



## LAPOESIE

# Interspecific ecosystem benefits between rabbits and apple orchards

EXPLORATORY  
PROJECT  
2020-2022

### Coordination

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LAPOESIE is a transdisciplinary project that aims to analyze the feasibility and the aggregated value of combining organic arboriculture and livestock.

The production of scientific knowledge concerning the organizational, operational, technical and cognitive transformations necessary for the design of an integrated organic crop-livestock production will be studied on an innovative system, 'rabbits grazing in an apple orchard'.

From the agronomical point of view, the project's overall premise is that the interaction between trees and animals could produce mutual benefits for the different components of the system (food, animal well-being and health, weed control, soil fertility, etc.), as well as disadvantages: damage to the apple trees caused by the rabbits; or damage to the rabbits by predators or disease (coccidiosis, copper intoxication, etc.), and could namely require a reorganization of labor.

METABIO



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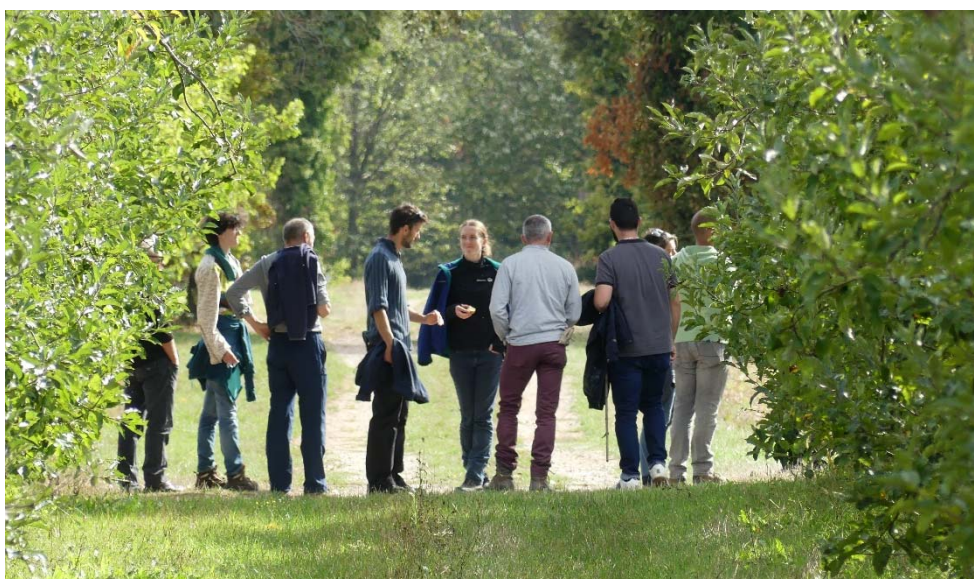


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In terms of research practices, we will analyze the partnerships implemented around the creation of a new research object located at the interface of the two communities: agronomists and animal scientists.

The project will call upon expertise in rabbit farming, pathology, animal well-being, ethology, agroecology, statistics, arboriculture, the soil sciences, phenotyping, crop protection, the natural sciences and innovation.

It will be organized into three complementary action plans:

- the operational construction of 'the rabbit-apple tree' system;
- assessment of the expected benefits and disadvantages of this crop-livestock integration;
- analysis of the changes in research practices for the co-design of integrated organic crop-livestock systems.

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