RESEARCH IN ORGANIC
ARABLE CROPS IN FRANCE

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1. Organic farming & arable crops in France

2. Organisation of research in OF in France
   The key-role of ITAB

3. Issues raised by organic farmers

4. Research themes

5. Focus on some research programmes
1. ORGANIC FARMING & ORGANIC ARABLE CROPS IN FRANCE
EVOLUTION OF O.F. IN FRANCE SINCE 1995

2012: 25,000 organic farmers (4.7%)  
1,000,000 ha (3.8%)
CONTRASTING SITUATIONS IN UE

Organic land / total cultivated land

Sources: Agence BIO from various EU sources -2012
ARABLE CROPS: A SLOW GROWTH

2012 data:
OF = 3.7% total surfaces, 1 033 000 ha
A.Crops = 1.7%, 205 000 ha (9 369 farms)
Deficit of conversion in traditional cereal growing areas

2011 data
Source Agence Bio
DEVELOPMENT OF STOCKLESS SYSTEMS

Surfaces of arable crops in stockless syst.

Surfaces of alfalfa in stockless syst.

Surfaces of arable crops in livestock systems

Surfaces of alfalfa in livestock systems
2. ORGANIC RESEARCH AND ADVICE IN FRANCE

THE KEY ROLE OF ITAB
In broad outline:

- Research
- Applied research
- Field experiments
- Advice

INRA

Engineering schools (+/- universities)

Technical Agricultural Institutes

Chambers of Agriculture

Producers
In broad outline:

- Research
- Applied research
- Field experiments
- Advice

INRA
Activities in OF

Engineering schools
(+- universities)
Activities in OF

Technical Agricultural Institutes
Activities in OF + ITAB

Organic producers

Farmers’ associations

Producers

Chambers of Agriculture
Activities in OF

Organic producers
ITAB : the French Research Institute of Organic Farming
- a non-profit research institute
- An organic farmers’ association
ITAB IN FIGURES…

A **30** years’ experience

**40** projects implemented for the last 10 years

**7** experimental sites in OF, **2** regional research centers

**600** free technical booklets on line

**800** participants/year to national conferences & workshops
ITAB plays a central role by connecting…

... more than 500 stakeholders involved in the organic sector. (researchers, farmers, advisors, teachers, SMEs…)

ITAB aims to facilitate information flows and knowledge transfer between stakeholders, through:
- Conferences
- Publications
- website

ITAB initiates, coordinates and implements:
- innovative & participatory research programmes,
- on-farm experimentation networks
NETWORKING

- Technical Institutes
- Chambers of agriculture
- Enterprises
- Training institutions
- Producers
- Processing stakeholders
- Public institutions
- Research

TRANSLATE

PRODUCE

MOBILIZE

ENHANCE
An operational network for organic research
ITAB = 8 NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Participation of researchers advisers farmers...

By production:
- Livestock
- Arable crops
- Horticulture
- Winegrowing & fruit crops

By cross-cutting issues:
- Seeds & seedling
- Soil & system management
- Crop protection & animal health
- Quality (products and chain)

Define
- Research priorities
- Research programmes

Organise
- Working groups
- Workshops
- Conferences

Publish & spread
- Guidelines
- Trials results
- Booklets...
DISSEMINATION MEANS

Conferences & workshops

Internet

Publications

Technical booklets

A periodical: Alter Agri

www.itab.asso.fr

Web site