



Design, motivations and implementation of agrivoltaics by the agricultural sector

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The context: agriculture under pressure

French agriculture is facing multiple and unprecedented pressures:

- **Land artificialisation:** in 50 years, France has lost nearly 6 million hectares of farmland, or 17% of its agricultural area. Even today, around 65,000 hectares are lost every year.
- **Environment:** agronomic pressures due to climate change and soil fertility degradation. Wheat yields, for example, have been stagnating since the late 1990s, mainly due to the climate.
- **Demographics:** in 50 years, French agriculture has lost 4.7 million farmers. Within ten years, between a third and a half of current farmers will have retired. Generational renewal is currently insufficient.
- **International competition:** faced with unfair competition, farmers are losing competitiveness. Food sovereignty is declining and we are increasingly dependent on imports (chicken, fruit, vegetables). In 2026, for the first time since 1978, the agri-food trade balance is threatened with falling into negative territory.

*In this context, agrivoltaics must become an opportunity for farmers, not an additional pressure. The FNSEA has therefore supported **regulated and rational agrivoltaics** from the outset.*

The necessary maintenance of agricultural activity under the panels

Since 2021, the FNSEA has been working with the government, agricultural organisations and energy unions to **combat token projects** by developing a number of principles:

- Prioritise the development of PV installations on **already built-up land** (agricultural roofs in particular);
- **Prevent any cessation of agricultural production under the panels**, which means maintaining an active farmer, a main agricultural activity at the plot level and 90% of yields (conditions included in the APER law);
- Ensure the **transferability of farms** by requiring the maintenance of an active farmer and adapting rural leases (pending legislation on the subject);
- Rely on **the local level** to ensure the acceptability of projects via a favourable opinion from the CDPENAF for agri-PV projects and a map of land dedicated to ground-mounted PV by the departmental chamber of agriculture;
- Avoid any artificialisation of land by guaranteeing the **reversibility** of the installation and the **dismantling** of the panels at the end of the project with **financial guarantees**.

The search for synergies between agriculture and PV

Beyond combating token projects, our vision for agri-PV involves finding synergies between agricultural production and electricity generation.

- The APER law requires that panels provide an agronomic service to agricultural activity, beyond supplementing income. Agri-PV is primarily designed as a lever **for adapting to climate change**.
- In some cases, agri-PV can directly **improve the agronomic performance** of the plot by optimising sunlight conditions, microclimate, etc.
- Agri-PV can also strengthen **the energy resilience of farms** through self-consumption, particularly in the context of electrification.
- Finally, farmers expect a **fair share of the value** created by the project on their land, in the form of rent but also equity participation, investment in farm equipment or in a local fund to support agricultural transitions or the establishment of young farmers.

What remains to be done

- The legal framework is relatively comprehensive and needs **stability**. The sector is opposed to any questioning of the APER law while projects are still in the process of adapting to it. Any form of stop-and-go approach, which is already damaging to renewable energy sources, must be avoided.
- The **contractual framework** needs to be supplemented by adapting rural leases to the challenges of agrivoltaics, but the political context is blocking progress.
- **Education** is needed to explain what agrivoltaics is and what it is not.
 - On the one hand, there are **high expectations from the agricultural sector**, with nearly one million hectares having been approached, while only a few tens of thousands of hectares will actually go ahead.
 - On the other hand, there are strong promises from certain energy companies with exorbitant rents (>€5,000/ha). But an agri-PV project is not as profitable as a large conventional PV project. **Realistic economic models** are therefore needed, without making untenable promises that risk damaging agricultural production.