

INNOVATING ADAPTATION THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

Biovallée

France

The Biovallée area is one of the leading organic farming regions in France, with nearly 30% of agricultural land used for sustainable agriculture. Created in 2012, the Biovallée Association is a “laboratory” for sustainable approaches. The Association gathers actors from various sectors (including agriculture, recycling, and construction) to pursue a common project: promoting the economic development of the region, whilst strengthening ecological awareness, preserving natural ecosystems, and enhancing sustainable livelihoods. The Biovallée association has a number of long-term objectives, including: reaching 50% of farmers and surface area in organic farming by 2020; offering 80% organic or local food in collective catering by 2025; and generating 2,500 new green jobs in the region by 2025.



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AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

- Implementing an integrated system combining hydrographic management and agroforestry.
- Combining traditional and modern agroforestry practices, such as hedgerow planting, and agroforestry grazing, to preserve the region's biodiversity.
- Improving soil health by nurturing living soil, and other conservation agriculture practices.
- Co-creating knowledge through a support network bringing together all associations in the region.
- Selecting crop varieties based on sustainability criteria, such as drought resistance, and epigenetics.
- Creating a platform to connect producers and consumers of organic products.

IMPACTS

- Concerted ecosystem management of the Drôme river catchment area has preserved this heritage.
- The democratic management of the Association allows greater inclusion of local stakeholders in the development of local policies.
- Thanks to a dense network and producers and consumers, the region has proved to be more resilient than others to the Covid-19 crisis.