

TEXTE DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE

Commission environnement

Question: An ecofarming revolution

Auteur: The Federative Republic of Brazil.

The term: “ecofarming” was created by the economist Charles Walter in 1970. The goal of this concept is to unify the economic and ecological aspects of agriculture. It looks for a conciliation between food production objectives and biodiversity preservation ones. Farmers aren't just considered as producers but equally as environmental administrators. It combines the use of modern science and innovation to preserve biodiversity and nature.

Furthermore, as it doesn't use chemical inputs nor genetically engineered crops, it does not contaminate.

On the one hand, the use of chemical manures as a strategy to reach a high production level is being developed worldwide. Pesticides and other chemicals are widely used to reduce pest yield losses and facilitate crop harvest. Nevertheless, pesticides can also harm humans, animals, and beneficial organisms. In addition, because of an excessive use of pesticides in farms, resistance to pesticides can develop faster when farm-level applications are not coordinated.

This technique leads to groundwater, soil and air pollution but also to carcinogenic substances dispersion. The use of this risky method causes both producers and consumers health disorders. Following this production alternative supposes an important cost though an effective way for reducing this dangerous consumption could be a price increase so that not everybody could afford it. We could also replace pesticides using new discovered microorganisms so as to obtain ecologic benefits.

On the other hand, Brazil is the most important soja and tobacco exporter. Since 2004, the genetically modified soja has been authorized in the country. Especially in the Mato Grosso where it covers 25% of the soja surfaces. Its economical interest has strongly decreased with the Monsanto's herbicide (Round Up) price increase. Therefore, financing an ecological production both in origin and destination could be an effective way to motivate producers to follow ecofarming techniques.

Moreover, monocultures provoke soil depletion, ecosystems deterioration and erosion acceleration. The soja Brazilian cultivation peak was reached in 2005. Maize and cotton crops were added so as to enrich land conditions. This ecofarming process guarantees a better use of the surface, a huge variety of healthy and affordable products, and the ecosystem maintenance.

Brazilian crops have reached the 52 million hectares which is more than one and a half times the French agricultural surface and leads to deforestation and landscapes homogenization. This ecofarming revolution fights for a change of mentalities and for a reasonable consumption that will benefit not just the ecosystems but also ours wellness and economical status. In addition, Brazil is already suffering an important drought situation but also floodings and continuing with this irresponsible behavior will just cause water reserves exhaustion.