



UNE RICHESSE À CULTIVER

# Collective and solidarity-based Access to land

Meeting of European initiatives on Access to land for local, ecological agriculture

29 August 2012, Lyon

# Agricultural and Land Background (1)

## A very agricultural country

First Agricultural Country of the EU:

- 3,5% of the GDP, 65 M € (incl. agro-food business)
- agriculture : 53% of the French area
- 500 000 farms, 3,4% of active population

## A regulated land market

Land planning by local authorities (at various territorial levels)

SAFER and their mission: regulating the land market and promoting the setting-up of farmers

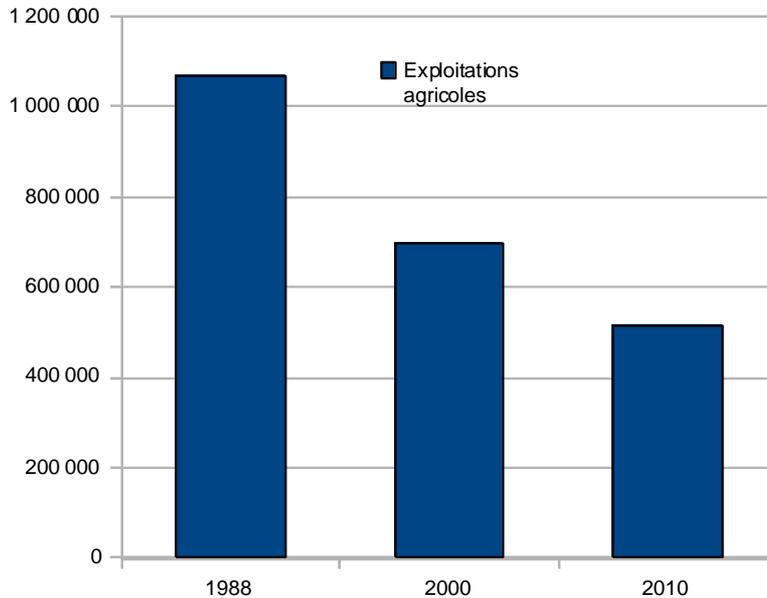
Corpus of law protecting farmers' rights

**But some difficulties...**



# Agricultural and Land Background (2)

## Decrease in farm numbers and agricultural area



**Farms: - 50% in 22 years**

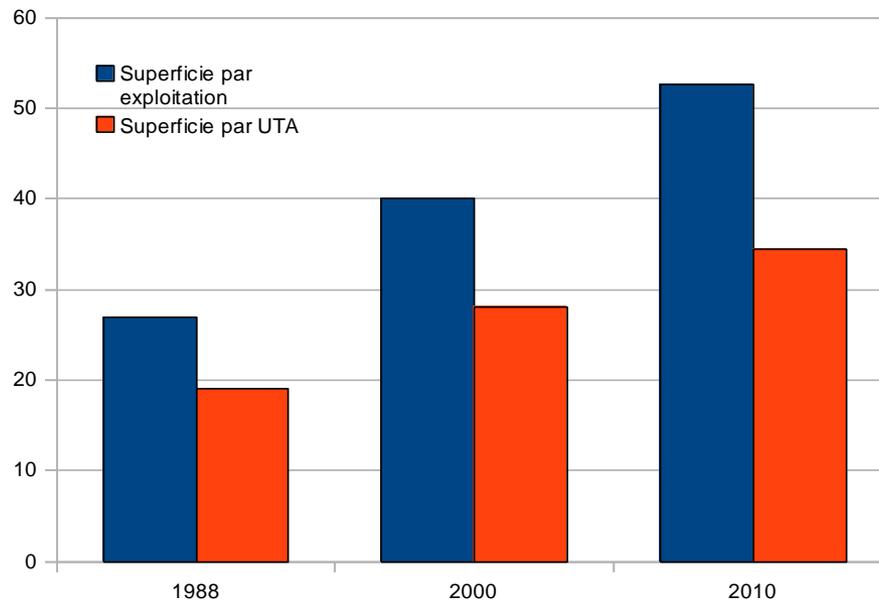
**Area: -75 000 ha/year on average (1988-2010), with an acceleration in 2000-2010**



# Agricultural and Land Background (3)

## Pressure on agricultural land

> An increase in farm size



+ 50% in 22 years

> An increase in land prices : + 75% in 14 years  
(3030 €/ha in 1997, 5360 €/ha in 2011).

# Organic Agriculture in France

## Not enough organic!

Almost **40% off organic products are imported**, French agriculture does not meet the growing demand of consumers.

Only **3,5 %** of agricultural areas are cultivated in **organic** farming, while the government took a commitment to reach **20%** in 10 years.

**Access to land** is a major obstacle to the development of organic agriculture, in particular for future farmers who are **new entrants**.



# At the root of Terre de Liens...

**Terre de liens was born out of the encounter of several movements around the issue of rural and agricultural land:**

- **People's Education**
- **Creation of social and economic activities in rural areas**
- **Ethical Finance**
- **Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture**



## **Few dates...**

**1998 - 2003** : maturation of the project within the people's education association RELIER. The association Terre de Liens was born in 2003.

**2003 - 2006** : publication by Terre de Liens of a resource handbook and technical support to collective land ownership schemes.

**2006** : Creation of the Foncière, with the goal of raising citizens' savings

**2007-2010** : Creation of regional associations.

**2009** : Creation of the Endowment Fund, with the goal of receiving donations and legacies.

**2013** : Transformation of the Endowment Fund into a Foundation  
"recognised as being in the public interest"



# The mission of Terre de Liens

## 1- Preserving agricultural land and ensuring good land stewardship (land=commons)

- \* Fostering an evolution of people's connection to land and individual ownership
- \* Freeing land from land and real estate speculation

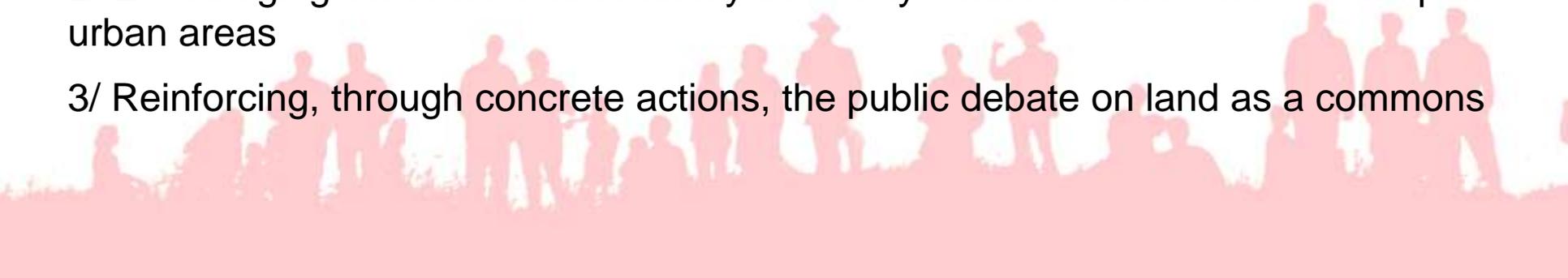
## 2- Constructing collective responsibility

Enabling all local stakeholders and citizens to get involved in land management, creating relationships, fostering the evolution of agricultural models.

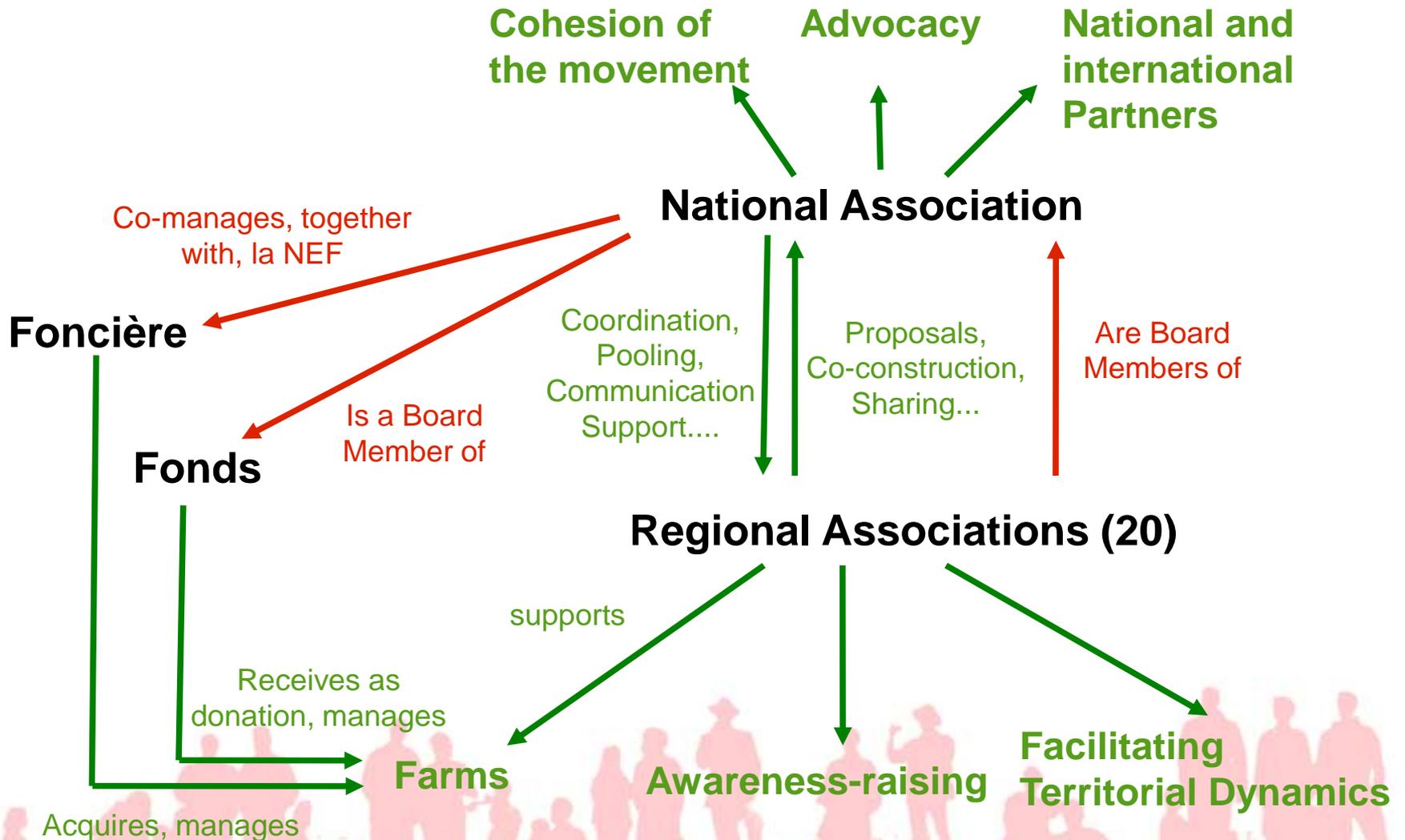
## 3- Contributing to the development of organic, biodynamic and peasant farming

It rests on the principles stated in **Terre de liens Charter**:

- 1/ Supporting socially, economically and ecologically sustainable projects
- 2/ Encouraging collective and solidarity-based dynamics between in rural and peri-urban areas
- 3/ Reinforcing, through concrete actions, the public debate on land as a commons



# The Terre de liens Movement



# Concrete actions

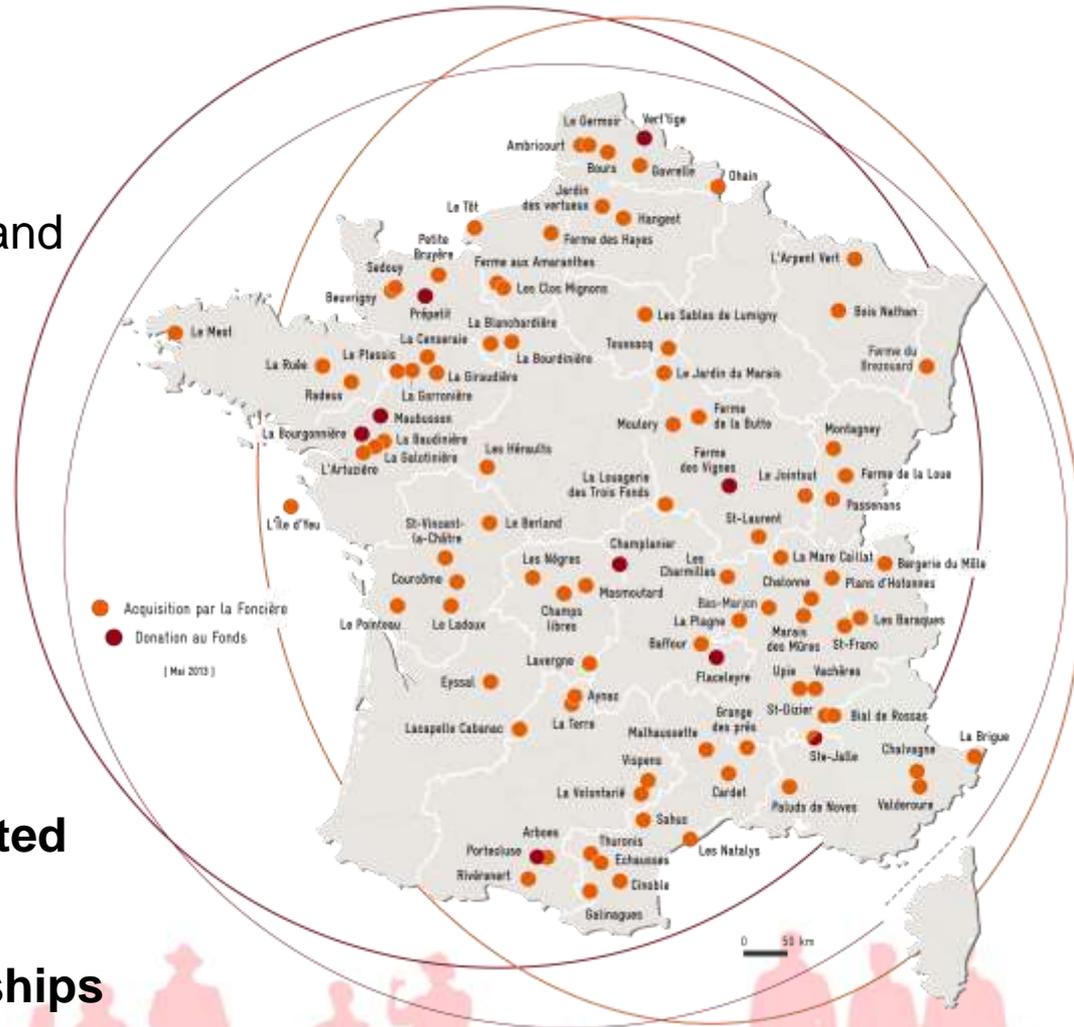
- **Supporting and advising collective acquisition schemes** (SCI, GFA,...)
- **Acquiring farms** (buying or receiving as donation), with the aim of enabling the setting-up or continuation of peasant farmers (organic, biodynamic, short-supply chains agriculture) and land preservation.
- **Citizen Mobilisation:**
  - through public debates, conferences, training...
  - through ethical finance (raising savings and donations for farm acquisition)
- **Intervention on territories :**
  - Collaborative work with a network of partners (Organic ag, CSA,...)
  - Raising awareness of 'conventional' agricultural and land bodies
  - Working with local authorities and local elected representatives (awareness-raising, training, supporting projects...)
- **Advocacy** and participation in public debate
- Participation to a **European network !**



# Some results...

Since 2003 :

- > 20 regional associations
- > About **10 000 citizens** mobilised and active in Terre de liens
- > Over **150 farmers** set up or maintained
- > **A hundred farms acquired**, or in the process of being acquired
- > Over **2200 hectares** dedicated to organic and peasant farming
- > Over **200 future farmers supported every year**
- > An increasing number of **partnerships with local authorities**



# Current challenges and next steps

A complex movement, celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which has grown very quickly:

## > **Combining unity and diversity:**

- \* TDL is made of several organisations with different legal status
- \* 20 regional associations, 20 origins and development, 20 local contexts
- \* The reform of the constitution in 2010
- \* A common strategic project under construction
- \* The need to consolidate a common political thought

## > **Managing the farms as well as possible :**

- \* Relationships with the farmers
- \* Issue of managing buildings

## > **Ensuring the financial viability of the Movement in the long run**

## > **Implementing the full implications of having a Foundation recognised by the State as being in the public interest**



# Thank you for your attention



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