



INNOV'CO

Project results

Exploratory project
2023-2024

Coordination

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Coupled innovations between agriculture, processing and collective catering for organic and sustainable agri-food systems

To meet the goals of the Egalim Act (50% sustainable products, at least 20% of which must be organically produced), school canteens and stakeholders across the supply chains and territories have had to and will continue to have to innovate together. Innov'Co explored how the scaling of coupled innovations, i.e., those designed in a co-ordinated manner across the agricultural, processing and collective catering sectors, contributes to the agroecological transition of agri-food systems. It was organized around three key work areas:

1. Understanding the conditions for the implementation and success of these complex multi-stakeholder design processes;
2. Description of the support programs for these processes that enable their implementation;
3. Implementation of a multi-criteria evaluation of these coupled design processes.

The analysis of the conditions for implementation and success focused on a case study that, for more than 10 years, has been supplying 200 daycare centers with organic, locally grown potatoes. This analysis, for example, highlighted the key role of different arenas for exchange (both formal and informal) in the design of the technical and organizational innovations identified, particularly through the flow of information and the sharing of satisfaction criteria among stakeholders.



INRAE units

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Partners

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As for the analysis of support programs, it focused on the initiative implemented by the Dordogne Departmental Council to help middle schools transition to 100% organic food. The interviews revealed that this systemic and multisectoral approach, combined with hands-on kitchen training and the availability of resources (management software, recipe technical sheet), makes these support programs an effective tool for promoting the implementation of coupled innovations between agriculture and collective catering in a wide range of contexts.

Finally, an operational tool for assessing the territorial sustainability of collective catering was developed in partnership with Ecocert. It was shown that this tool can help stakeholders in the collective catering sector to carry out an assessment with the possibility of embarking on a transition process and could, in the long term, contribute to the evaluation of coupled innovation processes.

Given the unique nature and complexity of implementing processes for designing coupled innovations, the central issue that remains to be addressed is how to formalize and harness all of this knowledge so as to make it actionable, i.e., usable by stakeholders.

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