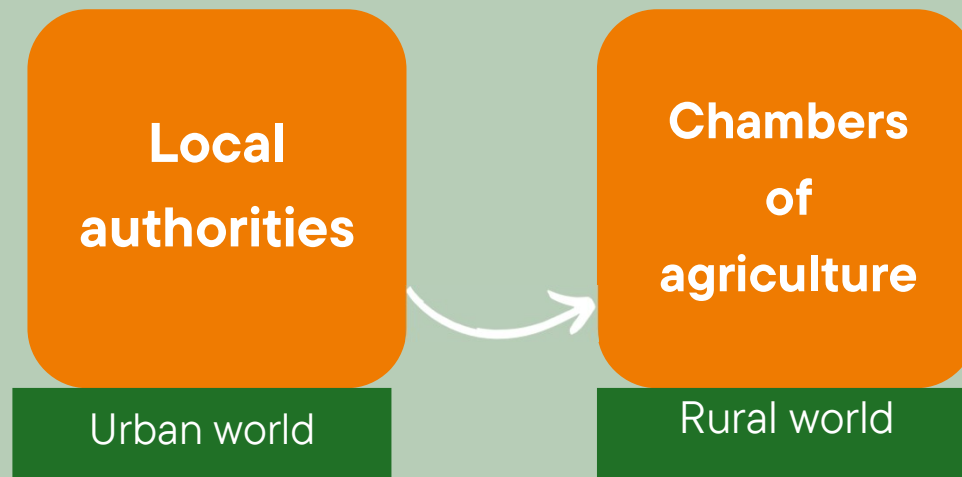


# Agri-urban spaces in french and european metropolitans areas

Clara Zamour - Terres en villes



## Terres en villes : A network of 20 territories



## Terres en villes' fields of action



**1 : Co-construction  
agricultural and food  
local policies**



**2 : Concerted  
protection and  
management of peri-  
urban agricultural,  
forestry and natural  
areas**



**3 Agricultural  
economics and food  
governance**

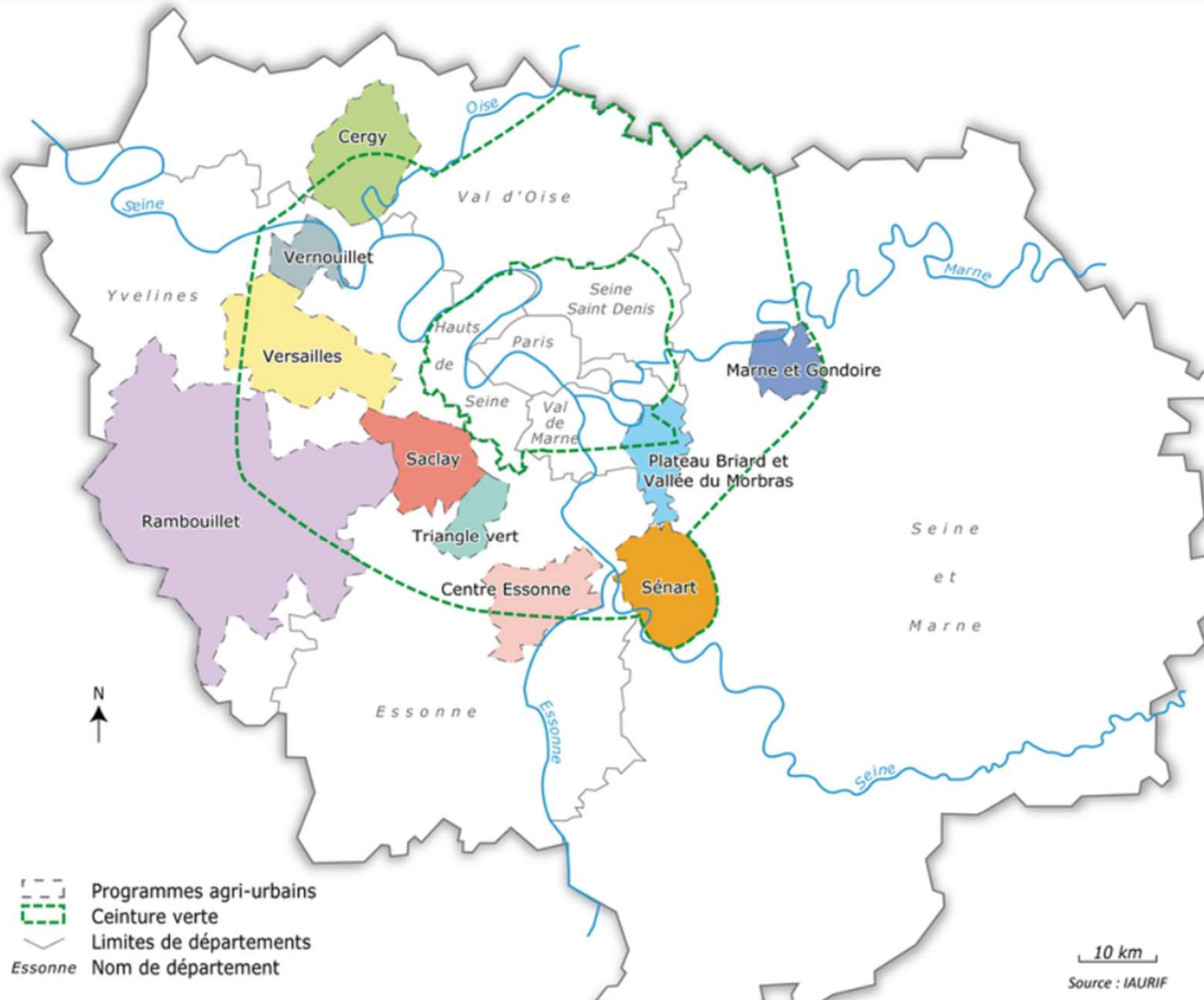
## Presentation outline

1. Concept and definitions of agri urban areas
2. Some local examples
3. Obstacles and prospects

## Some definitions : What do we mean by agri-urban areas?

- Formalization of the "agri-urban project" concept in the 1990s by the French Agricultural Ministry and taken up by researchers specifically for the Greater Paris region (Poulot, Bonin)
- For urban planners, agri-urbanism refers to an area profile that reconnects urban and agricultural spaces, notably through shared governance and the maintenance of a mix of uses (which is reflected in the territorialization of agricultural public policies, (typologized by Terres en villes, 2008)
- Refers to a specific area : agriurban parks (Eric Duchemin)

# 1. The agri urban programs in the GreaterParisRegion



## Characteristics

Located in the green belt  
common factor is land pressure from  
urbanization with a main concern of  
maintaining landscapes

## Governance

Led by territorial associations bringing  
together farmers, residents, associations  
and elected representatives

## Actions

- binding instruments to limit  
urbanization and protected  
agricultural areas
- guides, charters, and support for  
local authorities and even property  
developers.



Agricultural interpretation trail on the Saclay plateau, promoted by Terre et Cité,  
with a pick-your-own farm and a direct-sales dairy farm.



Crédit sophie Bonin



Family gardens set up in place of a sports field, creating a transition between buildings and fields (Fontenay-le-Fleury, Versailles plain).



Crédit sophie Bonin

# From agricultural landscapes to food landscapes...



TERRE & CITÉ ▾ | DIALOGUER ▾ | CONCRÉTISER ▾ | TRANSMETTRE ▾



## FODD LOCAL PROJECT DE LA PLAINE AU PLATEAUX

territoires Agriurbains de Paris-Saclay, Versailles Grand Parc, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines



## 2. The agri urban policies in French Metropolitan areas

# Typologie of agri-urban policies (Terres en villes, 2008)

1

**Protected agricultural space** or "**land compromise**": seeks to achieve a local consensus between urban expansion and compensation for rights-of-way on agricultural land.

2

**The "Urban Countryside"** : looks at agriculture from the point of view of the city: it integrates agriculture into the urban project, making it play a role in the organization of the territory, the improvement of the living environment, the protection of the natural environment, but also more recently in the production of quality food.

3

**Agri-urban opportunities** : seeking multifunctional complementarity between town and agriculture according to local opportunities

4

**Peri-urban agricultural development** : addresses the issue of peri-urban agriculture from the angle of the local economy.

5

**The "territorial supply chains" initiative** aims to bolster the local production system and its long supply chains.

3

## Agri-urban opportunities : seeking multifunctional complementarity between town and agriculture according to local opportunities

### TERRITORIES FEATURES

Contrasting forms of agriculture in highly urban areas

- Mainly vegetables crops
- dominance of field crops
- minority of green-belt agriculture
- Developed direct sales and limited economic weight
- Agricultural areas : resources for the living environment - landscapes

### POLICY FEATURES

Promote functional complementarities between town and agriculture to ensure territories' internal balances

- development of a **local agricultural economy**
- development of **peri-urban agricultural and natural areas**

### GOVERNANCE

E

Main partnerships with chamber of agriculture

### FRENCH TERRITORIES CONCERNED

Lille, Lyon, Strasbourg



European Metropolis of Lille : support for sustainable, environmentally-friendly local agriculture in the rural belt of the peri-urban area.

*Creation of a market gardening area in the Warvin commune*



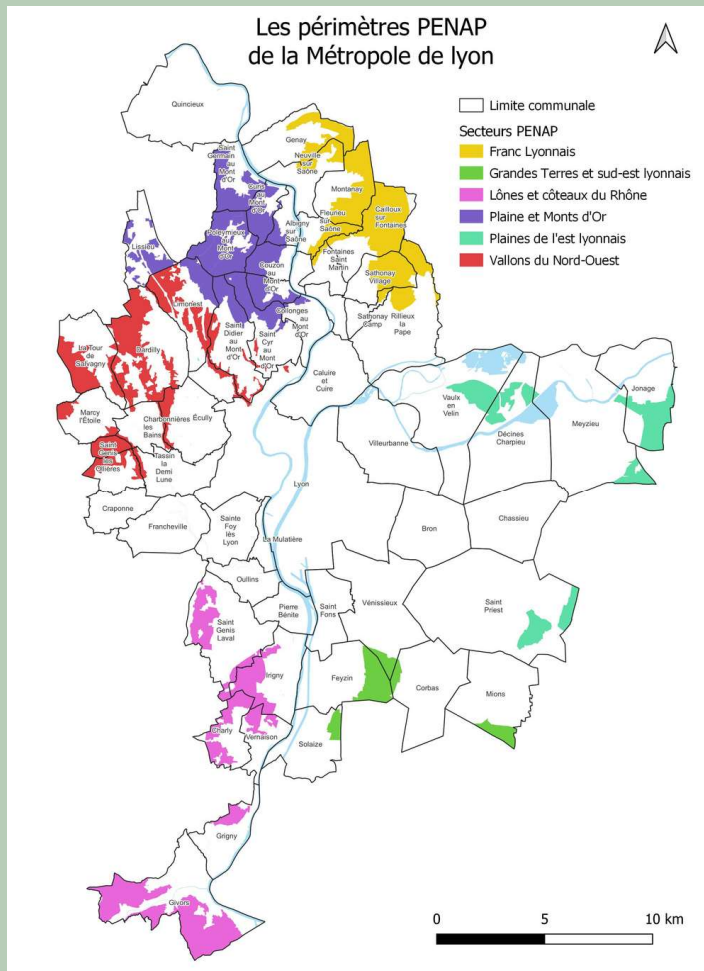
**35 ha under  
cultivation  
9 farmers**

**Farm size: 1.5 to 6 ha**

**Project cost: €3 million**



## Some examples : perimeters for the preservation of peri-urban natural and agricultural (PENAP) areas of the Greater Lyon Metropolis (2)



**Pre-emption right** : public authorities can acquire land if the sale is carried out with a view to protecting and developing peri-urban agricultural and natural areas.

Agreement with SAFER for land management activities  
**10% des PENAP en France**

4

**Peri-urban agricultural development** : addresses the issue of peri-urban agriculture from the angle of the local economy.

### TERRITORIES FEATURES

Diversified peri-urban agriculture, rooted in urban areas and dynamics

Agriculture has a relatively strong economic weight through its direct economic links with the city and through local agri-food chains and tourism.

### POLICY FEATURES

Promote the multifunctional role of agriculture in the city in the global strategy of local authorities

- **Diversification of agriculture** : Small alternative projects
- **Spatial planning** : promote agriculture as a living environment, structuring the region and guaranteeing the quality of its landscapes and environment.

### GOVERNANCE

E

**Traditional** agricultural partners (Chamber of Agriculture) and **alternative partners** (CIVAM, Terres de liens) with local authorities

### FRENCH TERRITORIES CONCERNED

Aix-en-Provence, Angers, Aubagne, Chambéry, Grenoble, Lorient, Nantes, Saint-Étienne

# Nantes Metropolis : Bringing unused farmland back into cultivation and sustaining agricultural activity and jobs

*the metropolis' proactive policy of reconquering agricultural wasteland*

1990 : rural association's created for storing land, clearing it and returning it to farming --> civil society

2000 : **Strategy between Nantes Métropole and local Chamber of Agriculture** to expand agricultural land by recultivating agricultural abandoned land, in order to attract new farmers.

**Local groups for the co-construction of an action program**

**Urbanisme coherence scheme (SCOT)**: defines agricultural areas whose vocation is permanently protected

**Local urbanism plan (PLU)** : owngrades urbanizable areas to make new wastelands usable again.

**Local food project (PAT)** : aim to set up new peri-urban and urban farms

**50 sites were cleared, representing 450 hectares returned to cultivation between 2011 and 2015 and 10 farms set up or in project to set up since 2018**

## 2. Agri urban parks in European Metropolitan areas :

While the **agricultural park** is a response to the pressure of urban development on agricultural land, with the aim of **preserving** the soil's function as a source of food, the **agri-urban park** is a way of integrating agriculture into urban development, with the aim of **restore** the soil's function as a source of food. (Eric Duchemin, 2023)

## Farm test area : BoerenBruxselPaysans (Belgium)



3 ha in an area where the municipality's sports facilities.

In 2023, 16 persons will be supported.

Surface area of 1,500 to 3,000 m



## Mollier's Agro urban Park ( Geneva, Switzerland)



- 8 hectares
- Part of agricultural strategy of Geneva
- Located in a major urbanization project
- Different uses : relaxations, walks, farming



# Obstacles and challenges in developing agri-urban projects in metropolitan areas

- **Political tensions** surrounding the use of agricultural land / Projects that depend on political will
- Reluctance on the part of the farming profession
- **Lack of large-scale knowledge** of the agronomic qualities of soils and even of raw water availability, and the trade-offs to be made between different uses (agricultural, residential, economic). (Grâce Kassis et Nathalie Bertrand, 2023)
- **Lack of coherence between agricultural and food planning** : Urban planning and agricultural land are facing new challenges : environnemental, food sovereignty issues with new functions assigned to agricultural areas : Functions that are difficult to take into account from the outset in planning documents and in the governance

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