



**SUMMARY**

# THE UNFAIR PRICE OF OUR FOOD

WHAT COSTS FOR SOCIETY  
AND OUR PLANET

*Tout  
le Monde  
à Table*



## Our four associations

### **DIGNIFIED ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE, QUALITY FOOD - LE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE**

Founded in 1946, Secours Catholique-Caritas France (SCCF) promotes access to sustainable, quality food for all. In 1984, it co-founded the first food bank in Arcueil, but since 1987 it has moved away from institutional food aid in favour of initiatives based on meeting people and providing support. In 2015, the SCCF took part in COP21 and, in 2016, in the World Social Forum in Montreal to establish criteria for dignified access to quality food. The Covid-19 crisis reinforced this focus. In January 2021, the SCCF launched the "Ensemble, bien vivre, bien manger" programme (living well eating well together), and in the same year, the "Territoires à VivreS" experiment for local food systems that guarantee access to sustainable food for all.

### **FEEDING WELL - A LONG-STANDING CIVAM CONCERN**

Civam (centres for initiatives to promote agriculture and rural environment) were set up in the 1950s by agricultural teachers and the "Ligue de l'enseignement" (teaching League). Taking the form of secular associations or initiative centres, they aimed to spread agricultural progress and emancipate the countryside. In the 1990s, they denounced productivism and focused their action on sustainable agriculture. They seek to create a direct link with consumers and to rethink farm economics. Since 2010, the Civams have been working to reduce inequalities in access to quality food with the Accessible project, launched in 2015, which has helped to bring together producers and people in precarious situations, and to develop alternatives to food aid, followed by the "Territoires à VivreS" project, which the Civams joined in 2020 and which has led to the creation of the Montpellier communal food bank. Today, Civam farmers want to work to feed rather than to produce.

### **DEFENDING AND SUPPORTING FARMERS IN DIFFICULTY: SOLIDARITÉ PAYSANS**

Founded in 1992, Solidarité Paysans was born out of the need for farmers to defend themselves against the consequences of the post-Second World War industrial development model. The association offers legal and social support to farmers in difficulty, helping them to adopt sustainable farming practices and guarantee their rights and a decent income. Solidarité Paysans also runs awareness-raising campaigns to draw attention to the agricultural crisis: farmers' difficulties are not only economic, they are also social and human. The aim of Solidarité Paysans is clear: to enable all farmers to become actors in a different agricultural model.

### **FIGHTING FOR BETTER RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES - LA FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DES DIABÉTIQUES (FFD)**

Founded in 1938, the French Federation of Diabetics is a patient association, serving patients and run by patients. The Federation has three social missions: to inform, support and prevent; to defend patients individually and collectively; and to support research and innovation. Today, the association represents the 4 million people living with diabetes in France. Facing the health crisis of 2020, the FFD has stepped up its efforts to support diabetic patients, who are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19. FFD's aim is to defend patients' rights, improve their quality of life and drive research forward.

# ANALYTICAL SUMMARY



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## OUR REPORT is the result of a quadruple refusal:

➔ **8 million** French people suffering from food insecurity, at least 2 million people forced to rely on food aid to feed themselves: **it's a NO**;

➔ **+160 %** diabetics in twenty years, when obesity takes an epidemic turn: **it's a NO**;

➔ **18 %** of farmers below the poverty line, unable to earn a decent income from their work, and twice the risk of suicide than the rest of the population: **it's a NO**;

➔ the disappearance of **30 %** of field birds in fifteen years, 437 drinking water catchments abandoned between 2010 and 2021 due to nitrates and pesticides in France : **it's a NO**.

Everyone will agree that these figures cover unacceptable realities. Except that the whole public debate suggests that a choice has to be made between

these evils: either food accessible to all, or a decent income for producers; either respect for health and environment, or agricultural employment and food security...

In fact, on an individual level, the impossibility of overcoming these contradictions is a source of suffering. Suffering for all those modest or poor households that are materially unable to offer their children the food they would like for themselves. Pain for so many farmers who are trapped in a production system that does not allow them to make a decent living, or at the cost of practices that are harmful to the climate and to life itself. In this context, any criticism, because it hits where it already hurts, is received as an attack, or a mark of contempt.

At a social level, these contradictions, which are seen as insurmountable, are reflected in a deep sense of powerlessness, incomprehension and heavy tension. The result is an increasingly polarised society, where debate has become almost impossible, sometimes to the point of giving way to violence.

By combining our views and our voices, our associations want to send out a message: we will not give up. "Today, we don't want to put up with it anymore: we want to be able to choose", said the groups working on this study, groups of people with experience of food insecurity or of farming. We will not resign ourselves to having to choose the dignity of some against the dignity of others, or between humans and the planet that sustains them: it's absurd! The areas in which our four associations are involved - the fight against food insecurity, social support for farmers, health and the promotion of more environmentally-friendly farming practices - can no longer be treated as separate issues, even less set one against the other. All the deadly effects mentioned above are associated with the same agri-food system, however efficient it may be, aren't they?

On our own small scale, we are trying to work with the people most affected to come up with ways of overcoming some of these contradictions: agro-ecology as a way of restoring income and autonomy, grocery shops with differentiated prices according to individual ability, buying groups where we choose what we buy together, etc. But our actions alone cannot resolve structural injustices.

How can these contradictions be resolved on a national scale? To move away from a confrontational approach, we have chosen analysis and crossing perspectives. We started from the **equation we are facing, presented as insoluble, of healthy, sustainable, accessible and remunerative food.**

So there is one point around which all the contradictions crystallise: the price of our food. It is the price of our food. It is the price on which demands for accessibility, sustainability and fair remuneration all along the chain stumble.

That's why we wanted to investigate it. We looked at what the prices of our food say, but also what they hide and what we don't pay for at the checkout - the social, environmental and health impacts of our food system. We have completed the analysis with an overview of public financial support for the players in this system. This helps us to understand what food really costs us collectively.

**By combining our views and our voices, our associations want to send out a message: we will not give up.**

## 19 BILLION EUROS in repairs and compensation

**The price of our food is not always what we think it is, because it's not just what we pay at the checkout.**

Putting a figure on the ecological, social and health impacts of our food system is no easy task. Not only are they not all sufficiently documented, but above all, not everything has a price. Unlike other studies, we have refused to put a price in euros on the loss of years of life expectancy or to speculate on the loss of productivity linked to the collapse of the living world.

Drawing on the expertise of the "Bureau d'analyse scientifique et d'information citoyenne" (Basic), we are therefore quantifying only a small part of these costs borne by society (what we call "societal costs"). The whole point of these figures is that they are not theoretical costs,

but very real expenses that can be found in public accounts: we have therefore identified - wherever possible - the public expenses that compensate for and repairs the social, health and environmental damage caused by the agri-food system, to the extent of its responsibility.

Even if we restrict ourselves to these actual costs for public spending, **the bill remains high.** For example, there is no mention of the public money spent on cleaning up pollution, covering occupational illnesses, consumer illnesses caused by eating too much fat and sugar... **In total, we are currently compensating for the malfunctions in our food system up to 19 billion euros! That's almost double the budget allocated for ecological planning in 2024.**

**First and foremost, it's a public health scandal. We spend at least 11.7 billion euros on illnesses due to poor diet (obesity and diabetes in particular). And the trend is rising sharply, to the point where the World Health Organisation is now talking about an obesity epidemic. And yet obesity is strongly encouraged: a large proportion of the more than 5.5 billion euros worth of advertising and communication in the food and drink sector in 2023 will steer us towards products that are too fatty, too sweet or too salty. 5.5 billion is more than 1,000 times the communication budget of the French National Nutrition and Health Programme, which funds awareness campaigns**

such as the famous "5 fruit and vegetables a day" campaign. 11.7 billion is just the tip of the iceberg. If we add to this the professional illnesses linked to the use of pesticides, we reach **€12.3 billion in expenses**, without covering all the effects of the destruction of our environment on our health.

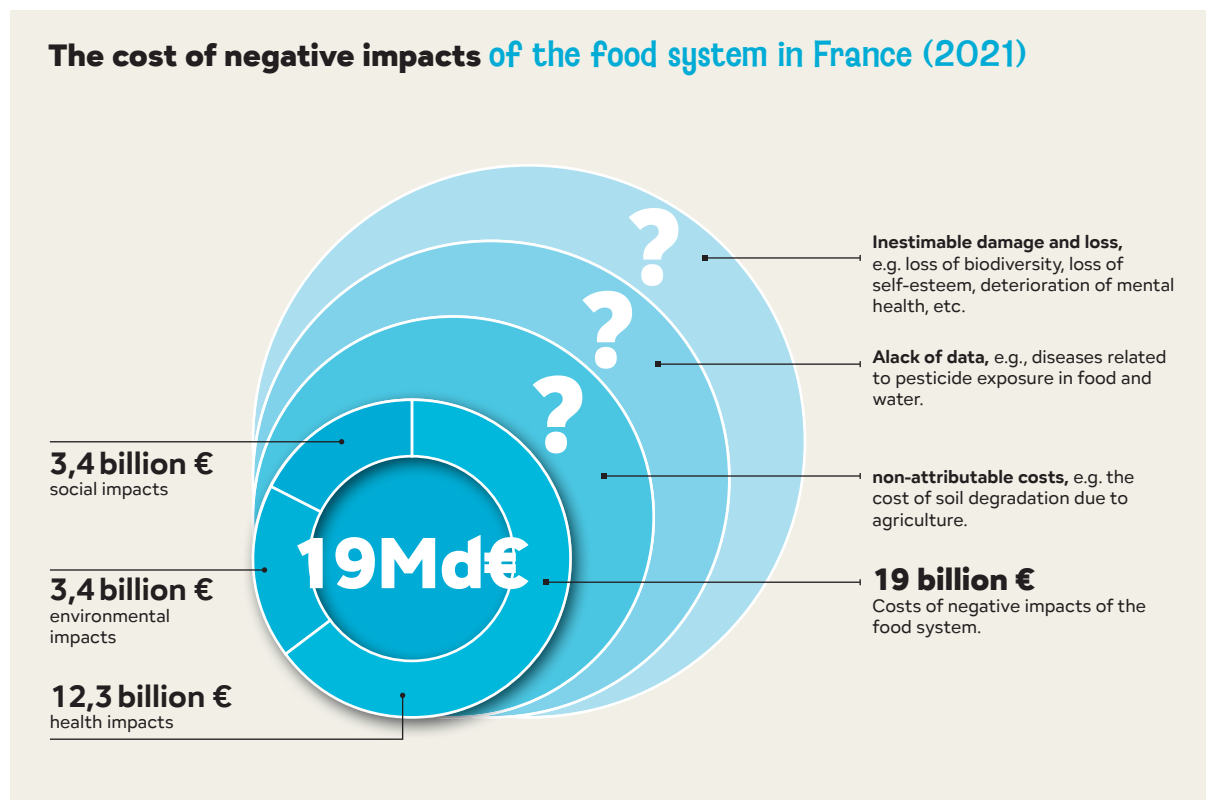
**From an ecological point of view, public spending is far from being able to compensate for and repair all the damage caused. It amounted to €3.4 billion in 2021, for what we have been able to put a figure on:** mitigating climate change, managing waste, cleaning up water pollution and dealing with illnesses linked to air pollution (considered in proportion to the responsibility of our agricultural and food system<sup>1</sup>). Expenditure is low, even though all the indicators are in the red. Six out of the nine planetary limits had already been crossed in 2023, particularly in terms of climate change, freshwater use, loss of biodiversity and land use. In some places, the very possibility of living a properly human life is at risk. All over the world, the industrialised food system is making a major contribution to these circumstances, while at

the same time being affected, requiring ever greater "emergency" expenditure.

**In terms of social impact cost, we have spent €3.4 billion in 2021** to compensate for low pay in the agricultural sector and throughout the chain.

**But these figures do not tell the whole story. The testimonies of those concerned sound like the ticking of a social time bomb.** What the figures will never tell you is the shame and stress of not being able to feed yourself and your children properly. It's the social isolation and mental health problems of not being able to invite friends or grandchildren over. *"I take what they give me [at the Restos du Cœur] and do the best I can with it,"* says Danielle. *"It's pretty humiliating at my age, but that's the way it is. (...) I have no choice".* Josette confides: *"It's very difficult for me to have my grandchildren at home because children are always hungry and my fridge is often empty."* What these figures hide is the powerlessness and anger at being told to eat better and pay producers better when you can't afford to do so. It's the physical and mental exhaustion of farmers caught up in the race for productivity gains, or of those who work in slaughterhouses. It's a lack of recognition and a loss of meaning in one's work when the farm must always be

<sup>1</sup> Two costs could not be quantified for lack of available data: the cost of soil degradation and the cost of the massive use of non-renewable resources.



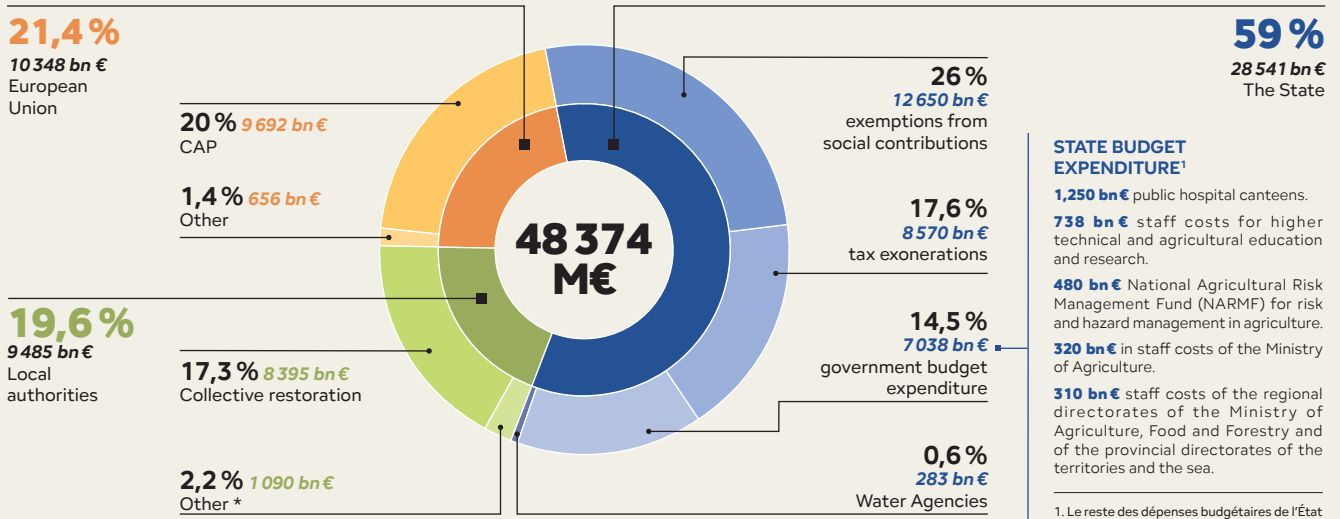
bigger and its production cheaper, to the detriment of the environment or the accessibility of its production to the entire population. Gérard laments: "We know what it costs to have products that come from far away, the plane fares, the pollution and all that, we know it's not great for the planet, but when you don't have the money to do things differently, what are you supposed to do? Anne, a farmer, explains: "If we set a price that allows us to live, we only sell to a niche group of people [...]. It's disturbing to think that we're making healthy food but not everyone has access to it". Ultimately, these impacts lead to a loss of confidence and even resentment towards the institutions. In short, they undermine our democracy. Can we afford to wait any longer?

No. Especially if we look at these costs in trend . Most likely, the \$19 billion that our country is already spending to repair a small part of the damage caused by its agri-food system will only increase in the coming years. In addition to the scientific advances that will help to better characterise the causal links between food and health, we can expect water scarcity, soil impoverishment, disease and the crises linked to climate change to make the bill even higher.

### 48,3 BILLION EUROS in public support

This system, with its multiple impacts, is not just something we have to put up with. We finance it. And in proportions that, until our survey, no-one had really measured: we are all putting 48.3 billion euros on the table to support our farming and food system. This is the amount of public support in 2021 for the players in this system - through subventions, direct purchases and tax and social exemptions. This support is not neutral: by consolidating the profitability of economic players, and depending on their target and conditions, it helps to structure the food system and guide its operation. The price of our food, the supply available and the margins of the players involved reflect political choices, through public support, taxes and exemptions, as well as regulations (e.g. the price of a baguette of bread was regulated until 1986). The price of our food is basically the expression of a social contract, a social choice. **And this is undoubtedly one of the pieces of good news in our report: with these 48.3 billion euros, we have a way of directing the 290 billion euros spent on food by the French and changing the trajectory.**

### Distribution of sources of public support to the French food system (2021)



\* These expenditures include the financing of food aid by local authorities and development and investment expenditures related to agriculture, fisheries and agro-industry.  
Source : Basic et I4CE, 2024.

1. Le reste des dépenses budgétaires de l'État représente chacune moins de 4,4% du total de l'enveloppe.

**The problem, and this is one of the key findings of our research, is that over 80% of public support is sustaining a model that is causing these impacts.** More than 80% of this support benefits players caught up in a race for volumes, which goes hand in hand with the standardisation of agricultural raw materials and the pressure on the prices paid to farmers. In a way, this is not surprising, given our history: after the war, everything was done to feed the population in quantity and under strict hygienic conditions (financial support, construction of roads and other infrastructures, research... all means were mobilised). The contract signed at the time was clearly honoured. But, as we now know its limits, **this race for volumes is only possible because there is this major system of public aid and repairs.** This also puts into perspective the figures for the agri-food and distribution sector, which certainly generates net profits of €31.5 billion in France and abroad, but which benefits directly or indirectly from €48 billion in public support, to which must be added the €19 billion in compensation, all of which is paid for by the community. So the profits made by private players, far from being linked solely to the economic 'efficiency' of their model, are closely linked to our public choices.

duction has become a substitutable and interchangeable raw material, which is then transformed and developed through a brand image campaign, using marketing and advertising (the aforementioned 5.5 billion euros)! This disconnection is contributing to a loss of reference points for the price of our food, for what it costs to produce it, and for what farmers earn from it.

**More than 80% of public support fosters a logic of volume-driven competition, which goes hand in hand with the standardisation of raw materials and pressure on the prices paid to farmers.**

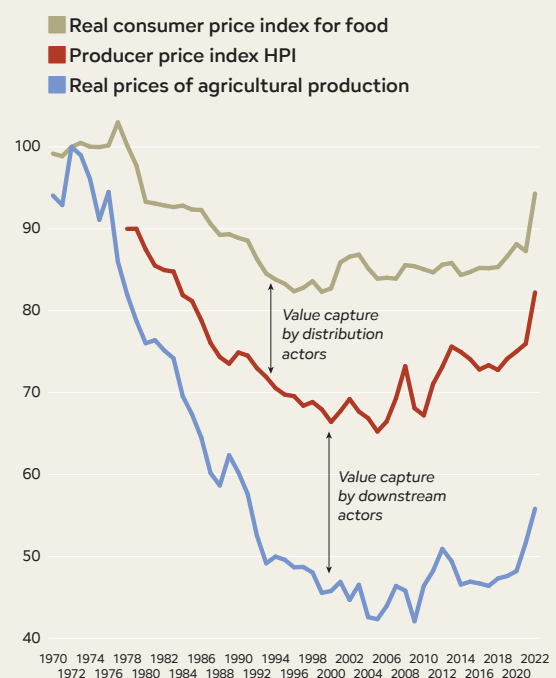
## THE INEQUITABLE sharing of value

In this logic, the conditions are unbearable for producing more sustainably and paying more fairly. The history of food prices since the post-war period, driven by the race for volumes and the opening up to international competition, is first and foremost that of a downward trend, for consumers and producers alike. As a result, food now accounts for just 18% of the average household budget in France, compared with 34.6% in 1960, according to INSEE (with wide disparities between generations and income levels). And the decrease is even greater for producers.

**Over the space of twenty-five years (between 1975 and 2000), agricultural prices (paid to producers) have been halved, with little of the fall passed on to consumers. Today, when we spend 100 euros on our groceries, farmers only receive an average of 7 euros. So where has that value gone? In between, the players in the middle of the chain have captured 50% of it.**

This unequal sharing of value between the players in the food chain is based on a disconnection between the value of the agricultural raw material and the price of the product in the shop. From the 1960s onwards, and accelerating in the 1980s, our agricultural pro-

**Real prices of agricultural production, agri-food processing and food purchased by consumers**  
(index 100 in 1972).



Source : AGRESTE (Agricultural Accounts) and INSEE (Prodcom and Consumer Price Surveys), Basic compilation.

**PUBLIC SPENDING  
LACKS A SOCIAL  
AND ECOLOGICAL COMPASS**

12,3 bn€  
HEALTH IMPACT

3,4 bn€  
ECOLOGICAL  
IMPACT

3,4 bn€  
SOCIAL  
IMPACT

**19 bn €**  
PUBLIC SPENDING  
TO COMPENSATE  
THE NEGATIVE IMPACT  
OF OUR FOOD SYSTEM

SOME COSTS ARE PRICELESS

FEELING OF EXCLUSION

LOSS OF MEANING  
IN WORK, LOSS OF SELF-ESTEEM

POLITICAL MISTRUST

LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

**+48 bn €**

PUBLIC SPENDING  
TO SUSTAIN OUR  
FOOD SYSTEM

WAYS TO ACT



DISCOVER  
THE FULL STUDY

**THE UN  
PRICE  
OUR F**

WHAT COSTS  
AND OUR

FOR EVERY  
100€  
OF FOOD  
PURCHASES  
**6,90€**

ARE RECEIVED BY  
FRENCH  
PRODUCERS<sup>1</sup>

IT WAS 12 EUROS IN 1995

**-30%**

BRIDS FIELD<sup>3</sup>

IN 15 YEARS

Tou  
le Mo  
q'1a

1-Source : OFPM, 2018 / 2- Sources : Inserm et Assurance Maladie, 2021 / 3-Source : ONB, 2023 / 4- Source : Anses, 2017



# UNFAIR E OF FOOD

FOR SOCIETY  
PLANET

**+160%**  
DIABETICS<sup>2</sup>  
IN 20 YEAR

**8**  
BILLIONS  
FRENCH  
PEOPLE IN FOOD  
INSECURITY<sup>4</sup>

at  
end  
ble

## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

### THE MEANS FOR ACTION

#### A BETTER POLICY MANAGEMENT



ADOPT A FRAMEWORK LAW  
FOR THE RIGHT TO FOOD,  
IN FRANCE, FOLLOWING A  
DEMOCRATIC DEBATE

#### DEMOCRACY AT ALL LEVELS



TRAINING COMMUNITIES  
IN FOOD ISSUES

OPENING UP AGRICULTURAL  
INSTITUTIONS TO SOCIETY

OPENING AND ACCREDITING  
FOOD CENTERS, PLACES  
FOR POPULAR EDUCATION.



#### CONSOLIDATE THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

ENSURE PRICE  
TRANSPARENCY

BAD CHILDREN'S ADVERTISING  
ON FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
WITH D AND E  
NUTRISCORE RATE



SUPPORT THE EMERGENCE  
OF LOCAL FOOD CHAINS

ENCOURAGE THE INSTALLATION  
AND TRANSFER OF FARMS  
BASED ON AGROECOLOGICAL  
MODELS



#### ENOUGH TO EAT AND LIVE WITH DIGNITY

SECURE ACCES  
TO RIGHTS

INCREASE LOW WAGES  
AND SOCIAL MINIMUMS

SET UP SHARED  
FOOD BOXES



#### REGULATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE



MAKE FOOD  
EXPORTS SUBJECT  
TO COMPLIANCE  
WITH EUROPEAN HEALTH,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND SOCIAL STANDARDS.

JOIN THE DEBATE  
WITH US



## 67 BILLION EUROS, in search of a social and ecological compass

If we add up public support and public spending on repairs and compensation, we're talking **about €67 billion that we share to maintain a system that's running out of steam**. Let's be very clear: there's nothing excessive about devoting 2% to 3% of national wealth to supporting, guiding and repairing the system that feeds us (it's the equivalent of the national education budget). In fact, the expenditure is far from sufficient to repair or compensate for the damage. Nor should we be led to believe that a new government could freely dispose of these funds in a completely different way tomorrow morning: the essential expenditure by local authorities on school canteens, for example, is already very limited for changing the way food is sourced! When it comes to spending on repairs, people and the planet will have to be treated for a long time to come: for cancers that appear late in life, diabetes that is on the rise and taking hold, pollutants that remain in the water... Reorienting the production system will take time and must be done gradually, to allow for the transition of the jobs concerned.

**This presupposes that the amounts devoted, in one way or another, to the agri-food system are subject to unified management.** Their scale, but also their incoherence, is one of the revelations of our report. On the one hand, the community is repairing the damage; on the other, it is maintaining the very cause of the damage caused. The CAP is undeniably an essential source of financial support, particularly for producers' incomes. **But the State is the biggest funder (59% of public support in 2021), and also the blindest.** This is because very little of its support, particularly the ones provided **through tax and social security exemptions (€21 billion), which are inherently more difficult to manage**, is conditional on sustainable social and ecological practices. As a result, our governments have so far been satisfied to compensate and repair without affecting the causes, even though the losses are irreversible.

**But the support identified and all the inconsistencies in the current system are also an opportunity.** Today's predominant model, based on the race for volumes, coexists with other models that combine decent remuneration with respect for the environment.

**But the support identified and all the inconsistencies in the current system are also an opportunity.**

Considering another model is not utopia, but a matter of making choices about production, processing, distribution and catering methods. Rather than suffering from uncontrolled expenses or being torn between contradictory logics, public action must regain a central role. And coherence. The scale of the sums involved shows that if we had the ambition, we would have the means to reorientate the system and better conciliate the imperatives of health, accessibility, remuneration and sustainability.

## FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS for our equation

There is no single answer to ensuring dignified access to sustainable, high-quality food that is remunerative for those who produce it. It's far from being a matter of consumer behaviour to structurally change our production and consumption model! Alain, from the Manosque group, who knows what it's like to come to the end of a difficult month, vigorously reminds us that we are not just consumers and that our actions cannot be reduced to the weight of our wallet. If we fail to get to the root of the problem, we run the risk of adding the feeling of being excluded from the democratic process to the feeling of being downgraded. We are all eaters, and as such we are all affected by what is on our plates, on the shop shelves and, before that, on the farms. And let's not forget the 67 billion euros we have to share to keep our food system running and repair the damage it has caused! Food is a collective matter.

However, our choice of products barely exceeds that of the supermarket, and remains highly dependent on our "purchasing power".

### DEMOCRACY

**That's why the first part of our recommendations concerns democracy, i.e. citizen participation in decision-making on our food system.** To ensure "informed" participation, we propose democratisation at all levels, by developing places of access to food and popular education on the subject (food solidarity centres, common food funds, etc.). Two levels of decision-making are also essential: local authorities and agricultural bodies such as chambers of agriculture,

which must open up to society and guarantee their pluralism. Finally, at national level, serious deliberation must lead to a clear direction for public policy, with a framework law on the right to food<sup>2</sup>.

### ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

Such a deliberative process does not prevent us from taking action tomorrow. **There is still an urgent need to improve access to rights for all and to improve affordability for households under pressure.** We need both better protection from our social protection system and massive deployment of different types of financial support for sustainable, quality food - prepaid cards, meal vouchers, social pricing, etc. - that provide stigma-free access to sustainable shopping places and products - This is the second part of our recommendations. It must meet the immediate needs of those who are furthest from access to food, without losing sight of the goal of universality: we cannot be satisfied with differentiated access to food.

### CONSOLIDATE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Finally, while current public policies focus primarily on the individual responsibility of producers and consumers, they all too often overlook the responsibility of the players in the middle of the chain. This report shows the "lock-in" effect of a transition as long as we do not act at these levels. **We need to massify the agro-ecological transition by acting on all the links in the chain. This is the third part of our recommendations.** Many things could already be done to change what we call our "food environment" (such as greater transparency on prices, margins and contracts, or regulation of advertising); others need to be thought through (such as assessing the effects of certain public support schemes, such as tax exemptions, so that they can be better used for the transition). And, because France is not isolated from the rest of the world, our proposals also relate to free trade agreements and our import conditions.

### REGULATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE

To ensure that everyone has dignified access to sustainable food that is remunerative for those who produce it, many changes need to be made. But they



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are far from insurmountable! History shows that we have succeeded in building a social contract around agriculture and food. At the end of the war, we set ourselves a long-term ambition, and the State, with an ecosystem of players (training, mutual societies, banks, etc.) has succeeded perfectly in implementing it, with consistency. What could be better than the right to food as a new horizon? Let's sit down and commit to it!

<sup>2</sup> The right to food refers to the right "to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient food that is adequate, nutritious and culturally and other appropriate [...] and that is produced and consumed in a sustainable manner, so as to ensure access to food for future generations".

# OUR RECOMMENDATIONS



## AT NATIONAL LEVEL



### Democratising and steering the agricultural and food system towards the right to food

There is no single answer to ensuring dignified access to sustainable, high-quality food that is remunerative for those who produce it. One thing is clear, however, unlike what public policy presupposes: structural changes to our production and consumption models are beyond the reach of consumers. **This report shows that we need to act on four fronts: first, democratically**, to build a new social contract around agriculture and food, by decompartmentalising ecological, social and health issues, and to "do it with" the people who are most affected, the citizens. **2nd strand: improving access to rights for all, and the affordability of households under pressure. At the same time, massify the agro-ecological transition**, by acting on the supply side and on the factors that influence our behaviour: advertising, the existence of a supply nearby, means of transport to get there, etc. (3rd part). Finally, **regulating international trade** (part 4).

#### 1. Affirming a new social contract with the right to food as its horizon.

- Include the right to food in the Constitution.
- At the end of a process of co-elaboration and democratic co-decision, adopt a framework law in favour of the right to food in France.

#### 2. Organise overall management of public action on the agricultural and food system.

- Appoint an inter ministerial delegate for the right to food, to limit the segmentation of public policies on food and ensure the implementation of the framework law.
- Publish an annual report on public funding for the agricultural and food systems and its effects from a social, ecological and health point of view. The report should be the subject of a parliamentary debate.
- Evaluate the effects of exemptions from social security contributions and tax for those involved in distribution, processing and catering in order to consider possible social and ecological conditions for obtaining them.

### 3. Giving local authorities greater powers to organise the local food system.

- ➔ Give local authorities responsibility for food, making them the organising authorities for sustainable and resilient food (particularly municipalities).
- ➔ Make territorial food projects (TAPs) local planning tools, by giving them sustainability and accessibility objectives. Provide funding for the co-construction of local and food diagnoses with people living in situations of food insecurity, and for the training of elected representatives, technicians and TAP coordinators in the issues of food insecurity and sustainability, and in participatory methods.

**4. Open up agricultural bodies to society and guarantee their pluralism:** introduce a citizens' college and a college of local authorities in the chambers of agriculture and guarantee their pluralism, as recommended by the Court of Auditors ; guarantee pluralism in the organisation, monitoring and steering of official support schemes for setting up and transferring farmers.

**5. Develop and label sustainable food solidarity centres, and train their leaders in popular education.** These centres should be places where everyone has access to sustainable food (with a social and solidarity restaurant, a grocery shop, etc.), but also places of emancipation where people are empowered to take action on their own food (by getting involved in the centre's activities, organising food walks, choosing suppliers, etc., see examples p.88).



### Improving access to rights for all and the affordability of sustainable, high-quality food

**6. Secure and increase income protection (which presupposes that existing protection, such as unemployment insurance, pensions and *minimum* social benefits, are not increasingly unravelled or made conditional).**

**7. Facilitate and automate access to rights, particularly for farmers in difficulty,** including schemes to compensate for low incomes (such as the RSA) and aid to help farms recover.

**8. Strengthen and extend financial support for sustainable, high-quality food** – prepaid cards, meal voucher-type cards, social pricing, etc., that enable access to sustainable shopping outlets or sustainable products, without stigmatising people by enabling them to shop “like everyone else”.

**9. Support the development of community food banks, by launching a minimum of ten trial areas: this will give rise to a new model for financing agricultural development and food solidarity.** Already in existence in some places (such as Montpellier, see p.88), these funds enable residents of a given area to be given a monthly sum to spend on food purchases at distribution points agreed by a citizens' committee. All participants contribute to the common fund. The effect of these projects on the structuring of supply chains remains to be seen, especially as they often have relatively modest budgets. The aim of this experiment is to strengthen this aspect and that of their financing methods (citizen financial dynamics, seed funds, etc.).



### Massifying the agro-ecological transition and enabling it to form a system

**10. Ensure price transparency.**

- ➔ Make public information on margins and contractual practices mandatory, particularly for supermarkets.
- ➔ Launch a parliamentary mission to evaluate the various contractualisation methods in place (tripartite contracts, multi-year contracts used in fair trade, conditions of the Égalim laws, etc.).

**11. Control the margin rate applied by supermarkets to organic products.**

**12. Regulate advertising.** Ban advertising of foods and drinks rated D and E by the Nutri Score on TV and radio during children's peak viewing times, and on the Internet for content popular with children (including sponsorship of programmes, influencers or YouTube channels, etc.).

**13. Strengthen food education through cooking, taste and/or educational gardens at school.**

**14. Improve the territorial coverage of fresh, healthy and sustainable produce** in rural and urban areas where supply is lacking (open-air markets, local shops, Amap and solidarity baskets, etc.).

**15. Encourage collective catering efforts to make sustainable, high-quality food accessible,** both through financial support and by training kitchen staff, particularly in the medico-social sector.

**16. Evaluate the benefits and implementation conditions of extending the obligations of the Egalim law (50% quality objectives, including 20% organic) to commercial catering, with a view to the agro-ecological transition.**

<sup>1</sup> Cours des comptes, « Le réseau des chambres d'agriculture : une restructuration à achever pour plus d'efficacité », January 2020.

**17. Support the emergence of local food chains to enable producers to find outlets for their sustainable products.**

**18. Encourage the transfer of farms and support the setting up of agro-ecological models by rethinking career paths** (by placing greater emphasis on the development of agro-ecological practices, by facilitating access to the profession for people from outside the farming world).

**19. Redirect and strengthen CAP support towards securing farm incomes and agro-ecological transitions.**

- Safeguarding and strengthening the environmental cross-compliance of aid under the 1<sup>er</sup> pillar and strengthening aid for agro-ecological transition (Maec) under the 2<sup>e</sup> pillar.
- Mobilise in the French National Strategic Plan and implement the CAP tools that enable a fairer distribution of aid.
- Replace subsidies per hectare with subsidies per asset, to get away from the logic that the larger the farm, the more subsidies it receives.



**Regulating international trade to protect health, environment and human rights**

**20. Implement a moratorium on the free trade agreements currently being negotiated** (such as Mercosur), until the European Union's trade policy has been revised to be consistent with its human rights and environmental commitments and to enable each country to ensure its food sovereignty.

**21. Make food imports conditional on compliance with essential environmental, health and social standards in force within the European Union.**

**22. An end to exports of pesticides banned by the EU** to reduce exposure and all related health risks for farm workers, local populations and the environment.

**For our organisations, the measures listed here would help to meet the challenge of providing food that is sustainable, accessible and remunerative. In short, they would make it possible :**

**DECENT INCOMES IN AGRICULTURE:**

- 1.** via better selling prices, through our proposals on price transparency, the construction of local supply chains and international trade regulations;
- 2.** via better-targeted income support, along the lines of what we are proposing for the CAP;
- 3.** by reducing debt, in particular by assessing tax and social security exemption schemes, which can steer our production models towards greater capitalisation (needs for machinery, buildings, etc.);
- 4.** via support for setting up and transferring businesses in agro-ecological sectors;
- 5.** via a social protection system and decent retirement conditions.

**MORE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ISSUES:**

- 1.** via the above measures, to promote agro-ecology and regulate international trade;
- 2.** by encouraging the various players in the chain to meet sustainability objectives: food: through price transparency, increased support for mass catering, assessment of the conditions for social and tax exemptions or the conditions for extending the Egalim law to commercial catering.
- 3.** by improving understanding of these issues: regulating advertising for products that are too fatty, too sweet or too salty, experiential education in schools, popular education centres.

**RESPONSES TO HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO HEALTHY, HIGH-QUALITY FOOD:**

- 1.** by improving the financial capacity of households to feed themselves: by strengthening our social protection

system, access to rights and financial support mechanisms (including mixed projects and common food funds);

- 2.** by improving geographical accessibility to a sustainable, high-quality offer, by encouraging changes in the retail and catering sectors (price transparency, reduced margins on certain products, etc.), and by improving the distribution network;
- 3.** by improving people's ability to choose and contribute, so that responses can be tailored to people's situations: from regulating advertising to developing popular education centres.

All of this is part of one perspective: the right to food. It raises the issue of coherent management.



## AT LOCAL LEVEL



### Setting up initiatives that combine democratic practices with financial accessibility

#### 1. Setting up and supporting food solidarity centres.

There are a number of food centre projects, such as the Maison interculturelle de l'alimentation et des mangeurs (Miam), which grew out of a social centre in northern Bordeaux, the Maison de l'éducation à l'alimentation durable in Mouans-Sartoux, the Écopole alimentaire in Loos en Gohelle, the Maison solidaire de l'alimentation in Lyon, and so on.

#### 2. Set up or support joint food banks.

A number of initiatives are being launched in France, such as in Montpellier: every month, 400 citizens contribute between €1 and €250, according to their means and wishes, and in exchange receive €100 of local currency for their food purchases. They can use it in a network of approved shops chosen by a citizens' committee. The committee manages the operation of the cash pool, and special efforts have been made to ensure that disadvantaged people can participate.

#### 3. Support projects where people can buy sustainable, high-quality food, either through price differentiation according to their personal income, or through financial aid.

These projects help to break down the stigma attached to people in precarious situations, and enable them to do their shopping "like everyone else". This practice can be seen in a range of initiatives: buying groups, social and solidarity grocery shops, solidarity restaurants, luncheon vouchers or "subsidised" financial aid for the purchase of sustainable products.



### Implement actions to improve the food environment<sup>2</sup>

#### 1. Restricting and slowing down the development of fast-food outlets

The City of London, for example, bans the opening of new fast-food outlets within 400 metres of schools.

#### 2. Encourage the establishment of businesses that meet health, social or environmental objectives and enable the deployment of community initiatives that work towards a fair ecological transition in our agricultural and food models.

#### 3. Implement a transport policy linked to the location of sales outlets.

#### 4. Regulate billboard advertising, or even ban it, as in the Grenoble metropolitan area, which has introduced local advertising regulations (RLPI) prohibiting the presence of billboards on private property.



### Massifying the agro-ecological transition on a regional scale

#### 1. To offer a more sustainable range of catering services and make mealtimes a time for awareness, learning and enjoyment.

#### 2. Supporting local industry projects by relocating processing facilities (abattoirs, mills, canning factories, etc.), promoting local know-how (by supporting open-air markets, for example), planning and supporting start-ups (by creating test areas for those wishing to start up, for example).

#### 3. Make local food projects planning tools for its territory, ensure that they meet ecological sustainability objectives and adopt a participative approach.

<sup>2</sup> The food environment is made up of all the spaces that shape our representations of the food system and define the way we produce and consume: shops and restaurants in and around our homes, billboards, online marketing, awareness-raising campaigns, visits to production sites, and so on.

# Tout le Monde à Table

with the support of:



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