



THE HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

Once upon a time...

In 2007, the Grenelle Environment Forum launched a thought process in order to create an ambitious system, which would officially allow agricultural activities to be environmentally recognised and valued: “The Environmental Certification of Agricultural Operations”

The promise of High Environmental Value is agriculture which:

- . Integrates and develops biodiversity in production operations
- . Limits farming inputs as much as possible (phyto, fertilizers, energy, external additives, etc.). For an agriculture that is both self sufficient and not too impairing on soil, water and air.

Three gradual levels towards High Environmental Value

Levels 1 and 2 of the Environmental Certification of Agricultural Operations will each specify the necessary obligations to be implemented.

Level 3 innovates and consists of a measuring tool for assessing the ecological performance of farm activities as a whole.

The certification covers all farm activities: crops, breeding as well as the environment of the plots of land and animals.

Level 3 is validated by audits, which can be managed collectively at local level.

The system is 100% state run, the specifications (control plan) and the list of certifying bodies are freely accessible on the ministerial website: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/certificationenvironnementale-mode-demploi-pour-les-exploitations>

Agro-ecology: the foundation of High Environmental Value

High Environmental Value farms are based on agro-ecology principles:

- . They design production systems that are based on the functionalities offered by ecosystems (soil fertility, crop protection fauna, plant cover enabling soil life, permanent meadows, etc.)
- . They ensure agricultural production while aiming to reduce pressure on the environment (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, limitation of the use of water resources).
- . They use natural elements as a production factor while maintaining the renewal capacities (« Green manure » plant cover, agroforestry).
- . They promote diversity in production systems and restore a diverse landscape mosaic (crop diversification, rotations, setting up agro-ecological infrastructure, etc.).