CONTEXT PROFILE

FRANCE

FARMER
Thomas Leclerc and Jérémy Villalon

INNOVATION
100% grass-fed dairy cows

Video

MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Improvement of grassland management

SOIL TYPE
Clay

FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Mid

AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic north

MANAGEMENT
Pasture Dairy

MARKET
Local-rural

CLIMATE
Moderate rainfall

TECHNICAL
Difficult

SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

All contents of this document are expert opinions of the G4AE Scientific Technical Working Group

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FRANCE

Case Study: FR_14	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	**Alpine**	**Atlantic Central**	**Atlantic North**	**Atlantic South**	**Boreal**	**Continental North**	**Continental South**	**Mediterranean North**	**Mediterranean South**
Conversion of the entire farm to grassland: all grass-system	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Multi-species grassland was sown: perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, white clover and red clover	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Achievement of forage self-sufficiency	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Reduce input and fuel consumption	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Minimise working hours on the farm and introduce a more seasonal aspect to the work	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Reduce the feeding costs for the cows	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Keep mechanisation to a minimum	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

+++ **Strong transferability** ++ **Slightly limited transferability** + **Very limited transferability** ✕ **Generic information/not relevant**

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Implementation Gaps

- Insufficient total surface area on the farm
- Lack of diversity of fodder: more risk in case of drought

Research Gaps

- Improving cow genetics for optimal adaptation to all-grass system
- Research to obtain varieties of perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and clover more adapted to increasingly hot and dry summers

Suggestions to Adapt

- Gradually increase the proportion of grassland in the system
- Seek advice on grass and pasture management from technicians and other farmers
- Seek peer-to-peer exchange with other farms implementing this system

Grazing4AgroEcology

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COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	mid
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	not applicable/not known
• Initial advisory costs	mid
• Initial buildings and machineries	low
• Initial certification costs	low
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	not applicable/not known

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	mid
On-going certification costs	low
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	not applicable/not known

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

- **Economic**

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	none or low
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	none or low
Payback period	not applicable/not known
Product value added	high
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

- **Environmental**

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	mid
Biodiversity increase	high
Improved nitrogen cycling	high
Soil regeneration	high
Animal health and welfare improvement	high

- **Social**

Workload reduction	high
Engagement of young generation	high

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Literature

English

- https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(24)01160-3/fulltext
- https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(24)01001-4/fulltext

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