



Strasbourg, 27 April 2021

CEP-CDCPP (2021) 8E

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

11th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON

THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Draft recommendation
“Landscape and agriculture”

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
26-27 May 2021

*Document of the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe
Directorate of Democratic Participation*

Summary

Article 5 of the European Landscape Convention on “General measures” states:

“Each Party undertakes:

*...d. to **integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.**”*

*

The issue of landscape in relation to the rural world, and agriculture in particular, has been the subject of work developed by the Council of Europe.

See in particular:

Number 56 / 1987: Agriculture and wildlife, Naturopa - Number 56 / 1987

Number 57 / 1987: Soil, Naturopa - Number 57 / 1987

Land and problems, Naturopa - Number 85 / 1997

European rural heritage, Naturopa - Number 95 / 2001

6th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Sibiu, Romania, 20-21 September 2007), No 88, “Landscape and rural heritage”

10th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Evora, Portugal, 20-21 October 2011), No 97, “Multifunctional landscape”

16th CEMAT Symposium and 12th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Thessalonica, Greece, 2-3 October 2012), No 99, “Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning... Another way to see the territory involving civil society...”

European Rural Heritage Observation Guide – CEMAT, Council of Europe, 13 CEMAT (2003) 4
Other /languages: [French](#) | [Greek](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Swedish](#)

Report “Drawing agricultural landscapes for the sustainable and harmonious development of territories”, Documents: CEP-CDCPP (2017) 14E; CEP-CDCPP (2017) 14E rev.

Report “Landscape in rural territories in energy, agricultural and demographic transition”, Document: CEP-CDCPP (2019) 5E – Powerpoint Presentation]

Experiences: Taking landscape into consideration in rural areas, Document: CEP-CDCPP (2019) 5E Add. – Powerpoint Presentation

National days on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in France (Strasbourg, France, 26-27 November 2019), No 117

23rd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and Celebration at High Level of the Twentieth Anniversary of the European Landscape Convention, No 118, “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”

The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe also presents remarkable and inspiring projects combining agriculture and landscape: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/forum-of-national-selections>

*

A draft recommendation for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention - Landscape and Agriculture, was thus prepared by the Council of Europe Secretariat in consultation with Mr Régis Ambroise in the capacity of Expert of the Council of Europe for the drafting of the above-mentioned report “Drawing agricultural landscapes for the sustainable and harmonious development of territories”. The 9th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention took note of this report, which was produced in the framework of the work for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (CEP-CDCPP (2017) 19E, point 14).

In respect of the provisions of the European Landscape Convention on the integration of landscape into regional and town planning policies (Article 5, *d.*), and the Lausanne Declaration of 20 October 2000 on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, the Conference is invited:

- to examine the draft recommendation Landscape and agriculture, prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, in consultation with Mr Ambroise, in the capacity of Expert of the Council of Europe for the preparation of the report “Drawing agricultural landscapes for the sustainable and harmonious development of territories”, of which the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention had taken note (CEP-CDCPP (2017) 19E, point 14);
- to make any proposals for amendments and, if it considers it appropriate, to decide to transmit the draft recommendation to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) with a view to its submission for adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and agriculture

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.*b* of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering the importance of the landscape with regard to food, health, urban planning and energy issues, and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, water and air pollution, the degradation of agricultural and forest soils, and the artificialisation of land;

Stressing that landscape is considered “as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity” (Article 5.*a.* of the Convention);

Recalling that, according to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) “landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas” (Preamble);

Recalling that each Party to the Convention undertakes to “integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.” (Article 5 *d.*);

Having regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member States on the European Landscape Convention¹;

¹. Recommendations [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; [CM/Rec\(2013\)4](#) on the [European Landscape Convention Information System](#) of the Council of Europe and its [Glossary](#); [CM/Rec\(2014\)8](#) on promoting landscape awareness through education; [CM/Rec\(2015\)7](#) on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#) on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; [CM/Rec\(2017\)7](#) on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development; [CM/Rec\(2018\)9](#) contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; [CM/Rec\(2019\)7](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition; [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation.

Recalling the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Stressing that the pandemic period in 2019 has highlighted the importance of agriculture as a provider of food and its landscape values;

Stressing that the pandemic period in 2019 has highlighted the primordial nourishing nature of agriculture and the landscape values of the rural environment;

Expressing the wish, in accordance with the provisions of the preamble to the Convention, to arouse the “responsibility for everyone” to ensure landscape quality;

Recommends that the governments of the States Parties to the Convention call on national, regional and local authorities to consider landscape measures in relation to agriculture, as set out in the Appendix to this recommendation.

Appendix to the Recommendation

Taking account of the landscape dimension in agricultural policies

The consideration of the landscape dimension in agricultural policies should be part of a perspective of sustainable and harmonious development of territories:

– agriculture and landscape are a territorial issue;

– landscape and agriculture are part of the territorial project.

The adoption of some general guidelines could contribute to strengthening the links between agriculture and landscape.

1. Agriculture and landscape: a territorial issue

The future of agriculture as well as the quality of life of the population (food and living environment) depends to a large extent on the way in which land use and urban planning documents take into consideration the food and landscape function of agricultural land. It is therefore necessary to:

– develop urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land;

– consider the assets of agriculture for a sustainable and harmonious development of territories;

– use procedures that highlight the links between landscape and agriculture;

– promote urban and peri-urban agriculture.

1.1. Develop urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land

Urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land should be developed. Farmers should be involved in the discussions leading to their development.

Urban sprawl, scattered buildings in rural areas and pressure on the market for agricultural land should be contained.

Agricultural land should not be considered as a mere place for urban expansion.

1.2. Consider the assets of agriculture for a sustainable and harmonious development of territories

Public authorities in rural areas can rely on landscape approaches to take into account the natural and human characteristics of the territories and to find the most appropriate solutions.

Farmers, working with nature and space, can engage in partnerships with local and regional authorities to improve the quality of the landscape and the environment and as such demand that agricultural land be better protected.

Public funding could be provided to farmers to reorient their production system towards agroecology.

Farmers can create farm sales or reception facilities, maintain trails for city dwellers to come and enjoy agricultural landscapes.

1.3. Use procedures to highlight the links between landscape and agriculture

Farmers can use various procedures to highlight the link between landscape and agriculture.

Landscape plans and charters

The implementation of landscape plans or charters includes: a landscape study, the definition of a landscape project shared by the greatest number of people, the elaboration of a work programme adapted to each actor and to each part of the territory and the creation of a monitoring structure with facilitators in charge of helping the implementation of this programme and its coherence. These plans are an opportunity to give concrete expression to the landscape protection, management and planning objectives set out in the European Landscape Convention. They take up the principles of landscape approaches and, in each of the work phases, farmers are called upon to participate and to become a force for proposal. A landscape plan carried out prior to an urban planning document, a classification procedure or a development operation is a real opportunity to place the actions carried out in a sustainable and harmonious territorial development perspective.

Legal protection of certain heritage sites or elements

Some sites, or elements of the natural and cultural heritage of high quality, require legal protection. This may result from the type of agriculture or livestock farming practised or from the presence of agricultural landscape structures (hedges, terraces, tree lines, marshes, etc.) whose coherence is particularly well preserved.

Certain exceptional agricultural practices may be the reason for the classification of a site.

The classification of a site makes it possible to highlight ancient agroecological know-how and gives the possibility of better promoting products recognised for their typicality and quality.

Agroecological and territorial land use planning

To replace the procedures of land rural parcelling, which lead to excessive enlargement of agricultural plots, it may be useful to have recourse to land reorganisation procedures that promote agroecological production systems and sustainable development of territories. To move from industrial agriculture to agroecological agriculture, it is possible to reorganise land on a larger territorial scale than that of a single farm. The evolution of the relationship between town and country requires that this land reorganisation integrates the demands of society with regard to the quality of the living environment of the population, the supply of paths, the treatment of the fringes, the sharing of space and edges, and the multiple use of the land. To devise more sustainable partnership solutions, it is necessary for farmers and non-agricultural stakeholders in the area to be able to participate in the commissions responsible for land development.

1.4. Promote urban and peri-urban agriculture

Direct marketing

The farmers most concerned by landscape approaches are often those who market their products directly or offer paid services to their customers. The proximity to their customers in tourist, peri-urban or sometimes even urban areas becomes an asset for them that allows them to invest in the production, processing and sale of their products while keeping the benefits of their work

Urban and peri-urban gardens

New agricultural landscapes are emerging in urban and peri-urban environments. The allotment gardens, shared gardens and gardens for integration which traditionally surrounded towns and villages (and which have often been urbanised) are now finding a modernity within towns (or around them), or even on roofs or terraces. These spaces are becoming places of great creativity to imagine new forms of market gardening. They are sometimes managed by the population and create social links.

2. Landscape and agriculture are part of the territorial project

In order to design coherent territorial projects in line with contemporary issues, it is necessary to

- take into account the diversity of approaches;
- adapt the principles of landscape approaches to the agricultural context;
- initiate agrolandscape projects.

2.1. Take into account the diversity of approaches

By defining landscape as “a part of the territory as perceived by people, the character of which results from the action of natural and/or human factors and their interrelationships” (Article 1, a) the European Landscape Convention recognises the relationship between an object space and subject observers. The recognition of the materiality of the territory and the diversity of perceptions leads to taking into account the point of view of farmers as well as that of other stakeholders, including the population.

If for the farmer, as a professional, the “part of the territory” covers the production space that he manages and models according to agronomic objectives, this same “part of the territory” is experienced and “perceived by people” as a component of their living environment. It is therefore necessary to combine objective and subjective approaches to initiate a project dynamic based on diverse knowledge and sensibilities.

Historical and geographical approaches

Historical approaches are interested in the past of the territories, revealing the intelligence of the ancients to develop the collective or private space and make life possible on the territories. Knowledge of the past can lead contemporary societies to adopt certain tried and tested practices and to reuse them in current projects.

Inhabitants (especially older people) or specialists can testify to what they know about the succession of agricultural projects on a territory. The aim is to enrich everyone's knowledge and to avoid possible blockages between “protection” and “development” projects. In this way they can become stakeholders in a new project, enhanced by knowledge of the past.

Geographical approaches give an important place to the geomorphological and climatic recognition of a territory. They apply themselves to knowing the characteristics of the soils, the relief, the climate, the presence of streams, rivers or streams, in order to develop the territories in the best possible way and to transform certain constraints into assets.

These approaches make it possible to take into account the influence (positive or negative) of different interventions in rural landscapes, such as road or rail networks, canals and rivers, power or telephone lines, as well as urbanisation and renewable energy installations (wind turbines, photovoltaic, methanisation plants, etc.).

While new housing is being built in rural areas as a result of the urbanisation of the countryside, the structure of the urban fabric and that of traditional farm buildings deserve to be taken into account and even protected.

Environmental approaches

These approaches promote the preservation of the quality of the natural elements of the environment (air, water, soil) as well as biological diversity.

It is essential to ensure the conservation of local flora and fauna by reconsidering the value of certain species.

It is also necessary to revive knowledge that has sometimes been lost, as certain developments have led to the destruction of essential landscape structures.

The concepts used by landscape ecology (e.g. flow, mesh, linear, corridor, grid, fragmentation, island effect, clearing), make it possible to think of developments at the scale of a territory or a farm, so as to make nature an ally of farmers.

The landscape actors (farmers, hunters, fishermen, naturalists, beekeepers, nature lovers and others) have knowledge and points of view on the ecology of their territory that can help define a collective project in a sustainable development perspective.

Socio-cultural approaches

Each individual perceives the same landscape in a particular way. A multitude of factors such as childhood, education, acquired values and knowledge, personal interests, make an individual sensitive to certain elements that others do not even notice. This results in different, often complementary appreciations, which can become conflicting if not taken into account. Landscape approaches that recognise the diversity of perceptions are based on the expression of different points of view. A discussion on the ground between the different stakeholders leads to the definition of appropriate solutions to which everyone can adhere.

The sensitive approach focuses on how the landscape is appreciated and mobilises the senses and emotions. Knowing how to compose beautiful landscapes is important to reinforce the attachment of the inhabitants to their living environment, to maintain the economy of the territory and to promote the attractiveness of the region. The sensory (visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile and gustatory) and emotional perception that people have of the places where they live and the recognition of their historical and cultural diversity and specificity are essential for the respect and safeguarding of people's identity and individual and social enrichment. This approach refers to concepts such as harmony, contrast, depth of field, balance, aperture or closure.

2.2. Adapt principles of landscape approaches to the agricultural context

Landscape approaches to action on a territory are varied but are based on the following principles.

Contextualise the analysis and projects based on knowledge of history and geography

The very negative environmental, energy and social consequences of standardised production methods require the search for alternatives. In agriculture, the difficulty lies in the need to maintain sufficient overall productivity while reducing the consumption of polluting fossil resources that contribute to global warming, pollution and the loss of biodiversity.

A first approach is to rethink the territories and their development based on their singularities, rather than imposing a single model. Indeed, each territory is the result of a particular natural and human context, which must first be understood and then enhanced to engage in sustainable development.

In order to imagine the solutions of the future, it is also essential to understand how previous societies have developed using locally available resources and energies and how they have worked the space to make these resources usable and renewable.

Reorganise the agricultural land parcels according to the agroecological potential of the soil

Before the mechanisation of agriculture, farmers adapted the shape and size of their plots so that each one corresponded to a homogeneous agronomic potential. Today, the use of chemical fertilisers means that crop rotations are no longer based on the potential of each soil. The size of agricultural plots is constantly increasing and the risks of crop infestation by parasites are increasing, leading farmers to treat their fields more and more.

It would therefore be wise to consider a reorganisation of the parcels of land in order to facilitate the good use of natural resources and to reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and phytosanitary treatments. The first step would be to focus on the agronomic potential of the soil (without fertilisers), relocate crops to land that is favourable to them and set up an appropriate rotation system. The second step would be to preserve and install natural shelters (hedges, grassy strips, low walls, etc.) for crop protection agents (insects, birds, etc.) so that they can colonise the entire agricultural area.

Improving the system of protected designations of origin

The system of protected designations of origin is based on the recognition of the close link between the natural characteristics of a terroir, traditional farming practices, processing techniques and the specific taste of a product; it is an example of a contextualised agricultural system.

However, some specifications of protected designations of origin have remained too lax on the use of chemical inputs and the increase in the size of agricultural plots. In response, some farmers have decided to adopt more demanding specifications themselves. These reactions draw on knowledge of past forms and adapt them to current agroecological conditions. The reduction of chemical inputs has a positive effect on the typicality of the products and the proposed new developments reinforce the uniqueness of the landscape, helping to enhance the value of the products by building on the unconscious relationship that consumers make between product quality, landscape quality and environmental quality.

Strengthen integrated and multifunctional approaches

The monofunctional zoning of territories leads to very high land and energy consumption. Integrated approaches, specific to landscape approaches, propose diverse, but all multifunctional solutions for each space (agricultural production, ecological wealth, energy and quality water production, etc.).

Mixed farming systems

Systems combining mixed farming, livestock and agroforestry benefit from the combination of these three components. Unlike specialised agricultural systems that focus solely on crops, livestock or trees, agroecological systems combining mixed farming, livestock and agroforestry are a form of integrated agriculture that promotes greater resilience of the system to climatic and economic hazards.

Bocage and hedgerows

In areas where livestock farming is dominant, the bocage and its hedgerows allow farmers to return to grass-based livestock farming systems, and to reduce the share of supplements such as soya or corn.

Country trees and agroforestry

The presence of trees protects animals from the wind and sun, provides a place for biodiversity, enhances the landscape and improves the environment. Tree replanting has positive impacts on the territory in agronomic, economic, hydraulic, ecological, energy, climatic and landscape terms. The landscape analysis allows us to propose a tree management and replanting project based on a reasoned location of trees according to the soil quality of each plot, a judicious choice of tree association (hedge, tree alignment, pre-orchard, isolated tree or grove, for example) and an adapted pruning and maintenance method.

Intra-plot agroforestry, which consists of placing trees in regular rows within the same plots used for crops or grassland, is developing in many landscapes, providing multiple benefits.

Dry stone

The dry stone technique is ancient. In many sloping regions, it has made it possible to cultivate difficult areas. In terms of support, drainage, biological reserve, anti-telluric plasticity, and even economy of construction, dry stone installations provide solutions for which concrete walls (whose manufacture also contributes to global warming) cannot compete. Mastery of the dry stone technique and landscape approaches are essential for cultivating certain sloping areas.

Ecological corridors

Industrial agriculture, urbanisation, industrialisation and the development of built infrastructure (motorways, railways, dams, etc.) have led to the fragmentation of animal and plant habitats. Ecological corridors help to limit these effects by allowing species to migrate, move or disperse. The location of these corridors must take into account the needs of farmers who, thanks to the presence of crop auxiliaries (ladybirds, bees and other insects) which take shelter in these corridors, seek to reduce the use of phytosanitary treatments.

Developing partnerships and involving the population

In order to promote this new type of agriculture, it is important that farmers develop partnerships with other actors in society and define projects together.

The future of the territories also depends on the way public authorities take an interest in the logic of farmers when they occupy and exploit the space under their management.

As the landscape is the material and cultural substratum that brings together the populations living in the same territory, raising the question of its future is an excellent way to bring together all the inhabitants and users interested in the future of this common good.

The landscape is everyone's business, and everyone is an expert in his or her own way. Each one has a particular knowledge of its functioning and history. All this knowledge needs to be shared in order to enrich the overall knowledge and to achieve richer, more complex and more welcoming developments, capable of attracting the support of the greatest number of people.

Involving the population in the elaboration of agricultural projects seems essential for the proper functioning of agriculture in a sustainable development perspective.

Recognising the beauty of landscapes

Landscape is used to help farmers and planners to find efficient solutions in line with the transition objectives of territories. However, the term landscape also includes a sensitive dimension, of beauty or harmony. This requirement of beauty calls for going beyond simple functional logics and paying attention to the attractiveness of quality landscapes.

In order to enhance the value of certain territories, it may be useful to encourage debates between farmers and other professions (historians, geographers, geologists, biologist, urban planners, engineers, architects, landscape architects, sociologists, artists, in particular).

2.3. Defining agrolandscape projects at the farm level

The use by farmers and their advisors of landscape approaches to accompany their traditional agronomic approaches facilitates the work of developing sustainable agricultural development projects.

a) *Agrolandscape diagnosis*

Every landscape approach begins with a site visit to help establish a diagnosis.

Observation of the landscape

The field visit is the basic tool of a landscape approach and it is important to involve other users of the land alongside the farmer.

A group field trip brings all these people together, combines sensitive and rational perceptions and addresses reality in all its complexity. Each person can thus participate in defining the issues of the farm and the territory based on what they observe and what they know, and share their point of view. Landscape approaches require a broad vision and focus on the links between agricultural areas and the surrounding area. For example, it is important to observe the elements that surround the plots: hedges, embankments and ditches, low walls, paths, woodlands for their various functional agronomic and ecological aspects, but also in qualitative terms. It is also an opportunity to observe how the farm under study is situated in relation to other buildings, the layout of infrastructures, the developments planned by the municipality or by companies, and the landscape features of the area.

During the group visit, it is advisable to apply the method of crossed views and knowledge. This is based on the observation that everyone sees the same thing from their own point of view, according to their history, culture and knowledge. Exchanges make everyone aware of what others think. They become a factor of personal and collective enrichment. The views of a hydrologist, an elected official, a naturalist, or an ordinary citizen can broaden the farmer's vision and help him discover opportunities or problems to which he was not previously sensitive. And conversely, this method allows the various stakeholders to better understand the farmers' choices and logic.

Documentary analysis

On the scale of a territorial diagnosis, in many regions, it is possible to find landscape charters, plans or atlases, urban planning documents that provide information on the history and geography of the territory, on economic and environmental issues, on forecasts of climate change, and on projects concerning agriculture and land use. These documents make it possible to understand and visualise the region's particularities, to grasp the changes underway and to orient agricultural projects according to the challenges of sustainable development of the territory. On the scale of a farm diagnosis, these documents are an indispensable complement to the usual agricultural data records.

Formulation of the diagnosis

The method of breaking down aspects of the landscape makes it possible to group together the observations concerning each major agroecological theme (soil, water, biodiversity, stone, buildings, energy, etc.) on sheets containing information and a map or aerial photo locating them precisely.

The diagnosis itself is a synthesis of all the technical, economic, social, environmental and spatial information collected in the thematic documents produced. The aim is to give an opinion integrating and articulating the different data in order to identify the main assets and problems to be solved and to engage farmers in a sustainable development approach.

b) *Agrolandscape project*

Once the diagnosis has been established, the landscape approach focuses on providing answers to the farmers' agronomic questions and the living environment.

Farming project

Based on the remarks made in the diagnosis and the maps locating the elements to be protected or developed as well as the elements to be implanted, the farmer reflects on the possible changes in the production system. The different hypotheses are then visualised and tested on a map to detect possible inconsistencies and improve the solutions.

The landscape approach makes it possible to enrich the technical responses by adapting them to the local agroecological context. The technical choices resulting from the agrolandscape analysis will also have a favourable impact on the landscape as a living environment for the farmer and, more generally, for the population. The landscape will also become attractive to visitors. Some complementary actions can be proposed to improve the impact of these changes, to stage the landscape, to make it more pleasant to live in, open and welcoming (development of paths, roadsides and watercourses, embellishment of buildings and farm surroundings, installation of passageways through fences, rehabilitation of low walls and heritage elements).

Interdisciplinary training courses can be organised to promote the consideration of landscape as a tool for the transformation of production systems and as an element of the agricultural project. The landscape is then considered not as a constraint, but as an opportunity to achieve an agricultural project that benefits everyone.

Agricultural buildings

Agricultural buildings and their outbuildings (barns, stables, cellars, sheds and huts) deserve special attention. The oldest buildings are the result of specific uses, styles, cultures and materials. By their specificity and character, they are representative of local identities. It is important to consider alternatives to the destruction of old buildings. They can be rehabilitated for new agricultural uses. When they are no longer of interest to the farm, they can be transformed (into rental accommodation, tourist accommodation or craft workshops for example).

It is essential to protect the small heritage scattered in the countryside, as it constitutes a unique element of memory and a source of inspiration for imagining the future.

It is important to ensure the coherence of a project which has a strong impact on the landscape and the architectural quality of new constructions. It is necessary to take into account the natural data of the place (relief, climate, exposure), the functionalities of the building, the working conditions and the needs of the operator. The choice of building materials must be made with sustainability in mind.

It is possible, with little investment, to improve the general appearance of contemporary buildings that have not benefited from architectural attention (e.g. by adapting the tone and colour of coatings, repairing the cladding, planting some trees or climbing plants, or clearing, cleaning and tidying the farm's surroundings).

3. General guidelines

In order to recover the existing links between agriculture and landscape, it would be appropriate, in a general way and on an ongoing basis, to:

- strengthen the protection of agricultural land in urban planning documents;
- facilitate partnerships between farmers and local authorities on landscape issues;
- encourage the consideration of landscape as a means of simplifying relations between town and country, farmers and city dwellers;
- strengthen the knowledge of the relationship between landscape and agriculture;
- gather and make known the different points of view expressed on the relationship between landscape and agriculture;
- provide farmers with tools and means to reorganise their plots to promote agroecological practices;
- defend the system of protected designations of origin in international relations and strengthen the consideration of landscape in the specifications;
- facilitate the revival of the country tree as an element of an agroecological production system by adapting it to each context;
- develop dry stone training courses for farmers;
- strengthen the role of farmers and landscape architects in the bodies responsible for defining and implementing ecological corridors;
- involve the population in the development of agricultural projects;
- encourage exchanges between farmers and other professions, especially artists;
- train professionals linked to the territory in the specificities of the agricultural environment and to integrate them in the elaboration of diagnoses and agroecology projects;
- integrate architects into the development of construction or rehabilitation projects for agricultural buildings. Train architects in the specificities of the agricultural world.