

EURAGRI 2008

Contribution to Panel II

Presentation of reforms underway in the sector of Agricultural Research in France

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The reforms underway in the sector of agricultural research in France are part of the overall national research policy, which aims at:

- establishing a limited number of world class research and education clusters, anchored in their respective region, with reformed, modernised, attractive, and more autonomous universities at their core.
- achieving the reform of research organisations in France by linking them more strongly to universities
- building an inclusive, concrete and readable national research and innovation strategy based on societal challenges, frontier research and an adequate organisation, conducive to innovation
- clarifying the rôle of different sets of actors in the functions of orientation, programming and implementation of research

Concerning the specific case of agricultural research, the reforms presently underway can be described by the following components:

- establishing a national consortium with INRA, CIRAD and the major agricultural and veterinary higher education schools under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Consortium will be open to other interested research organisations and will perform functions which are still to be decided (prospective, international relations, staff recruitment....)
- building a common strategy for international research between INRA and CIRAD
- merging agricultural and veterinary higher education schools under the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to increase their international visibility and to facilitate partnership with universities
- establish research and higher education regional clusters associating agricultural research organisations, higher education agricultural and veterinary schools under the Ministry of agriculture, in view of joint programming and implementation of research concerning a set of common thematic priorities
- writing national strategic documents on priority research themes relevant with societal challenges. Such national strategic documents are written through a concertation process between research organisations, higher education organisations, ministries, and after consultation of stakeholders
- encourage through various tools and approaches, innovation partnerships linking all actors of the innovation system