A model amongst many others
to prefigure
the upcoming of 1000 to 3000 OG
under the EPI
(RITA 1 - 2011-2015)
(RITA 2 - 2016-2020)
RITA stands for:

Réseaux d’Innovation et de Transfert Agricole

Agricultural Innovation and Dissemination Networks
• Agricultural development
• 5 French outermost regions
  • Guadeloupe
  • Martinique
  • French Guyana
  • La Réunion
  • Mayotte

• All agricultural goods
  (except export bananas)
2009: 1.5 month general strike, & consequences
To overcome the situation:

1. enhanced food security  
   (locally produced goods)

2. enhanced food safety  
   (lesser use of chemical inputs)

Decision (State - 2011):  
implement the RITA  
in charge:

Cirad  (agricultural research in tropical conditions; ca. 1000 researchers)

Acta  (adaptation of research outputs to farm conditions; ca. 1000 engineers)

Joint steering  (Regions & State)
The network: stakeholders of agricultural development decide together on projects

- Regional councils, Ministry of agriculture and its local representations (DAAF), Agriculture chambers, Professional organisations, Research institutes, Agricultural technical institutes, Educational institutions
National coordination, facilitation, cross-cutting actions

**Ministry of Agriculture** (100%)

Facilitation and implementation of actions

**Regions + national level + EAFRD** (Region 10%/National 10%/EAFRD 80%)

**Paramount importance of pre-financing of actions** (CIRAD)

**Funding**

**Difficulties**

- Some needs remain unexpressed
  - *e.g. non scientific aspects*
- Strategic planning and organisational approaches
- Insufficient transfer approaches along with ...
- ... limited extension services (professional organisations)
  (new methods to be developed)
- Limited financial allocation by Regions
Some achievements

Ca. 140 actions, 15 M€

- Sanitizing plants (fertilization, weeds, worms, erosion, forage…)
- Beneficial insects (biocontrol)
- Catching wild bee swarms in the forest and accommodating them in adapted bee hives to produce honey
- Use of local products (sugar cane juice) to feed pigs
- Ticks traps to protect the cattle
“Quick and dirty” definition and implementation. Case of the majority of current EU Eafrd projects.

Innovation types:
• Organisational (setup of network)
• Marketing (new varieties of yam; honey characterization & signs of quality)
• Product (new varieties of citrus)
• Process (new bee hives, paper mulch, sanitizing plants)

Possible margins of progress
• Build formalized OGs, regional level
• Build a formalized OG, interregional level
• Combine with other funds
**Inclusion in AgriSpin**

RITA Guadeloupe selected for the French cross-visit of the AgriSpin programme (13 cross visits planned altogether)

A team of 12 AgriSpin members (Be, Nl, Fr, It, De, Lv, Es)

4 items studied:

1. The organisational set up of the RITA as such

And 3 actions implemented under / thanks to the RITA scheme

2. Local honey characterisation for better added value
3. Fight against “citrus greening” (the yellow dragon disease, HLB); eradication + resistant and tolerant varieties
4. Selection of yam varieties adapted to the local taste (replacement of yam imported from Costa-Rica)
Thank you!