”* sums up François Gréaume, ADEME’s head of the International Geographic Coordination Service. This “Agenda of Solutions”, which offers no less than 27 solutions and 133 examples of good practice (see boxed text), was delivered personally to Laurent Fabius, France’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, who will preside over COP21.

THE COLLECTIVITIES ARE STEPPING FORWARD

“The challenges we face in terms of energy transition are huge,” said Bruno Lechevin, President of ADEME. In fact, the population of the Mediterranean region should increase by 45% by 2030 and energy requirements by 40%, mostly in southern Mediterranean countries. Bruno Lechevin stressed the importance of the support ADEME and its counterparts provides for regional authorities offering solutions for the future. Applauding the participants’ commitment, he underlines the importance of such initiatives to further the COP21’s Agenda of Solutions. *“ADEME is particularly well placed to acknowledge the local authorities’ dynamism, the impact of their actions and the importance of highlighting all their efforts,”* he said.

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Focus on...

THE MEDITERRANEAN: AN INNOVATIVE REGION

The “Agenda of Solutions” presented by the various Mediterranean countries include 27 solutions, which aim to foster changes in behaviour, by encouraging people to produce and consume differently, to increase technical skills, to protect the sea and the natural environment and so on. These include for example: developing a Mediterranean platform for voluntary carbon offset schemes, sharing urban development solutions via a resource centre named “The City of Solutions” or modernising Moroccan hammams, which currently consume a lot of water and wood fuel. Alongside this, key players from around the region highlighted 133 reproducible and innovative projects featuring “good practices” to be widely distributed. Agriculture, soils, buildings, biodiversity, waste... From connected nest boxes to “green” itineraries to go to school, via the study of plankton resilience, all sectors are concerned!

EXPERTISE

SECTOR

AGRICULTURE
FACES THE
CHALLENGES
POSED BY
ECOLOGICAL
TRANSITION

Like other economic sectors, agriculture must rethink its practices in order to contribute effectively to the energy and ecological transitions. Taking an active part in this process, ADEME has been supporting various key players of France’s agricultural sector.

Reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption, preserving the quality of soils and water, protecting biodiversity... agriculture is currently facing a number of environmental challenges. The sector, which plays an essential part in feeding the world’s inhabitants - 9 billion by 2050 according to UN projections - makes up around 20% of carbon emissions in France. Striking a balance between economic performance and respect for the environment is now one of the major challenges it faces.

IDENTIFYING THE LEVERS FOR ACTION


Agriculture involves a number of factors that are actually beneficial for the environment: *“By storing carbon in the soil and biomass, agriculture can make up for part of its carbon emissions,”* explains Thomas Eglin, engineer at ADEME’s Agriculture and Forests department. *“Moreover, there is a lot of potential in agriculture for the production of renewable energy, mainly through the use of livestock slurry (anaerobic digestion) and residual forest and agricultural biomass.”* ADEME and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (Inra) have carried out a number of studies to evaluate how such practices can benefit the environment. Nine significant levers for action were identified, which, in terms of farming, enable us to reduce carbon and ammonia emissions, consume less energy and preserve the

Focus on...

Call for project proposals
“Eco-efficient industry and
agriculture”

As part of the Investments for the Future programme (PIA), ADEME launched a call for project (CP) last November, focusing on the eco-efficiency of the industrial and agricultural sectors. This CP aims to support energy-related and environmental innovations for these two sectors. Expected agricultural innovations mainly concern mechanisation, input, precision agriculture, buildings and greenhouses, the mobilisation of residual forest and agricultural biomass and the transformation of wood. The CP will close on 30 November 2016.
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“The agricultural sector has a lot of potential for the production of renewable energy”

quality of soils and water. Practices that should be encouraged include the optimisation of input management, which can be carried out at a low cost (or even at negative cost). Other practices, such as the introduction of leguminous crops, the anaerobic digestion of livestock slurry and the development of agroforestry are more difficult to implement because they would need investment and/or new skills. (See Stratégie&études n°41 - 17 February 2015 .

MOBILISING THE VARIOUS PLAYERS

In order to further discussions around the evolution of agricultural practices, ADEME has taken part in a number of research programmes. It sent out calls for project (CP) on the role of agriculture and forestry in the mitigation of climate change (CP Reacctif) and on the management of organic matter and energy (CP Doste). *“These projects have encouraged collaborations between the various key players of the sector: ministries in charge of Agriculture and Ecology, chambers of agriculture, agricultural institutes, cooperatives, research organisations and so on,”* added Thomas Eglin.

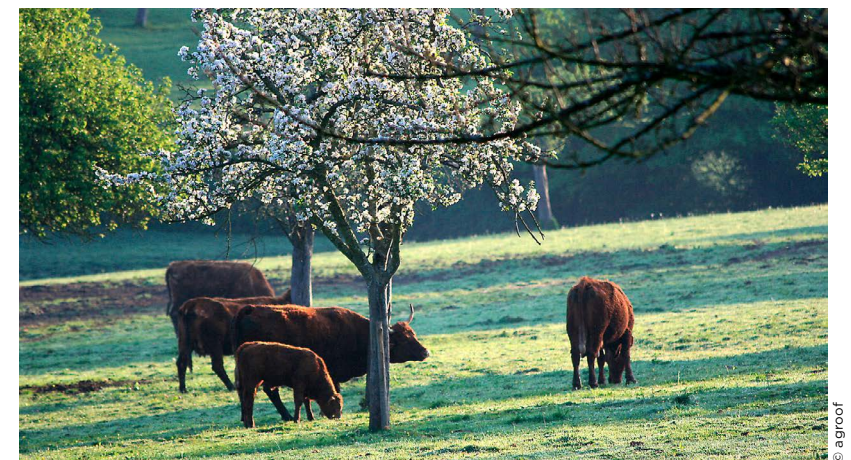
PROPOSING MEASURES FOR ADAPTED DIAGNOSES

ADEME is also developing a number of environmental evaluation tools to be used at various scales: *“The Dia’terre® tool allows us to establish an climate-*

energy diagnosis at farm scale. The Clim’Agri® collective approach allows us to assess agricultural carbon emissions at a regional level,” explains Sophie Debarge, engineer for ADEME Pays de la Loire. *“As for the AgriBalyse® database of Life cycle Inventories, it allows us to analyse the environmental impacts of agricultural products at the farm gate.”* These tools are particularly useful for highlighting the various ways in which the agricultural sector can improve certain practices. ADEME and its partners are consequently working to promote them internationally (see p.4).

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For more information:
www.ademe.fr/sites/default/files/assets/documents/french-agriculture-reducing-gas-emissions-2013-rapport-final.pdf



WORLDWIDE



The France Pavilion at the 2015 Universal Exhibition in Milan.

EUROPEAN WEEK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ADEME IS SUPPORTING INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ADEME team headed to Milan, home of the 2015 Universal Exhibition, during European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) from 30 May to 5 June, to share its expertise on environmental evaluation of agricultural practices.

"Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" is the core theme unifying the 147 countries taking part in the 2015 Universal Exhibition, held in Milan from 1 May to 31 October. The topic inspired the design of the French Pavilion - a wood panelled hall with an allotment, in keeping with the idea of sustainable food systems. Alongside the Universal Exhibition, an area dedicated to France's events - CITÉXPO - was set up in the heart of Milan, at the Stelline Palace, where ADEME team hosted a conference on the interest of environmental assessment for the improvement of agricultural practices on 4 June. Free and open to all, the event was organised in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD). "It brought together experts, decision-makers and other agribusiness professionals," said Cécile Martin-Phipps, project manager at ADEME's International Affairs Department. The

team also introduced the *ClimAgri*® and *AGRIBALYSE*® tools developed by ADEME. "*ClimAgri*® allows us to describe agricultural territories through the prism of their carbon emissions. This encourages collective strategies for improving practices," explains Vincent Colomb, engineer at the Agency's Agriculture and Forest Department. "As for *AGRIBALYSE*®, it allows us to analyse the life cycles of various French agricultural products so as to identify where there is room for improvement along the entire production line." The idea is to implement reproducible environmental strategies, involving collectivities and all the sector's main players. ADEME encourages full transparency and consumer access to information, essential prerequisites for the improvement of our food systems.



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PUBLICATIONS



Climate change

This practical guide provides a current state of knowledge on climate change. It details causes, signs and consequences and provides ideas for ways to limit greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing environment.

Ref. 8395 (French) and 8507 (English)



Renewable energies in the service of humanity

In partnership with the CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research) and UNESCO, ADEME organised the international scientific symposium "Renewable Energies in the service of humanity", which was held on 3 October 2013. This publication includes both speeches from the various speakers at the event as well as additional written pieces.

Ref. 8392 (French) and 8393 (English)

> Available for free download
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TO ATTEND

5 - 9 OCT. 2015
SARDINIA 2015, 15TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTE MANAGEMENT
SARDINIA, ITALY

Organised by the international waste working group, the SARDINIA Symposium has become the most important international event in the waste management sector. ADEME will be supporting its 15th edition.

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