

Philippe Hirou, Afac-Agroforesteries chairman, France



Landcare Europe Workshop
Agroforestry systems to improve biodiversity, water & soil management & economic viability in & outside Natura 2000 areas
7-9 March 2023 Jaén, Andalucía (Spain)



Modern agroforestry systems in France



- **1. Afac-Agroforesteries : a french national movement for trees in agriculture and rural landscapes**
- **2. What is « modern » Agroforestry in France, 2023, various forms and uses**
- **3. Why hedgerows - and « bocage » - are our main concern ?**
- **4. Can we change the way farmers think about trees and hedgerows : from inconvenient to benefits ?**
- **5. What do we propose ? Direct and indirect benefits (CAP, label Haie...)**
- **6. The need for change in maintenance practices**
- **7. Leave the nature do the job ? (Assisted Natural Regeneration)**
- **8. Farmers proud of their trees : Paris General Agricultural Contest**

2007	Afac foundation	
2010	1st national Planting programme (private funding Yves Rocher)	
2014	Hedgerows protected by CAP	
2015	1st Agroforestry plan	
	Seeds public brand « Végétal local » (local trees)	
2018	3 millions trees planted	
	« Label Haie » (label of sustainable management for hedges)	
2019		
2020	200 organisations members « Fonds pour l'Arbre » (larger private funding initiative)	
2022	CAP discussion : « hedges bonus » French public post-covid programme : Planting hedges	
2023	« Appel de la haie » (Call for hedges initiative)	
2024	2d Agroforestry plan	

Our main objectives and means :

To promote and implement global policies for the development of trees and hedges for :

- agro-ecological transition,
- biodiversity,
- climate crisis,
- economic development.

By :

AXIS 1 - Societal mobilizations and public policies

AXIS 2 - Knowledge with a qualitative ambition

AXIS 3 - A network of operational actors



38 rue Saint Sabin 75011 Paris

300 organisations members
in 3 domains :

- Non-forest trees
- Agriculture
- Environment and territories

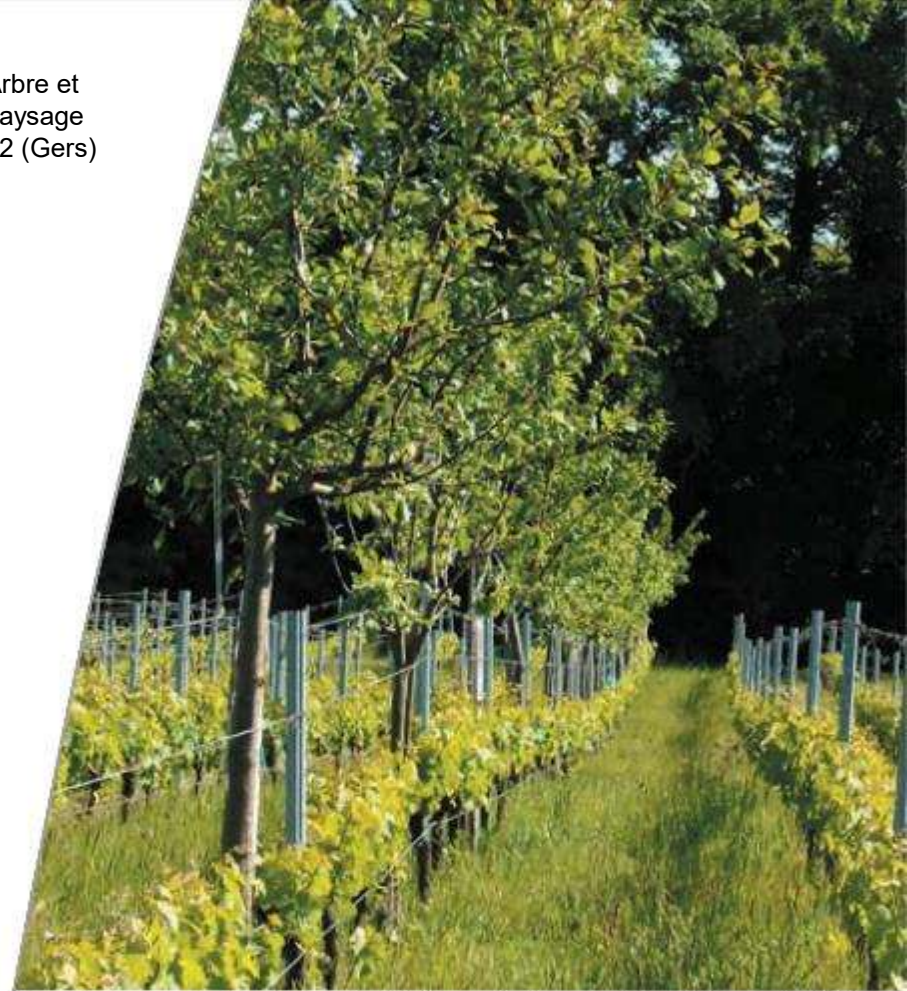
1,4 M € / year

www.afac-agroforesteries.fr

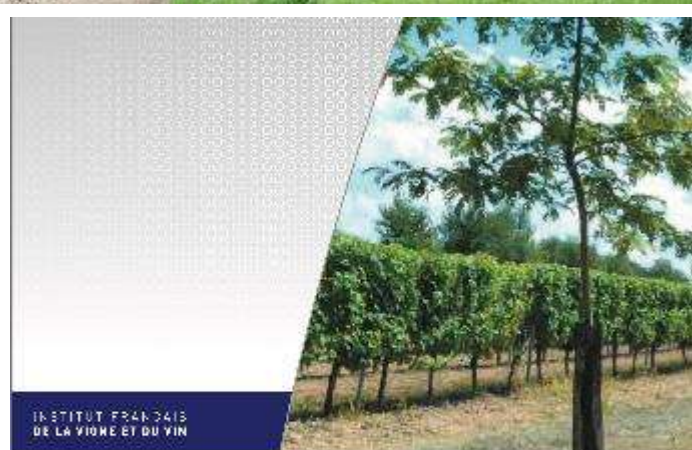




Arbre et
paysage
32 (Gers)



Parcelle vigne avec fruitiers de 5 ans (en 2016) au sein des rangs de vigne à Lapouyade (33)



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
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ITINÉRAIRES
N° 28

Agroforesterie
et viticulture



Parcelle vigne avec haie arbustive rognée
à Lacapelle (46)



Parcelle vigne avec rangées de cormiers
de 7 ans (en 2015) à Lagardère (32)

« Modern » forms of tree planting

Not so
modern...



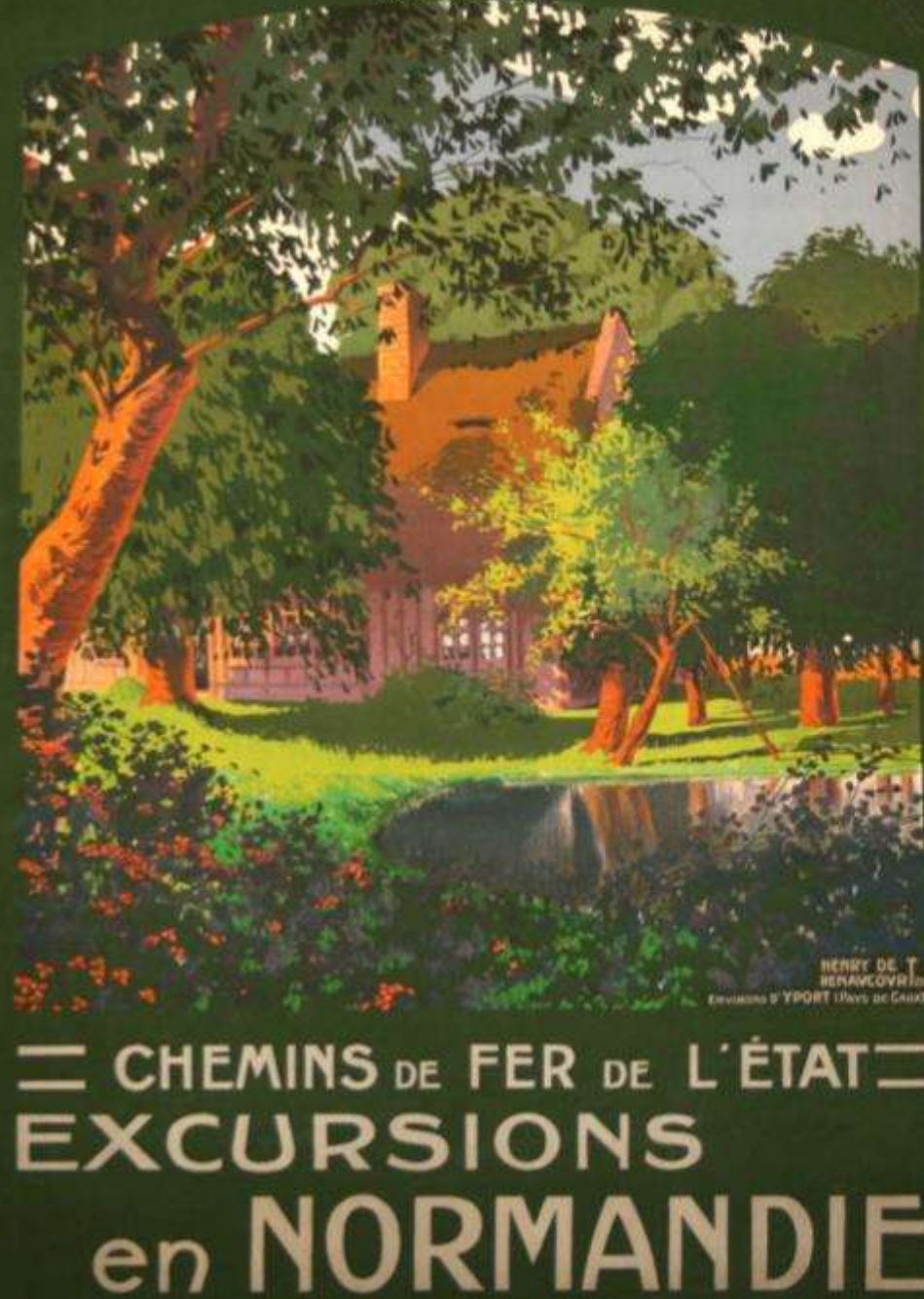
Our main concern :

« Bocage » and hedgerows, a modern landscape...

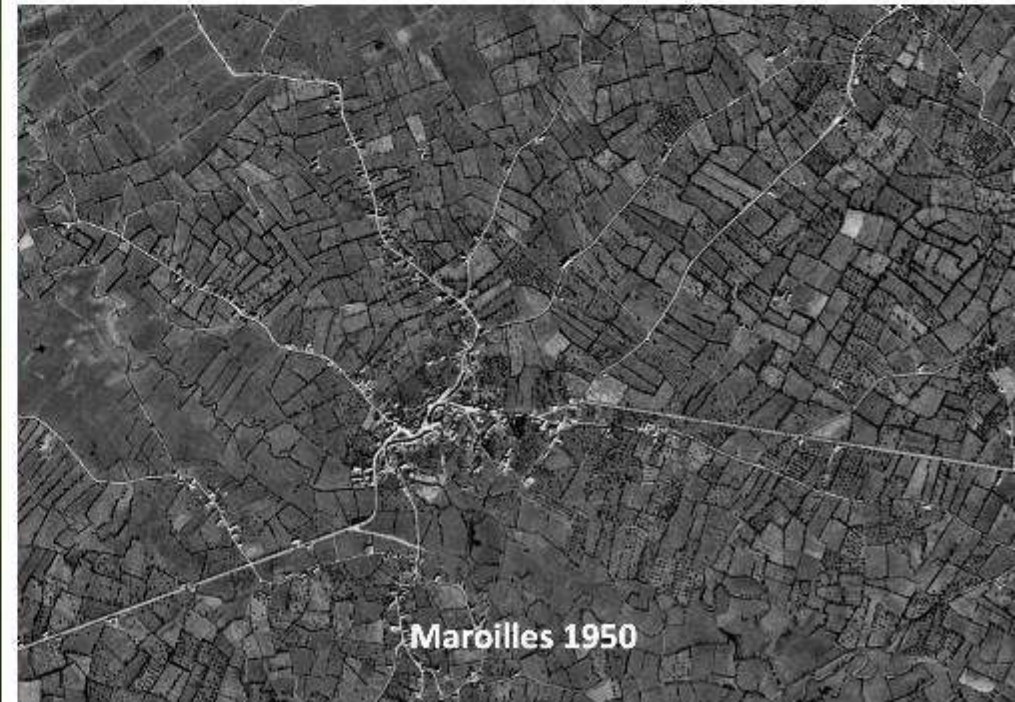
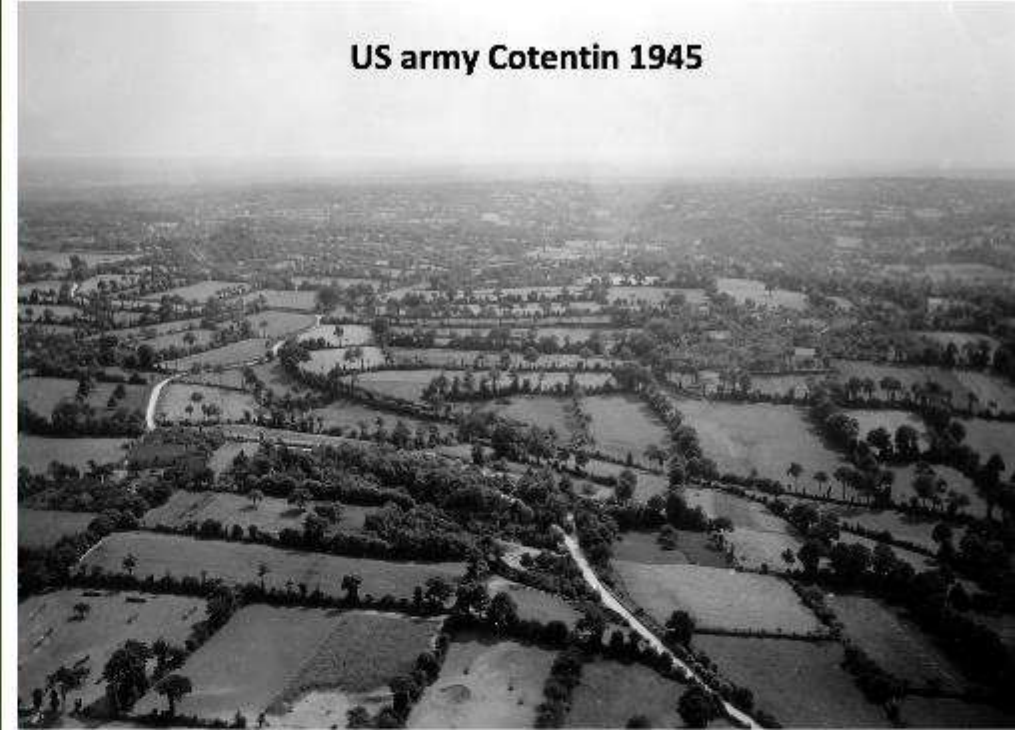
Created for agricultural purposes, mostly during the XIXe c.

Certainly "modern" today, with regard to climate change, biodiversity crisis and agroecology.

Affiche 1922



US army Cotentin 1945



Marolles 1950

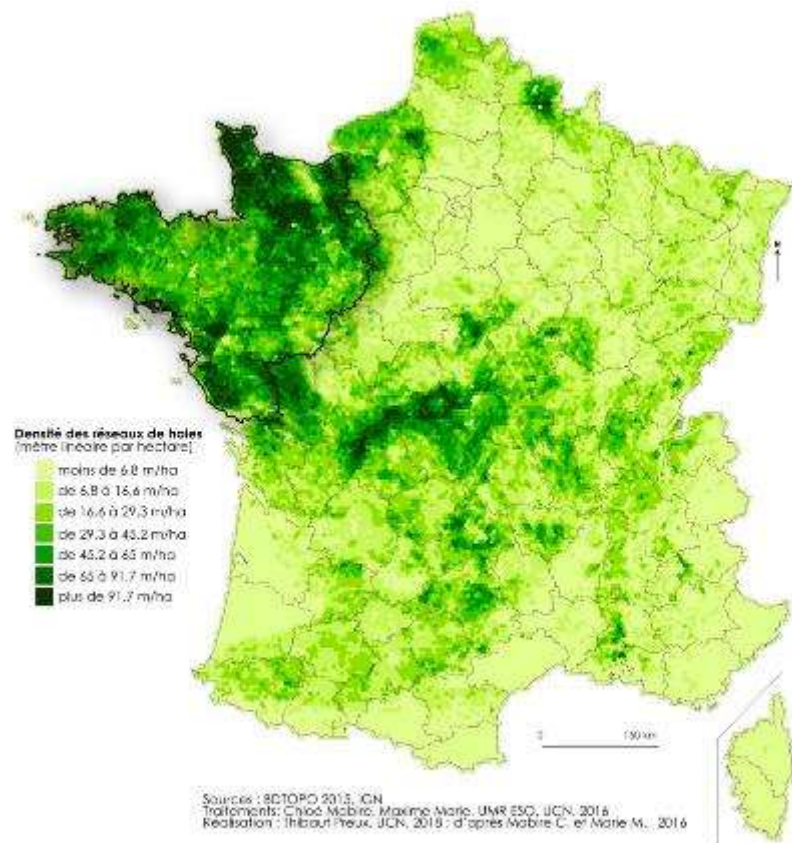
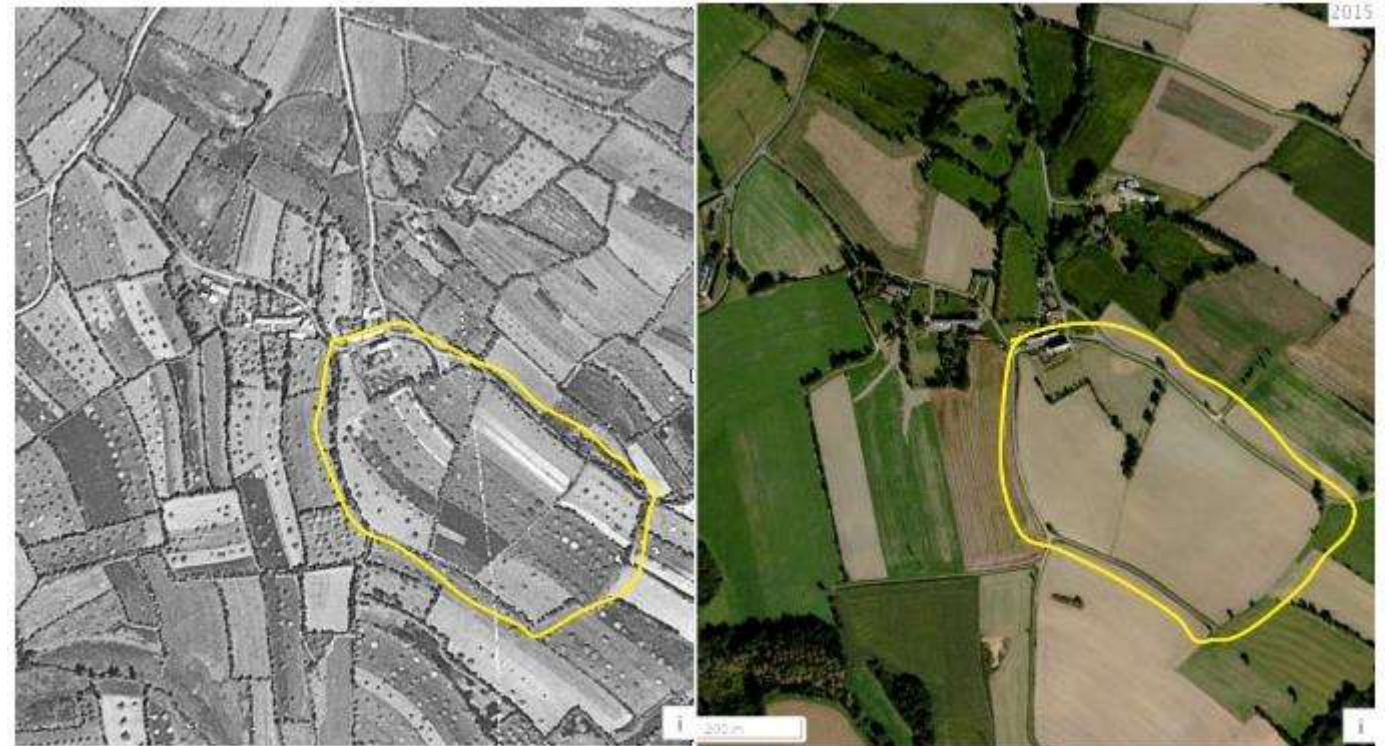


Figure 3.3 : Cartographie de la densité bocagère en France, en 2015.

Source : Thèse Thibaut Preux, Caen, 2019



La Villéon (Côtes d'Armor) - comparaison 1950 / 2015

« Bocage » (hedgerows, orchards) is mainly west and center of France, but there were many trees everywhere. Lots of trees and hedgerows has been removed, or disappear, in France from 1950 and till now. 70% disappeared in length from 1950 to 2020 : 2 M / 0,75 M km. Today : still minus 25 000 km per year !

The disappearance of hedgerows and trees is still very quick in France.

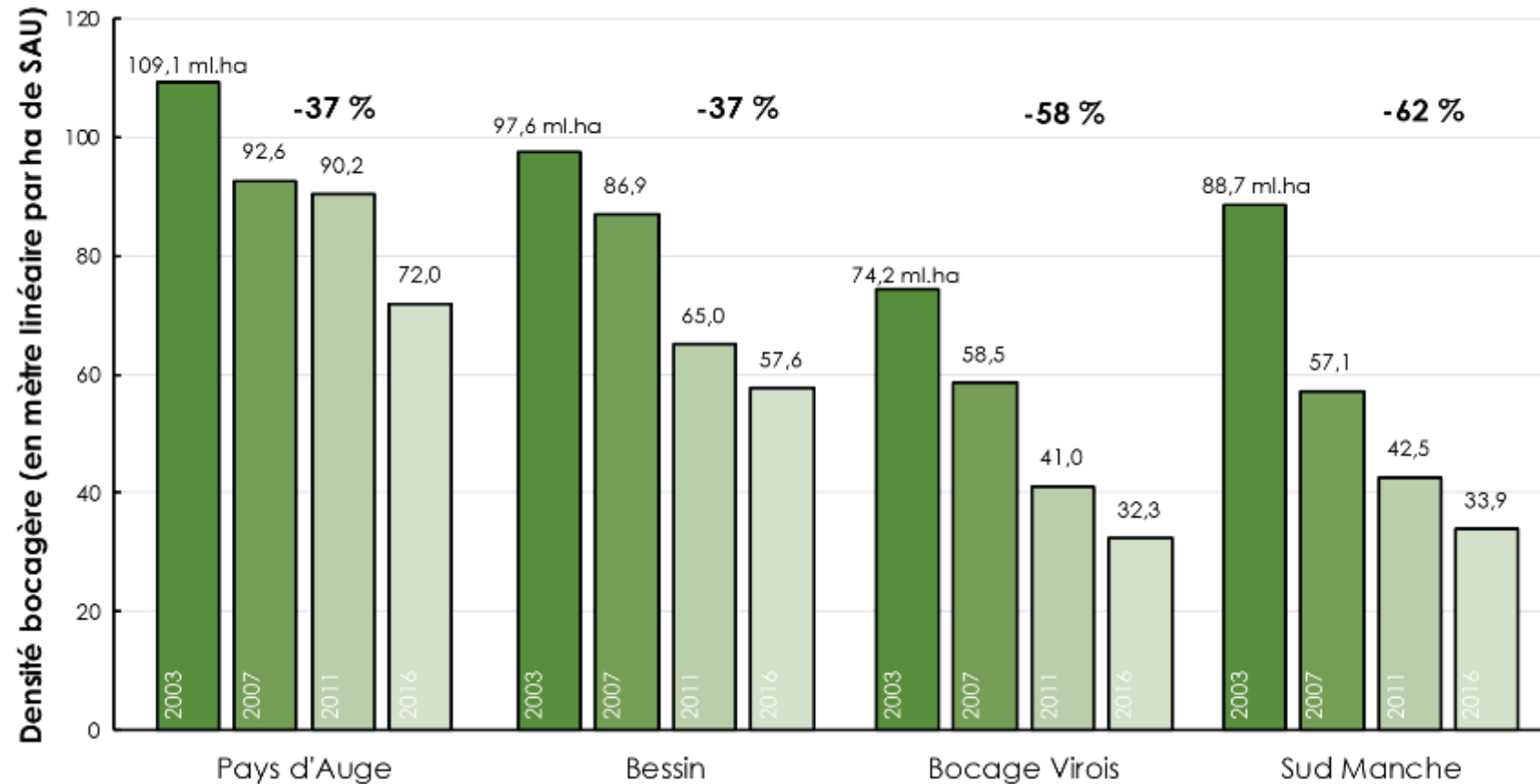
Ex. Normandy
2003 / 2016

Because of :
- Progress of arable land vs pastures,
- Farms enlargement and plots reorganising.

But mainly because of lack of economical interests.

Source : De l'agrandissement des exploitations agricoles à la transformation des paysages de bocage / From farms enlargement to bocage landscape changes
Comparative analysis of land and landscape recompositions in Normandy - Thibaut Preux, Geography thesis, University of Caen Normandy, 2019.

Évolution de la densité bocagère entre 2003 et 2016 dans les 4 terrains d'étude



Sources : Orthophotoplans 2003, 2007, IGN, Images satellite RapidEye 2011 et SPOT 6 2013 et 2016, Données GEOSUD
Traitements et réalisation : Thibaut Preux, UCN, 2019

André Meynier, *Les paysages agraires / Farming landscapes*, 1967

« L'enclos, principalement planté, fait perdre de la place pour la culture, directement par la surface occupée, indirectement par l'ombre portée (...). Il gêne les manoeuvres des charrues, Aujourd'hui celles des machines motorisées. Il est long et fastidieux à entretenir, et à élaguer pour éviter qu'il n'envahisse une trop large surface. Il maintient l'humidité sur les chemins, gêne l'écoulement des eaux des champs, retarde la fusion des neiges. Il abrite des animaux nuisibles, ennemis de la culture, et sert de réserve aux graines de mauvaises herbes. »

"The enclosure, mainly planted, causes the loss of space for cultivation, directly by the surface occupied, indirectly by the shade cast (...). It interferes with the manoeuvring of ploughs, and nowadays that of motorised machines. It is long and tedious to maintain, and to prune to prevent it from invading too large an area. It keeps the paths moist, hinders the flow of water from the fields and delays the melting of the snow. It shelters harmful animals, enemies of the crop, and serves as a reserve for weed seeds.

These old negative ideas about trees and hedgerows are still common among french farmers today.

To convince
farmers
and public
councils...



...we need to
prove
economical
and
environmental
benefits.

For farmers,
we implement...

Direct benefits :



- Selling local certified wood for energy (Label Haie)



- Using own wood chips vs expensive straw for animal bedding



- Using foliage to feed animals during draughts



- Soil protection from erosion...



Indirect benefits :

- CAP « hedges bonus » and MAEC



- Payments for environmental services (water agencies...)



- Carbon credits



Non-costs :

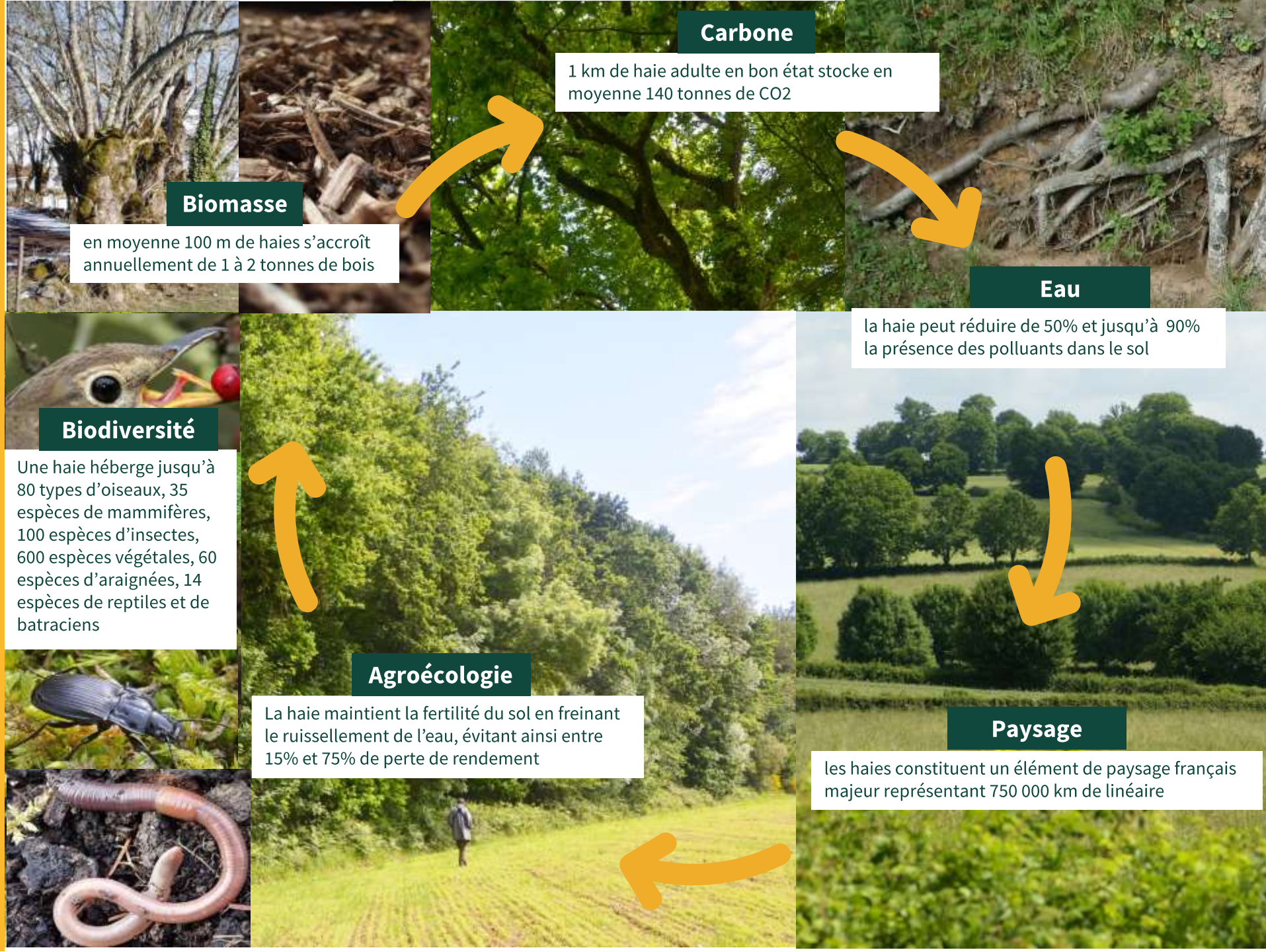
- Less hedges maintenance



For territories and public councils...

Trees and hedgerows are multi-purpose in agriculture and the landscape.

- Biodiversity
- Biomass / energy
- Carbon storage
- Water management
- Landscape
- Agroecology





Side of road destructive maintenance (saw)



Other destructive maintenance (mower)



Technical guide for regenerating trees



Expensive maintenance + no value



Disappearing hedge due to maintenance



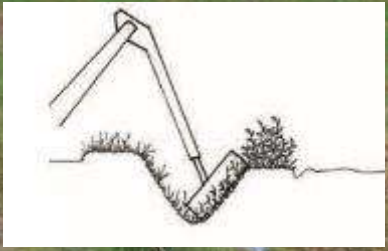
Large hedge in good ecological condition

That needs to have hedges in good ecological condition... and a change in maintenance practices.

The Afac sustainable hedgerow management plan (PGDH)



A special training and certificate by Angers agricultural training centre



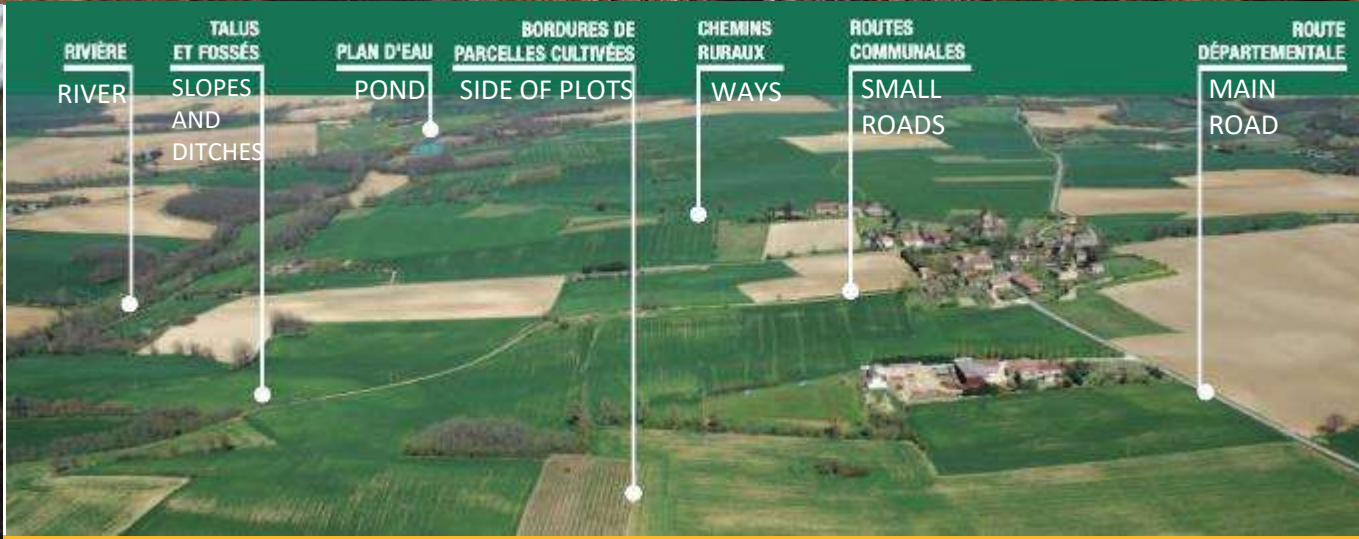
Maintenance : preventing trees from growing



Planting trees is getting difficult



Leaving trees grow alone and protect them



Planting trees ? Or leaving them grow naturally ?

Paris
General Agricultural
Contest
Agroecology –
Agroforestry

1st 2020

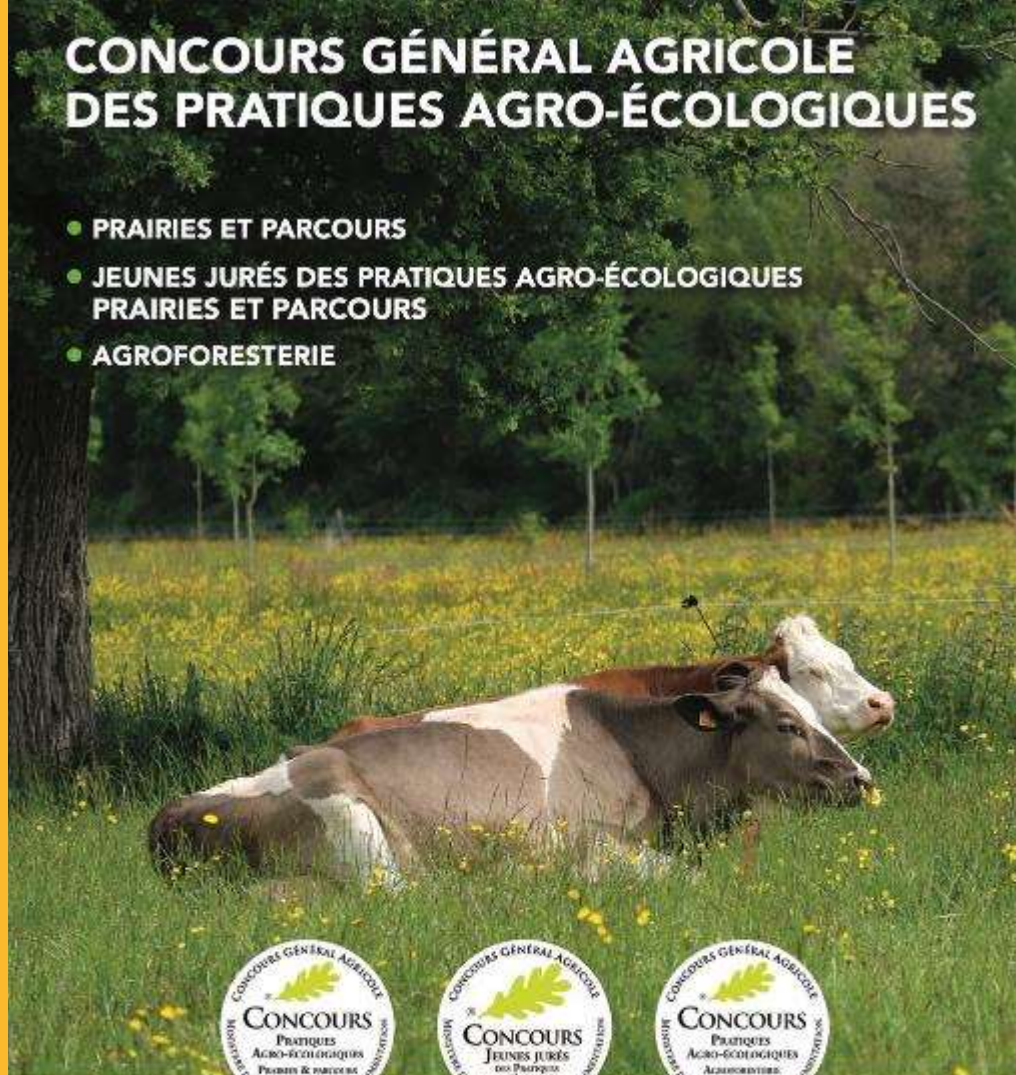
Farmers proud of their trees !

Two categories :

- Creation
- Maintenance

CONCOURS GÉNÉRAL AGRICOLE DES PRATIQUES AGRO-ÉCOLOGIQUES

- PRAIRIES ET PARCOURS
- JEUNES JURÉS DES PRATIQUES AGRO-ÉCOLOGIQUES
PRAIRIES ET PARCOURS
- AGROFORESTERIE



Valoriser les pratiques agricoles qui s'appuient sur la biodiversité pour une agriculture de qualité dans les territoires.

En associant agronomie et écologie, les méthodes de production agro-écologiques renforcent l'**autonomie** des exploitations et leur capacité d'adaptation face aux crises, améliorent la **qualité** des productions alimentaires avec de multiples **bénéfices écologiques**. S'appuyant à la fois sur des initiatives collectives, le partage d'expérience et de nouveaux champs de connaissance, elles sont une des priorités de l'**agriculture de demain**.

Le Concours des Pratiques Agro-écologiques apporte une reconnaissance officielle aux savoir-faire développés par les agriculteurs qui produisent tout en préservant l'environnement.

